

# MORRO BAY – CAYUCOS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Final Environmental Impact Report  
SCH No. 2008101138

Prepared for  
City of Morro Bay and  
Cayucos Sanitary District

December 2010



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626 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213.599.4300  
[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

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### Published under separate cover as Draft EIR

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# CHAPTER 9

## Comment Letters

This Chapter 9 and the following chapters (Chapter 10 and Chapter 11) have been added to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2008101138) and together with the revised Draft EIR constitute the Final EIR prepared by the City of Morro Bay in consultation with the Cayucos Sanitary District for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project (proposed project).

This chapter contains the comment letters received during the public review period for the Draft EIR. The letters have been bracketed and numbered and are presented in the order listed in **Table 9-1** below. In addition, the oral comments received at the three public meetings held during the public review period for the Draft EIR also are summarized and presented after the comment letters. The responses to comments are provided in Chapter 10 and are numbered to correspond to the comment numbers that appear in the margins of the comment letters and summary of oral comments.

**TABLE 9-1  
COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED**

<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Commenting Persons, Organizations, and/or Agency</b>	<b>Date of Comment</b>
<b>State Agencies</b>		
1	State Water Resources Control Board	October 29, 2010
2	California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Coast Region	October 29, 2010
3	California Coastal Commission	November 12, 2010
<b>Local Agencies</b>		
4	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building	October 28, 2010
5	Air Pollution Control District – County of San Luis Obispo	November 4, 2010
<b>Organizations</b>		
6	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	October 12, 2010
7	Sierra Club	November 1, 2010
8	Natural Resources Defense Council	November 3, 2010
9	The Otter Project	November 4, 2010
10	Surfrider Foundation	November 4, 2010
11	Northern Chumash Tribal Council	November 4, 2010
<b>Individuals</b>		
12	Barry F. Branin	October 14, 2010

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<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Commenting Persons, Organizations, and/or Agency</b>	<b>Date of Comment</b>
13	Michael Lucas	October 28, 2010
14	Anne Sidaris-Reeves	October 28, 2010
15	Dorothy Cutter	October 28, 2010
16	Steve Hennigh	October 28, 2010
17	Richard L. Rutherford	October 29, 2010
18	Nicole & Brian Dorfman	November 2, 2010
19	L & C Johnson	November 2, 2010
20	Jamie Irons	November 3, 2010
21	Richard E. T. Sadowski	November 3, 2010
22	Jack McCurdy	November 4, 2010
23	Robert Staller	November 4, 2010
<b>Public Meeting Comments</b>		
24	Morro Bay Planning Commission Meeting	October 4, 2010
25	WWTP JPA Meeting	October 14, 2010
26	Public Meeting Workshop	October 28, 2010



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Financial Assistance

1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5700  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944212 • Sacramento, California 94244-2120  
FAX (916) 341-5707 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

SWRCB



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

OCT 27 2010

Mr. Rob Livick  
City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

RECEIVED  
OCT 29 2010  
CITY OF MORRO BAY  
Public Services Department

Dear Mr. Livick:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE CITY OF MORRO BAY (CITY);  
MORRO BAY – CAYUCOS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE (PROJECT);  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2008101138.

We understand the City will be pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-5226-110). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information for the environmental document prepared for the Project.

We would appreciate notice of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board, and look forward to receiving the final EIR. Once the final EIR is certified, please provide the following documents applicable to the Project: (1) Two copies of the draft and final EIR, (2) the resolution certifying the EIR, adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and making California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the City response to those comments, (4) the final MMRP, and (5) a date stamped copy of the Notice of Determination filed with the County Clerk and with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and requires additional "CEQA-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three information sheets are included that further explain the environmental review process and additional federal requirements in the CWSRF Program. In addition, an environmental evaluation form is included for the City to complete and submit to the State Water Board Project Manager. The State Water Board can consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the Project. For further information on the environmental compliance process for the CWSRF Program, please contact Ms. Michelle Lobo at (916) 341-6983.

It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects are subject to provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act and must obtain approval from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species. Please be advised that the State Water Board can consult with the USFWS and NMFS on behalf of the City regarding all federal special-status species the Project has the potential to impact.

1  
2  
3

OCT 27 2010

In addition, CWSRF projects must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The State Water Board has been delegated responsibility for carrying out the requirements of Section 106 under a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement executed for the CWSRF Program by the USEPA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

As stated above, the State Water Board has responsibility for ensuring compliance with Section 106 and the State Water Board's Cultural Resources Officer (CRO) consults directly with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO consultation is initiated when sufficient information is provided by the CWSRF applicant for projects having the potential to impact cultural resources. Please contact the CRO Ms. Cookie Hirn at 916-341-5690, for questions on how to begin the Section 106 compliance process. Note that the City will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction areas, staging areas, and depth of any excavations.

Please provide the CRO with a copy of the current Records Search for the Project area, and include maps that show all recorded sites and surveys in relation to the APE for the Project. The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the Project. The APE includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any Project excavations. The Records Search request should be made for an area larger than the APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects, but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

The State Water Board has no further comments on the draft EIR at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to review the City's environmental document. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (916) 327-9401, or Ms. Justine Herrig at (916) 327-9117.

Sincerely,



Lisa Lee  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures (4)

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH#2008101138)  
P. O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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## BASIC CRITERIA FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORTS

### FOR SECTION 106 CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO) UNDER THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA)

#### CURRENT RECORDS SEARCH INFORMATION

- A current (less than a year old) records search from the appropriate Information Center is necessary. The records search should include maps that show all recorded sites and surveys in relation to the area of potential effects (APE) for the project.
- The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the project. It includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any project excavations.
- The records search request should be made for an area larger than the APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN AND INTERESTED PARTY CONSULTATION

- Native American and interested party consultation should be initiated at the beginning of any cultural resource investigations. The purpose is to gather information from people with local knowledge that may be used to guide research.
- A project description and map should be sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a check of their Sacred Lands Files. The Sacred Lands Files include religious and cultural places that are not recorded at the information centers.
- The NAHC will include a list of Native American groups and individuals with their response. A project description and maps should be sent to everyone on the list asking for information on the project area.
- Similar letters should be sent to local historical organizations.
- Follow-up contact should be made by phone if possible and a phone log should be included in the report.

#### REPORT TERMINOLOGY

- A cultural resources report used for Section 106 consultation should use terminology consistent with the NHPA.

- This doesn't mean that the report needs to "filled" with passages and interpretations of the regulations, the SHPO reviewer already knows the law.
- If "findings" are made they must be one of the four "findings" listed in Section 106. These include:
  - "No historic properties affected" (no properties are within the APE, including the below ground APE).
  - "No effect to historic properties" (properties may be near the APE but the project will not impact them).
  - "No adverse effect to historic properties" (the project may affect historic properties but the impacts will not be adverse)
  - "Adverse effect to historic properties". *Note: the SHPO must be consulted at this point. If your consultant proceeds on his own, his efforts may be wasted.*

#### WARNING PHRASES IN ALREADY PREPARED CEQA REPORTS

- A finding of "**no known resources**", this doesn't mean anything. The consultant's job is to find out if there are resources within the APE or to explain why they are not present.
- "**The area is sensitive for buried archaeological resources**", followed by a statement that "**monitoring is recommended as mitigation**". Monitoring is not an acceptable mitigation. A reasonable effort should be made to find out if buried resources are present in the APE.
- "**The area is already disturbed by previous construction**", this may be true, but documentation is still needed to show that the new project will not affect cultural resources. As an example, an existing road can be protecting a buried archaeological site. Or, previous construction may have impacted an archaeological site that was never documented.
- No mention of "**Section 106**", a report that gives adequate information for CEQA may not be sufficient to comply with Section 106.

Please contact me with any questions.

Cookie Hirn  
 SWRCB  
 Cultural Resources Officer  
 916-341-5690  
[Mhirn@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mhirn@waterboards.ca.gov)

## INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR "ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INFORMATION"

### Introduction:

Detailed information, including statutes and guidelines on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), can be obtained at <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa>. A CEQA Process Flowchart that shows interaction points between lead and responsible agencies can be found at [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html). In addition, State Water Board environmental staff is available to answer questions about the CEQA process. Please contact your assigned Project Manager to be directed to an appropriate environmental staff person for further clarification.

### CEQA Checklist:

All projects coming to the State Water Board for funding are considered "projects" under CEQA because the State Water Board is providing discretionary approval for that funding.

The types of CEQA documents that might apply to an applicant's project include one of the following: 1. Notice of Exemption; 2. Initial Study/Negative Declaration (or Mitigated Negative Declaration with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program [MMRP]); or 3. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with an MMRP. The applicant must determine the appropriate document for its project and submit the additional supporting information listed under the applicable section of the CEQA Checklist. Please submit two copies of all documents. If the applicant is using a CEQA document that is older than five years, the applicant must re-evaluate environmental and project conditions, and develop and submit an updated document based on the results of that re-evaluation.

The applicant must ensure the CEQA document is specific to the project for which funding is being requested. Tier I CEQA documents, such as Program or Master Plan EIRs, may not be suitable for satisfying State Water Board requirements if these documents are not project-specific. Instead, the applicant should be submitting a Tier II CEQA document that is project-specific. If this Tier II CEQA document references pertinent environmental and mitigation information contained in the Tier I CEQA document, then the applicant must submit both documents. *[NOTE: Tier I and Tier II documents refer to documents as defined under CEQA. Although the same terminology is used, these documents do not relate to the Tier I and Tier II level of reviews under the CWSRF Program.]*

Each applicant, if it is a public agency, is responsible for approving the CEQA documents it uses regardless of whether or not it is a lead agency under CEQA. Non-profit organizations, however, shall only be responsible for approving the applicable project mitigation measures identified in the MMRP. For purposes of State Water Board funding, all public agencies applying for this funding shall file either a Notice of Exemption or a Notice of Determination with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse). Stamped copies of these notices shall be submitted with the rest of the environmental documents.

If the CEQA document is linked to a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document (such as an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement), then the applicant shall submit the additional corresponding NEPA items with either a Finding of No Significant Impact, or a Record of Decision made by the lead agency under NEPA.

Note that additional information may be requested from the applicant after review of all the environmental documents to ensure the State Water Board can complete its own CEQA compliance.

Federal Information:

CEQA requires full disclosure of all aspects of the project, including impacts and mitigation measures that are not only regulated by state agencies, but also by federal agencies. Early consultation with state and federal agencies in the CEQA process will assist in minimizing changes to the project when funding is being requested from the State Water Board. For the items that follow the CEQA Checklist, the applicant shall provide the information and/or reference any applicable sections from the documents being submitted to assist with environmental staff's CEQA review, as well as to provide applicant guidance on any potential concerns, and to assist with federal coordination as needed.

1. Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 7:

For further information on the federal ESA relating to law, regulation, policy, and notices, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/policy/index.html> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/esa/>. Note that compliance with both state and federal ESA is required of projects having the potential to impact special status species. Although overlap exists between the federal and state ESAs, there might be additional or more restrictive state requirements. For further information on the state ESA, go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/cesa/>.

2. National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106:

The NHPA focuses on federal compliance. In addition, CEQA requires that impacts to cultural and historic resources be analyzed. The "CEQA and Archeological Resources" section from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research CEQA Technical Advice Series states that the lead agency obtains a current records search from the appropriate California Historical Resources File System Information Center. In addition, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) will provide a list of Native American tribes to be contacted and that are culturally affiliated with a project area.

The NAHC can be contacted at:

915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082

### 3. Clean Air Act:

For CWSRF financed projects, we recommend including a general conformity section in the CEQA documents so that another public review process will not be needed, should a conformity determination be required. The applicant should check with its air quality management district and review the State Air Resources Board California air emissions map for information on the State Implementation Plan. For information on the analysis steps involved in evaluating conformity, please contact the environmental staff person through the assigned Project Manager.

### 4. Coastal Zone Management Act:

For affected areas, refer to <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/mystate/docs/StateCZBoundaries.pdf>. For additional information please refer to <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccatc.html> and/or <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/>.

### 5. Farmland Protection Policy Act:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides information on the Farmland Protection Policy Act at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa>. Please see the following website regarding the Williamson Act <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/lca>.

### 6. Floodplain Management - Executive Order 11988:

Each agency shall provide leadership and take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out its responsibilities. Before taking an action, each agency shall determine whether the proposed action will occur in a floodplain. The generally established standard for risk is the flooding level that is expected to occur every 100 years. If an agency has determined to, or proposes to, conduct, support, or allow an action to be located in a floodplain. The agency shall consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible development in the floodplains. For further information, please consult the following web link: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/regs/eo11988.html>.

### 7. Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA):

The MBTA, along with subsequent amendments to this Act, provides legal protection for almost all breeding bird species occurring in the United States and must be addressed in CEQA. The MBTA restricts the killing, taking, collecting and selling or purchasing of native bird species or their parts, nests, or eggs. The treaty allows hunting of certain game bird species, for specific periods, as determined by federal and state governments. In the CEQA document, each agency must make a finding that a project will comply with the MBTA. For further information, please consult the following web link: <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>.

### 8. Protection of Wetlands – Executive Order 11990:

Projects, regardless of funding, must get approval for any temporary or permanent disturbance to federal and state waters, wetlands, and vernal pools. The permitting process is usually through the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), can be lengthy and may ultimately require project alterations to avoid wetlands. Applicants must consult with USACOE early in the planning process if any portion of the project site contains wetlands, or other federal waters. The USACOE Wetland Delineation Manual is available at: <http://www.wetlands.com/regs/tlpge02e.htm>. Also note that the Water Boards are involved in providing approvals through a 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml)).

9. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

There are construction restrictions or prohibitions for projects near or on a "wild and scenic river." A listing of designated "wild and scenic rivers" can be obtained at <http://www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist.html>. Watershed information can be obtained through the "Watershed Browser" at: [http://cwp.resources.ca.gov/map\\_tools.php](http://cwp.resources.ca.gov/map_tools.php).

10. Source Water Protection:

For more information, please visit: <http://epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html>.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)  
CHECKLIST FOR THE APPLICANT  
What to Submit to your State Water Board's Project Manager**

If project is covered under a **CEQA Categorical or Statutory Exemption**, submit a copy of the following:

- Notice of Exemption (filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research)**
- List of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and their locations, if project implements BMPs**
- Map of the project area**

If project is covered under a **Negative Declaration**, submit a copy of the following:

- Draft and Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**  
(or Mitigated Negative Declaration, if applicable)
  - Comments and Responses to the Draft
  - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (if using a Mitigated Negative Declaration)
- Resolution approving the CEQA documents**
  - Adopting the Negative Declaration
  - Making CEQA Findings
- Notice of Determination (filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research)**

If project is covered under an **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**, submit a copy of the following:

- Draft and Final EIR**
  - Comments and Responses to the Draft
  - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)
- Resolution approving the CEQA documents**
  - Certifying the EIR and adopting the MMRP
  - Making CEQA Findings
  - Adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations for any adverse impact(s) that cannot be avoided or fully mitigated if project is implemented
- Notice of Determination (filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research)**

If EIR is a joint CEQA/National Environmental Policy Act document (EIR/Environmental Impact Statement or EIR/Environmental Assessment), submit the applicable Record of Decision and/or Finding of No Significant Impact.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)  
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination

1. **Federal Endangered Species Act:**

**Does the project involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species that are known, or have a potential, to occur on-site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?**

No. Discuss why the project will not impact any federally listed special status species:

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Yes. Include information on federally listed species that could potentially be affected by this project and any proposed avoidance and compensation measures so that the State Water Board can initiate informal/formal consultation with the applicable federally designated agency. Document any previous ESA consultations that may have occurred with the project.

**Attach project-level biological surveys, evaluations analyzing the project's direct and indirect effects on special-status species, and a current species list for the project area.**

2. **National Historic Preservation Act:**

**Identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction, staging areas, and depth of any excavation. (Note that the APE is three dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the project, including the surface area and extending below ground to the depth of any project excavations.)**

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**Attach a current records search with maps showing all sites and surveys drawn in relation to the project area, and records of Native American consultation.**

**3. Clean Air Act: Is the project subject to a State Implementation Plan (SIP) conformity determination?**

No. The project is in an attainment or unclassified area.

Yes. The project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to maintenance plans. Include information to indicate the nonattainment designation (e.g. moderate, serious or severe), if applicable. If estimated emissions (below) are above the federal de minimis levels, but the project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved SIP for air quality, then quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.

Air Basin Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide the estimated project construction and operational air emissions (in tons per year) in the chart below, and attach supporting calculations.**

**Attach any air quality studies that may have been done for the project.**

Pollutant	Status (Attainment, Nonattainment or Unclassified)	Threshold of Significance for the Area (if applicable)	Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)				
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )				
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )				
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )				
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )				
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)				
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )				
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)				

**4. Coastal Zone Management Act: Is any portion of the project site located within the coastal zone?**

No. The project is not within the coastal zone.

Yes. Describe the project location with respect to coastal areas, and the status of the coastal zone permit:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Farmland Protection Policy Act:**

**Is any portion of the project site located on important farmland?**

No. The project will not impact farmland.

Yes. Include information on the acreage that would be converted from important farmland to other uses. Indicate if any portion of the project site is located within Williamson Act control and the amount of affected acreage:

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**6. Flood Plain Management:**

**Is any portion of the project site located within a 100-year floodplain as depicted on a floodplain map or otherwise designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency?**

No. Provide a description of the project location with respect to streams and potential floodplains:

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Yes. Describe the floodplain, and include a floodplain map and a floodplains/wetlands assessment. Describe any measures and/or project design modifications that would minimize or avoid flood damage by the project:

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**7. Migratory Bird Treaty Act:**

**Will the project affect protected migratory birds that are known, or have a potential, to occur on-site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?**

No.

Yes. Discuss the impacts (such as noise and vibration impacts, modification of habitat) to migratory birds that may be directly or indirectly affected by the project and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Include a list of all migratory birds that could occur where the project is located:

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**8. Protection of Wetlands:**

**Does any portion of the project area contain areas that should be evaluated for wetland delineation or require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers?**

No. Provide the basis for such a determination:

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Yes. Describe the impacts to wetlands, potential wetland areas, and other surface waters, and the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce such impacts. Provide the status of the permit and information on permit requirements:

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**9. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:**

**Is any portion of the project located within a wild and scenic river?**

No. The project will not impact a wild and scenic river.

Yes. Identify the wild and scenic river watershed and project location relative to the affected wild and scenic river:

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**Identify watershed where the project is located:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Source Water Protection:**

**Is the project located in an area designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer?**

No. The project is not within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer.

Yes. Identify the aquifer (e.g., Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scott's Valley, the Fresno County Aquifer, the Campo/Cottonwood Creek Aquifer or the Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer):

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If project emissions are below the "de minimis" levels and less than 10% of the emissions inventory for the non-attainment or maintenance area, then:

- Further general conformity analysis is not required.

If project emissions are above the "de minimis" levels:

- A conformity determination for the area must be made.

A conformity determination can be made if facilities are sized to meet the needs of current population projections used in an approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. Using population projections, applicants must quantify their description of how the proposed capacity increase was calculated.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account effects on historic properties caused by federal actions (such as funding SRF projects) and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and with interested Indian Tribes and individuals.

\*USEPA has delegated to the State Water Board the responsibility for carrying out the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA.

Historic properties include:

- Archaeological sites.
- Historic era buildings.
- Traditional cultural properties.

**Starting point for the 106 process:**  
Applicant's record search and cultural resource documents prepared for CEQA.

State Water Board's Cultural Resource Officer (CRO) requires:

- Copies of all original maps and studies for consultation with SHPO.

If your project has the potential to affect historic properties the consultation process can be quite lengthy. Please contact the CRO early in your planning process to discuss what additional information may be needed for your specific project.

### Environmental Review Process

**Guidelines for State Revolving Fund Loan Applicants** document provides additional information on the review process and can be found on the State Water Board's web site located at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/srf.html>

# SRF &

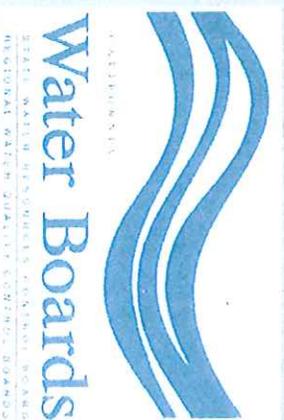
# CEQA-PLUS

Environmental Review for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Applicants



- WHAT - WHY - HOW -

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
November 2005



## WHAT IS CEQA-PLUS?

The SRF Loan Program is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and subject to federal environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the General Conformity Rule for the Clean Air Act (CAA), among others. Federal agencies have their own policies on how they comply with federal environmental laws. Instead of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), USEPA has chosen to use the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the compliance base for California's SRF Loan Program, in addition to compliance with ESA, NHPA and CAA. Collectively, the State Water Board calls these requirements **CEQA-Plus**. Additional federal regulations also may apply.

### Lead Agency: The Applicant

#### Duties:

- Prepare, circulate and consider the environmental documents prior to approving the project.
- Provide the State Water Board with eight (8) copies of the applicant's CEQA documents.

### Responsible Agency: State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance

#### Duties:

- Acting on behalf of USEPA, review and consider the CEQA documents before approving the project's funding.

- Make findings as to the adequacy of the documents and require additional studies or documentation, as needed.

- Distribute the applicant's CEQA documents to selected federal agencies for review and comment before making a determination on adequacy. (This distribution is in addition to the standard State Clearinghouse distribution under CEQA.)

**\*The applicant must address all comments by federal agencies before funding is approved.**

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

**Non-federal Representative** (for all wastewater and water reclamation projects in California that involve an SRF loan):  
**State Water Board**

**State Water Board - Environmental Services Staff (ES)** reviews SRF projects to determine potential effects on federally listed species.

#### Applicant Duties:

- At the earliest possible date, provide ES with:
  - Species lists.
  - Biological assessments.
  - Other documents related to project effects on sensitive species.
- Notify ES early during the planning process of any issues regarding sensitive species.

#### ES Duties:

- Confer informally with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as necessary.
- Evaluate and inform USFWS/NMFS of project impacts to federally listed species.
- Ask USEPA to request formal consultation if ES, in conjunction with USFWS/NMFS, determines that a project will adversely affect a federally listed species.

**\*USEPA will act as the lead agency in the formal consultation process. In response to a formal request from USEPA, USFWS/NMFS may have up to 90 days to prepare a biological opinion. The process can last 135 days or longer.**

## CLEAN AIR ACT

CAA general conformity analysis applies only to projects in areas:

- Not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- Subject to a maintenance plan.

An analysis is necessary for each criteria pollutant below for which an area is considered as being in nonattainment or maintenance:

- ozone
- carbon monoxide
- nitrogen dioxide
- sulfur dioxide
- lead
- inhalable particulate matter

## Cultural Resources

*Compliance with  
Federal Section 106 of the  
National Historic Preservation Act*

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Current records search with maps showing all sites and surveys drawn in relation to the project area.
- Native American consultation.
- Instructions as to how to get started are found in the CEQA Guidelines, since these two items are basic to any cultural resources review.

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Information Needed From the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the project is within jurisdiction of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the project will impact any Wild and Scenic Rivers.

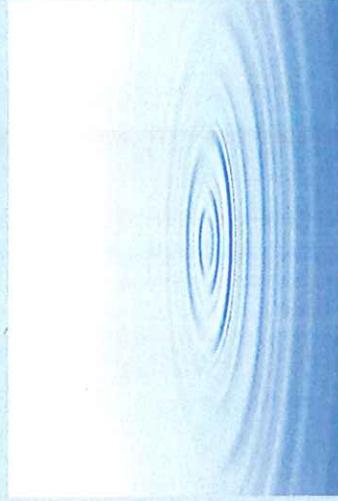
## Other Requirements

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Eight (8) copies of the final CEQA document.
- A date-stamped copy of the Notice of Determination or the Notice of Exemption filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and a receipt of the filing fees paid to the California Department of Fish and Game for Negative Declarations (ND) or Environmental Impact Reports (EIR).
- A copy of the Resolution from the lead agency, approving or certifying the CEQA document and their project. *Note: The CEQA Guidelines uses "approve" or "adopt" for ND and "certify" for EIR.*

## Quick Reference Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans

*Guide to Federal Requirements*



State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
January 2008

## Endangered Species

*Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act*

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- List of special status species (both animal and plant) likely or possibly to occur at project site. *Note: If none will possibly occur, provide supporting information.*
- Any biological assessments or special biological studies that may have been done for the project.
- Other documents that disclose information about the project's effect on sensitive species.



## Protection of Wetlands

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the project or construction activities will impact streams, flood control channels, or wetlands.

## Air Quality

*Compliance with the Federal Air Quality Act*

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Air quality studies that may have been done for the project.
- For those projects in non-attainment areas or attainment areas subject to maintenance plans:
  - Emission data for each criteria pollutant for which the area has been designated non-attainment or maintenance; and
  - Summary of the emissions that are expected from both the construction and operation of the project for each criteria pollutant in a non-attainment or maintenance area.
- If emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality:
  - Quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.

## Floodplain Management

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the project is in a Flood Management Zone and a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the project area.

## Farmland Protection Policy Act

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the proposed project will impact any important farmland or land under Williamson Act control.

## Coastal Zone Management Act

Information Needed from the Applicant:

- Identification of whether or not the proposed project is in the Coastal Zone.



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

RWQCB



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>  
895 Aerovista Place – Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906  
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

October 26, 2010

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

Mr. Rob Livick  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Director  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Dear Mr. Livick:

**STATE CLEARING HOUSE NO. 2008101138 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: MORRO BAY – CAYUCOS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Morro Bay – Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (MBCWWTP) Upgrade. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your DEIR. We greatly appreciate the effort of the City of Morro Bay and Cayucos Community Service District, operating as a joint powers authority (JPA), to propose an upgraded wastewater treatment plant designed to comply with federal secondary treatment requirements.

We understand that the proposed project will achieve, at a minimum, full secondary treatment<sup>1</sup> for all effluent discharged through its ocean outfall. The proposed project will also provide tertiary filtration that meets Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water and as such could be used for irrigation reuse. The proposed project would accommodate future improvements to produce disinfected tertiary recycled water for unrestricted use in accordance with Title 22 standards.

The purpose for the WWTP upgrade is to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0047881 issued by the USEPA and the Central Coast Water Board. The current NPDES permit allows for the discharge of a blend of primary and secondary treated effluent to the ocean through the existing 27-inch diameter outfall pipeline. This discharge complies with Section 301(h) of the federal Clean Water Act which allows a waiver of the requirement for full secondary treatment in certain cases. The JPA has made a commitment to the Central Coast Water Board to phase out the need for the 301(h) modified discharge permit by

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 133.102.

upgrading the WWTP to at least full secondary treatment. The proposed project includes facilities to provide full secondary treatment for all effluent discharged through the ocean outfall and to provide enhanced treatment with tertiary filtration.

An upgrade plan was developed by JPA and presented to Water Board, including an eight-year timeline to complete the full upgrade by March 31, 2014. A settlement agreement was reached in December 2005 by both entities and allows the Water Board to enforce the conversion schedule.

Central Coast Water Board staff provides the following comments.

**CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

Section 2.5.1 of the DEIR explains that construction of new replacement facilities would be completed prior to demolition of existing structures. We understand that the construction, startup, and commissioning of the proposed WWTP would take approximately 24 months and that site clearing, placement of engineered fill, and subsoil stabilization would need to be completed before facility construction could begin. Site preparation of the entire construction area would take anywhere from 3 to 12 months depending upon the type of subsoil mitigation that is needed.

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The DEIR lacked a tentative construction schedule for the WWTP upgrade. Central Coast Water Board staff understands that the schedule might not be available because the design and construction contractors have not been selected at this time. However, we would anticipate that the construction schedule would comply and match up with the conversion schedule identified in Section B.1. of the December 2008 settlement agreement.

**DEWATERING OF GROUNDWATER ENCOUNTERED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Section 2.5.3 (Excavation and Dewatering) of the DEIR describes dewatering activities associated with the WWTP upgrade. Although this section discusses the need to enroll in the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality (Low Threat Permit or Order No. R3-2008-0063) if the project requires dewatering, the JPA needs to consider the eligibility requirements for such discharges. In other words, if the JPA encounters groundwater during the construction activities that require dewatering to continue construction, then the JPA will be responsible for enrolling in the Low Threat Permit or have some other mechanism available to address excess water. The Low Threat Permit requires the JPA to analyze the proposed water for pollutants prior to gaining coverage under the Low Threat Permit and permission to discharge to surface waters. The quality of water proposed for

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discharge must comply with water quality criteria listed in Attachment D of the Low Threat Permit. If these criteria are not met, then the discharge will not be eligible for enrollment under the Low Threat Permit and, therefore, the JPA may have to address any excess trench water through another method or alternative plan. Even if the water proposed for discharge complies with the water quality criteria in Attachment D, the JPA will be required to adhere to the discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the permit.

Section 2.5.3 also discusses the option to discharge any encountered groundwater during construction activities. These discharges may be covered under the General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Discharges to Land with Low Threat to Water Quality (Water Quality Order No. 2003-003-DWQ). This General WDR requires an applicant to develop a Discharge Management Plan (DMP) and to submit the DMP along with the application for coverage. The DMP must include, at a minimum, a list of pollutants believed to be present in the discharge, approximate concentrations of the pollutants in the discharge, monitoring locations, monitoring frequencies, and a reporting schedule.

The JPA may also apply for a waiver of waste discharge requirements as specified by the General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges Order No. R3-2008-0010 (General Waiver). The JPA must submit an application and enrollment would be contingent upon Central Coast Water Board approval. The JPA would have to demonstrate that the discharge would not degrade water quality (groundwater or surface waters).

**RECYCLED WATER POLICY**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Recycled Water Policy (Resolution No. 2009-0011) on February 3, 2009. The Recycled Water Policy is intended to support the State Water Resources Control Board's strategic plan priority to promote sustainable local water supplies. Increasing the acceptance and promoting the use of recycled water are means towards achieving sustainable local water supplies and can result in reduction in greenhouse gases, a significant driver of climate change. The Recycled Water Policy is also intended to encourage beneficial use, rather than solely disposal, of recycled water.

The Recycled Water Policy calls for the development of regional groundwater basin/sub-basin salt and nutrient management plans. The State Water Board recognizes that local water agencies, wastewater agencies, and other stakeholders will fund a locally controlled and collaborative process that will prepare salt and nutrient management plans for each basin/sub-basin in California.



It is the intent of the Recycled Water Policy that salts and nutrients from all sources be managed on a basin-wide or watershed-wide basis in a manner that ensures attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses. The appropriate way to address salt and nutrient issues is through the development of regional or sub-regional salt and nutrient management plans rather than through imposing requirements solely on individual projects, though a combination of regional management plans and individual or programmatic project requirements may be necessary to protect beneficial uses.

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The DEIR lacks a discussion of the Recycled Water Policy and the JPA's intent to participate in an area-wide stakeholder group to develop a salt and nutrient management plan. The FEIR should include a discussion regarding the JPA's involvement in such a stakeholder group and its role in implementing adequate recycled water management irrigation practices.

**STORMWATER MUNICIPAL PERMIT**

The City is currently subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (General Permit). The Central Coast Water Board has the responsibility to determine permittees' compliance with General Permit requirements. This includes determining whether municipalities have reduced pollutant discharges to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)<sup>2</sup>. The MEP standard is an ever-evolving and flexible standard which balances technical feasibility, cost, effectiveness, and public acceptance. The General Permit requires permittees to prevent or minimize water quality impacts from new development and redevelopment projects<sup>3</sup>. The volume and velocity of stormwater discharged from impervious surfaces can cause increased bank erosion and downstream sedimentation, scouring, and channel widening which significantly impact aquatic ecosystems and degrade water quality. The City Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) is required to address how new and re-developments maintain pre-development hydrologic characteristics, such as flow patterns, surface retention, and recharge rates in order to minimize post-development runoff impacts. The City shall treat the WWTP upgrade as a redevelopment project and incorporate a process to maintain and/or improve the hydrologic processes at the site. The Central Coast Water Board has required the City to develop numeric hydromodification control criteria for all projects that meet the applicability thresholds for new and redevelopment projects. The City is participating in the regional Joint Effort to develop hydromodification control criteria and applicability

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<sup>2</sup> "Permittees must implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the technology-based standard of Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) to protect water quality." Effluent Limitations, General Permit Fact Sheet, pg. 6.

<sup>3</sup> "Post-Construction Stormwater Management in new Development and Redevelopment – The Permittee must: 1) Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects...by ensuring that controls are in place that would prevent or minimize water quality impacts", General Permit, pg 11, Provision e.1.

thresholds. Development related to this Project meeting the City's future applicability thresholds will be required to adhere to the future hydromodification control criteria.

In most cases, MEP standards are not met by conventional site layouts, construction methods, and stormwater conveyance systems with "end of pipe" basins and treatment systems that do not address the changes in volume and rates of stormwater runoff and urban pollutants (including thermal pollution). Low Impact Development (LID) practices meet the MEP standard and are more effective at reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff at a practicable cost.

LID is an alternative site design strategy that uses natural and engineered infiltration and storage techniques to control stormwater runoff where it is generated. The objective is to disperse LID devices uniformly across a site to minimize runoff. LID serves to preserve the hydrologic and environmental functions altered by conventional stormwater management. LID methods provide retention areas, increase infiltration, allow for pollutant removal and control the release of stormwater into adjacent waterways (Anne Guillette, Whole Building Design Guide). For further reference please see:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/>

**Eight Common LID Practices Include:**

1. Reduced and Disconnected Impervious Surfaces
2. Native Vegetation Preservation
3. Bioretention
4. Tree Boxes to Capture and Infiltrate Street Runoff
5. Vegetated Swales, Buffers, and Strips
6. Roof Leader Flows Directed to Planter Boxes and Other Vegetated Areas
7. Permeable Pavement
8. Soil Amendments to Increase Infiltration Rates

Central Coast Water Board staff considers a project that meets the following descriptions (inclusive) to be a "Low Impact Development" project:

**A. Runoff Volume Control.** The pre-development stormwater runoff volume is maintained by a combination of minimizing the site disturbance, and providing distributed retention BMPs. Retention BMPs are structures that retain the excess (above pre-development project volumes) runoff resulting from the development for the design storm event (2-, 10-, and 25-year, 24-hour duration storm). Note that "retention" is required, as opposed to "detention"; retention may be achieved using infiltration methods, and capture-for-use methods.



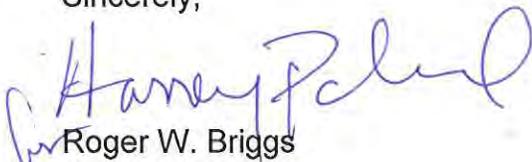
B. Peak Runoff Rate Control. LID practices maintain the pre-development peak runoff discharge rate. This is done by maintaining the pre-development time of concentration and then using retention and/or detention BMPs (e.g., rain gardens, open drainage systems, etc.) that are distributed throughout the site, to control runoff volume. If retention practices are not sufficient to control the peak runoff rate, detention practices may be added.

C. Flow Frequency Duration Control. Since LID emulates the pre-development hydrologic regime through both volume and peak runoff rate controls, the flow frequency and duration of post-development conditions must be identical (to the greatest extent possible) to those of pre-development conditions. Maintaining pre-development hydrologic conditions will minimize or eliminate potential impacts on downstream habitat due to erosion and sedimentation.

Permittees must, therefore, incorporate LID methodology into new and redevelopment ordinances and design standards unless permittees can demonstrate that conventional BMPs are equally effective, or that conventional BMPs would result in a substantial cost savings while still adequately protecting water quality and reducing discharge volume. In order to justify using conventional BMPs based on cost, permittees must show that the cost of low impact development would be prohibitive because the "cost would exceed any benefit to be derived." (State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WQ 2000-11). LID techniques must be included as mitigations in the final EIR for this project.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with City and District staff to discuss both wastewater and stormwater issues as the project evolves. If you have questions, please contact David LaCaro at (805) 549-3892 or at [dlacaro@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dlacaro@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely;

  
 Roger W. Briggs  
 Executive Officer

cc: Cayucos CSD

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**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
PHONE: (831) 427-4863  
FAX: (831) 427-4877  
WEB: WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



November 12, 2010

Rob Livick, Public Services Director  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

**Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement Project (SCH #2008101138)**

Dear Mr. Livick:

We received the DEIR for the proposed replacement Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project. Thank you for extending the DEIR comment period so that our comments can be included in the CEQA record. The WWTP is a major public works project that has the potential to provide significant benefits not only to the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos, but also to the underlying and surrounding natural environment. Due to the type of project and its location seaward of the first through public road, please note that any City coastal development permit (CDP) action on the project may be appealed to the Commission, and please note that in addition to consistency with the City's certified Local Coastal Program (LCP) the project must also be consistent with the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act. In addition, changes to the ocean outfall and/or the intensity or type of its use could require their own Coastal Commission CDP application and approval, which would be subject to the Coastal Act alone.

In short, we have reviewed the DEIR and the proposed project, and based on our current understanding we believe that there are several fundamental problems with the project as it is currently proposed that will require substantial modification before it can be found LCP and Coastal Act consistent. Please accept the following comments on the DEIR and the project itself.

### Summary

As we stated in our December 8, 2008 comment letter on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the DEIR, we are generally supportive of the proposed project inasmuch as it would benefit water quality in Estero Bay, bring the Cayucos Sanitary District into compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II permit, and provide a vehicle for addressing other public utility constraints related to water supply in the area. However, as a major public works project with such capacity, and one that is sited in such a low-lying location near the shoreline and important public recreational and visual access features, the proposed project also raises a wide spectrum of Coastal Act and LCP issues and



concerns. In short, good planning and public policy dictate that the new WWTP be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that is consistent with all applicable land use and resource conservation policies, including those which are designed to foster sustainable use of scarce public resources. Based on the information provided in the DEIR, we have significant concerns with the currently proposed project and we have a number of recommendations for modifications and for next steps that we think are necessary and appropriate to achieve Coastal Act and LCP conformity. We also have specific comments, questions, and related information requests related to the DEIR that may lead to additional comments and recommendations, depending on the nature of the DEIR responses.

In short, we have identified several fundamental areas of apparent inconsistency with the LCP and the applicable policies of the Coastal Act. First, the District's proposed preferred site location appears to be inappropriate for the development proposed. The concept of locating major public works infrastructure in an area that is subject to multiple significant hazards is not consistent with the hazards policies of the LCP. Further, the location is directly adjacent to the shoreline in a visually sensitive area where such development could frustrate LCP and Coastal Act public recreational access and visitor-serving objectives, and lead to adverse public viewshed impacts. Finally, the area has significant archaeological resources that, as required by the LCP, must be avoided. All of these impacts could be avoided or minimized by moving the project to an alternative location.

Second, the proposal to reduce the capacity of the new WWTP is not consistent with LCP policies requiring infrastructure to accommodate future growth that is planned for in the LCP. As we indicated in our NOP comment letter, the plant should be adequately sized to handle current and future volumes of effluent originating from both Morro Bay and Cayucos while protecting against intentional or accidental diversions of untreated effluent during peak and/or wet weather flows. As described in our letter, future estimated effluent volumes are tied to development allowed by the City of Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo County LCPs. As proposed, the WWTP would not be capable of accommodating the wastewater flows that are anticipated in these LCPs, inconsistent with the LCP.

Finally, the proposal does not include a plan for water reclamation that meets the expectations of the City of Morro Bay LCP, the San Luis Obispo County LCP, or recent actions of the Commission, including in its recent approval of the Los Osos Waste Water Project. Under the current proposal, the new WWTP would produce a large quantity of highly treated wastewater, and the vast majority of it would be disposed of through the ocean outfall. This would not only cause unnecessary impacts on the marine environment, but it would also prevent the City and adjacent areas of the County from utilizing this freshwater source to help sustainably meet the region's water supply needs, and it could frustrate Coastal Act marine resource policies related to the use of an ocean outfall for disposal in this location. As described in our NOP comment letter, the EIR should identify a suite of potential beneficial uses for the treated water and any additional infrastructure and processes that would be needed to utilize the water. Thus far, the DEIR fails to include any such alternative project designs and/or adequate related information with which to understand and evaluate this aspect of the proposed project for LCP and Coastal Act consistency.



Given the proposed project’s significant inconsistencies and the issues it raises with the LCP and the Coastal Act, we request that the DEIR be appropriately revised, updated, and recirculated for comment. Most importantly, such updated DEIR should present, and coequally evaluate against the same evaluation criteria, feasible alternatives for site locations that can avoid significant hazards and important coastal resource impacts, and alternative designs that incorporate the technology and infrastructure necessary to accommodate both wastewater flows at buildout as well as reuse of reclaimed water. Again, as indicated above, this is a major public improvement project constituting a major investment of public monies at a critical location that will fundamentally affect the way that certain scarce public resources are addressed for the foreseeable future in this area. Such project must meet LCP and Coastal Act requirements. Therefore, it is incumbent on the CEQA process to provide decision-makers, including the Commission, with the best possible information with which to make such an important decision, including with respect to alternative siting and design options that can achieve project objectives, and also address long-standing natural resource protection and sustainable use issues in a Coastal Act and LCP context. As it stands now, it does not appear that the DEIR provides the information necessary in this context to analyze the proposed project for consistency with the certified LCP and the Coastal Act, and we recommend it be supplemented and recirculated to address this critical deficiency.

**Specific Comments**

**Project Description.** The existing WWTP is located at 160 Atascadero Road in the City of Morro Bay, adjacent to the sand dunes, shoreline and Morro Creek, an RV Park, and Morro Bay High School. The proposed WWTP project would consist of demolishing the existing WWTP and constructing a new WWTP on the existing site. Although the DEIR refers to this project as an upgrade to the WWTP, it is in fact a complete replacement of the facility. Therefore, in analyzing the project for consistency with the certified LCP and the Coastal Act, the DEIR must consider the project to be development of a new WWTP. As such, and due to the significant constraints on the site of the existing WWTP, the DEIR must provide information regarding additional alternative locations that could meet the project objectives while achieving consistency with the LCP and the Coastal Act as applicable.

**Site Location.** As discussed above, the preferred site location is subject to several significant constraints. First, the site is located in a high hazard area, including because it is located within the 100-year flood plain of Morro Creek, in a tsunami-inundation area, approximately 800 feet from the current shoreline, and in an area that is susceptible to liquefaction due to underlying soil types. Second, due to its proximity to the beach, shoreline, public recreational access and visitor-serving uses, and important public viewsheds, and because it is near the center of the City, the use of the proposed location for the WWTP could frustrate public recreational access and visitor-serving objectives, and could adversely impact the public viewshed. And finally, the site is located on a Native American burial ground, which, as required by the LCP, must be avoided where feasible. Therefore, in order to provide the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the LCP, the DEIR must provide a robust analysis of feasible alternative sites.



The DEIR evaluates one alternative site, but concludes that a WWTP at this alternative location would not be capable of treating all of the District’s wastewater. The information presented thus far in this respect in the DEIR is not sufficient to determine that there are no feasible alternative locations for the new WWTP. Not only is it insufficient to evaluate only one alternative location, but the analysis needs to be focused on a co-equal evaluation across the same range of factors, and focusing on just one factor (like potential capacity) cannot serve that purpose. On the contrary, the DEIR must identify and account for additional sites that would be capable of accommodating a wastewater treatment plant that would meet the District’s current and future needs, and must evaluate the costs and benefits equally across alternatives so that decision-makers can proceed to deliberate and make decisions based on such information. Lacking such information, we fear that there will not be adequate information with which to proceed to decisions on CDPs in this case. On this point, it is important that the DEIR clearly provide information about the benefits of alternative project locations. For example, a site location farther inland has the potential to not only avoid hazard issues and significantly reduce the project’s impacts on water quality, biological resources, public viewsheds, public recreational and visitor-serving access, and archaeological resources, but it could also increase the efficacy and utility of potential water reclamation components, including with respect to distribution of reclaimed water to appropriate locations (e.g., agricultural irrigation, landscaping irrigation, etc.), and including the manner in which such reclamation can reduce related groundwater drawdown and augmentation on a location-specific basis.

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Finally, the DEIR cites LCP Policy 5.03, which allows for protection of the existing WWTP at its current location because the ocean outfall line is coastal-dependent. Please note that this policy does not apply to the project which is currently being proposed because the project is for construction of a new WWTP. The policy in question is meant to indicate that this existing plant could be protected in situ (e.g., a floodwall to address flooding) if that were deemed appropriate for other reasons, but it is not an LCP blank check to justify a replacement plant incorporating different technologies at the same location. The DEIR needs to be clear that a new replacement WWTP is not the same as maintaining the existing plant, and Policy 5.03 does not apply. Further with respect to the ocean outfall and its relation to Policy 5.03, current technology may allow for the elimination of the ocean outfall, as shown by the recently approved wastewater plant in nearby Los Osos, or for use of the ocean outfall by a plant that is located further inland. As such, the coastal-dependent nature of the plant as it relates to the ocean outfall is a much more nuanced question than a rote reliance on its current use of the ocean outfall to justify the current site location. In short, LCP Policy 5.03 is not controlling in terms of the current application, and should not be used as a reason for siting the proposed project at the current location.

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**Hazards.** The preferred site location is in a 100-year flood plain and a tsunami hazard zone located adjacent to the shoreline and in an area subject to seismic hazards. Therefore, as detailed below, the DEIR must provide the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the hazards policies of the LCP, including Policies 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.05 and 9.06, and including an evaluation of sites that do not share the same degree of hazardous constraints.

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**Flooding.** As described in the DEIR, the project is sited in a topographic depression that is subject to flooding near the mouth of Morro Creek, a watercourse that drains a 24-square-mile watershed. The

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Flood Hazard Analysis prepared for the site indicates that the depth of flood waters at the site would be between 3 and 4.5 feet during a 100-year storm event. The certified LCP describes the risks of flooding within the City and prohibits development in the 100-year flood plain. Page 156 of the LCP states that the floods of 1969 and 1973 showed that flooding could have been worse if the flood plain had been more highly developed, and on page 157, the LCP specifically identifies the location of the WWTP in the flood plain as one of the City’s flooding problems. The LCP goes on, in Policy 9.03, to prohibit all new development in the 100-year floodplain, except for flood control projects, agricultural uses, and off-setting improvements required by HUD regulations. The new WWTP is not exempt from Policy 9.03, and therefore, cannot be approved at this location unless amendments are made to the LCP. Therefore, and as described above, the DEIR must provide information about alternative sites that are not within the 100-year flood plain.

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Tsunamis. The DEIR states that because the existing WWTP is already located in a tsunami inundation area, replacing it at this site does not cause significant impacts. However, as discussed above, this project is a complete replacement of the existing WWTP, and therefore, must be evaluated as new development in the tsunami inundation area. The DEIR must provide the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the LCP in this respect, including Policy 9.01, which requires new development to be located to minimize risks to life and property in relation to tsunami threats. Again, as discussed above, the most appropriate way to do this would be for the DEIR to present detailed information about additional alternative site locations.

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Shoreline Erosion. The proposed project is located in an area that is and will be subject to shoreline erosion over the life of the project, including as it relates to global climate change and sea level rise. However, the DEIR lacks information with which to understand and appropriately respond to this constraint. Thus, the DEIR must include clear and up-to-date information about the risks to the project due to shoreline erosion, including due to global climate change and sea level rise. To do this, the DEIR should discuss the impacts to the project as a result of a range of sea level rise conditions and determine whether there is some amount of future sea level rise that would put the WWTP in danger from erosion. In addition, the DEIR should provide the elevation and inland extent of storm surge and flooding that might occur over the life of the development due to shoreline dangers. Such information must include how far inland and how high such water would go when the combination of hazardous factors are at their most extreme, and must include evaluation of impacts from and appropriate responses to same. At a minimum, such combination of factors to be evaluated should factor in an eroded beach, a 100-year storm event (or the equivalent of the 1982/83 El Nino event if the 100-year storm event has not be determined), an extreme high tide ,and a 100-year rise in sea level at both optimistic and conservative ends of the projection spectrum. All assumptions and methodologies for identifying the expected degree of danger must be clearly identified and documented. The DEIR must also include a description of any future shoreline protection or other project modifications that would be necessary to protect the WWTP under such future hazardous conditions.

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Liquefaction. The DEIR indicates that significant impacts could be caused by exposing new structures to the risk of damage due to liquefaction, unconsolidated soils and settlement. Proposed DEIR mitigation

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measures 3.5-2 and 3.5-4 rely on future geotechnical investigations to recommend future modifications to the project that would avoid and minimize these hazards. However, future studies are not adequate for CDP purposes. It is critical that any such necessary investigations be conducted now and discussed in the DEIR to allow for evaluation of the project and alternatives for consistency with the LCP and the Coastal Act.

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**Public Access and Recreation.** The preferred site location is directly adjacent to the beach, beach access, and a visitor-serving recreational vehicle (RV) park. The project has the potential to cause adverse impacts to such public recreational access and visitor-serving resources because it would reduce the availability of extremely scarce oceanfront land for such high LCP and Coastal Act priority purposes, and because it would cause adverse impacts to such resources due to both construction activities and additional truck traffic anticipated during operation of the new WWTP. It would also maintain an industrial site in the middle of an area that the LCP clearly contemplates for visitor-serving enhancements, including with respect to connecting Embarcadero Road in this area.

In addition to the LCP, the Coastal Act prioritizes public recreational use and development for areas along the shoreline such as this one. For example, Coastal Act Section 30210 requires that public recreational opportunities be maximized, Section 30221 protects oceanfront land for recreational use, Section 30222 prioritizes the use of suitable lands for visitor-serving commercial recreational facilities, and Section 30223 reserves upland areas necessary to support public recreational uses for such uses. In this case, it is not clear that using the existing site for a replacement WWTP can be found consistent with these and other similar policies, and it appears clear that the highest, best use for property such as this is for other than a wastewater industrial use, particularly when the question is not whether the existing plant should stay, rather it is whether a new replacement plant ought to be constructed in this location. That latter question necessarily involves looking anew at LCP and Coastal Act priorities, and evaluating the manner in which such priorities square with related local and regional long-term visions for redevelopment over time related to this special location. In other words, the DEIR evaluation of the proposed site must also evaluate it (and other alternative sites likewise) in relation to the potential lost opportunities associated with committing the site to a wastewater treatment plant use for the foreseeable future.

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Moreover, the continuation of a wastewater plant at the proposed location will have impacts on both existing public recreational access and visitor serving resources in the area, as well as the manner in which such existing resources will be enhanced over time, including in terms of expected redevelopment in this area over the life of the project. The DEIR must include information that quantifies these effects and compares them related to other potential alternative sites that can meet siting requirements appropriately. It seems reasonable to presume that sites farther inland are likely to have inherently reduced impacts on public recreational access and visitor serving resources, both existing and over time, and these differences need to be a clear part of the alternatives evaluation. The DEIR must also discuss the potential public access and recreation impacts that could be caused by demolition and construction activities, including impacts caused by construction traffic, staging and traffic detours, as well as ongoing traffic impacts once the plant is fully operating. Again, areas that are not as much of a visitor

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destination and that are located further inland are likely to have lesser impacts in this regard, and these differences must be part of the DEIR’s alternative site evaluation information and process.

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**Visual Resources.** The proposed project would include constructing a new replacement WWTP on the southern portion of the site and demolishing existing development on the northern portion of the site. The project description in the DEIR states that the new development would be designed with a consistent architectural theme and that it would be compatible with the surroundings. It states that the new facilities would be taller than the existing facilities and would include new security fencing along the entire perimeter of the facility. The project description also states that the vacant area on the northern portion of the site would be graded and finished with either pavement or rock.

The LCP requires the scenic and visual qualities of the coast to be protected and requires development to be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and other coastal areas. The project involves constructing a new WWTP immediately adjacent to multiple areas that are used by the public for access and recreation at and along the coast. The site is located on Atascadero Road, which is shown in LCP Figure 30 as a street providing scenic views. In addition, as illustrated in the DEIR, views from the dunes looking inland across the site include mountain ridgelines and views from the road looking towards the coast across the site include Morro Rock. The site is also visible from Highway One. New development such as that proposed at this location has the potential to obstruct and degrade these important public views.

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Although the DEIR provides a viewshed analysis, such analysis is limited to visual simulations created from three vantage points. It is not clear that the requisite LCP and Coastal Act public viewshed protection findings can be made based on such analysis, and we recommend it be supplemented to include a more detailed discussion of what WWTP elements would be visible from public streets and other public access points. For WWTP elements that would be visible from such vantages, the DEIR must include information about ways to avoid visual impacts, including through more articulated architectural features, and it needs to include more details about the proposed design, including in terms of proposed materials and color palettes. In addition, the DEIR must include a description of proposed lighting to be able to allow an analysis of the impacts to nighttime views. Moreover, it appears that the proposed landscaping would consist of a single row of trees along the perimeter fencing, a small area of landscaping at the entrance to the plant and what appears to be a grass lawn. The DEIR must identify and evaluate the details of such landscaping plan beyond that identified thus far, and must include visual depictions and proposed species from initial installation to maturity to allow evaluation of the visual impacts of the landscaping itself. In any event, please ensure that the landscaping is based on drought tolerant, native and non-invasive vegetation that can effectively screen and soften visual impacts associated with the development as seen from public areas. In addition, although the project description says the vacant area on the northern portion of the parcel would be paved, the area is shown as landscaped with dune vegetation on the aerial simulation. The DEIR should clarify what is proposed for this area and it should provide the information necessary to evaluate the visual and water quality impacts of placing new pavement or rocks, if that is what is proposed. If the area would be landscaped, details should be included in the landscaping plan, as described above.

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Again, as discussed above, the DEIR must be supplemented in terms of alternatives analysis, and the same concept extends to visual resources. It is clear that the existing site is in a visually sensitive location, which raises public viewshed concerns and issues. It is not as clear that other potential alternative sites share these same constraints. In fact, such sites may have fewer visual impacts than the proposed site location, especially if they are located farther inland and away from prime public viewsheds. The visual costs and benefits for various alternative sites and designs need to be described and explained in a similar manner as previously described for other constraint and resource categories.

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**Archaeological Resources.** The project site is located in close proximity to numerous documented archaeological sites and is located within a burial ground of the Salinan Tribe. The LCP requires that such significant archaeological and historic resources be preserved to the greatest extent possible, and requires all available measures, including tax relief and purchase of development rights, in order to avoid development on significant archaeological sites. Therefore, a new WWTP that requires ground disturbance and excavation at this location appears to be inconsistent with the LCP in this respect, and, as discussed above, the DEIR should provide the information necessary to evaluate alternative sites for consistency with the LCP and applicable policies of the Coastal Act with respect to archeological resources as well.

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**Plant Capacity.** The existing WWTP is rated for a peak seasonal dry weather flow (PSDWF) of 2.36 million gallons per day (mgd), and a peak hour flow of 6.6 mgd. The existing plant provides secondary treatment for up to .97 mgd. Additional wastewater receives primary treatment and is blended with the secondary treated water before it is discharged through the ocean outfall. The existing WWTP has a 301(h) modified discharge permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which allows for the discharge of a blend of primary and secondary treated effluent into the ocean. The capacity of the new WWTP would be reduced from 2.36 mgd to 1.5 mgd. The new WWTP would treat this 1.5 mgd to tertiary level, and any additional wastewater would be treated to the secondary level. The new WWTP would not require a waiver from wastewater discharge requirements.

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The LCP requires the City to ensure wastewater treatment capacity for certain priority uses, including commercial fishing and agriculture and coastal dependent land uses. Also, LCP Policy 3.06 specifically requires the City to provide wastewater treatment facilities to accommodate the build-out population of 12,195. In addition to the City's residential population, the upgraded WWTP must also serve the residential population of the Cayucos portion of the service district in the unincorporated County area, as well as the entire district's industrial and commercial needs. The recently updated Estero Area Plan of the San Luis Obispo County LCP, which was certified by the Commission in 2008, states that the average dry weather flow (ADWF) for Cayucos at buildout would be between .318 mgd and .401 mgd, and that Morro Bay's projected ADWF at buildout is 1.42 mgd, for a total ADWF of approximately 1.8 mgd.<sup>1</sup> The Estero Area Plan also states that in 2006, the district's ADWF was approximately 1.48 mgd. In addition, Table 10 of the LCP projects the District's wastewater flow rates to be 2.46 mgd in 2000 and

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<sup>1</sup> The ADWF is lower than the PSDWF. The ADWF capacity of the existing WWTP is 2.06 mgd. The ADWF capacity of the proposed WWTP is not indicated in the DEIR. However, it is most likely lower than the PSDWF rating of 1.5 mgd.



3.13 mgd at buildout. These rates are significantly higher than the 1.5 mgd PSDWF that the upgraded WWTP would treat. Therefore, the proposed WWTP may not be able to treat the average dry weather flow that was recorded in 2006, and it appears that it would be unable to treat the average flow at buildout projected by either the Estero Area Plan or the City’s LCP.

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The DEIR relies on various sources for information about population growth but does not provide a conclusion about the rate of population growth expected over the life of the updated WWTP in relation to the LCP’s buildout requirements. The DEIR should make such a conclusion and it should clearly explain how the upgraded WWTP would accommodate the projected demand for wastewater over the life of the project in relation to expected and allowed LCP buildout. In addition, the DEIR should provide all of the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the LCP, including the above-mentioned policies. If the project would not provide facilities to accommodate a City population of 12,195 as required by LCP Policy 3.06, it would need to be preceded by an LCP amendment designed to amend that policy and related LCP sections.

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In short, the DEIR must be supplemented to clearly identify LCP consistent buildout numbers and the way in which the proposed WWTP will appropriately and sufficiently accommodate such wastewater requirements at LCP buildout to be able to find the proposed project LCP consistent on this point. Any modified siting and design measures necessary to appropriately account for such wastewater needs must be identified and discussed, and all underlying assumptions clearly presented, in the DEIR.

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**Water Reclamation.** The proposed project includes a plan for a small amount of wastewater reclamation. The 1.5 mgd of tertiary treated water would meet Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water and could therefore be used for industrial use on-site and for limited off-site purposes such as soil compaction, concrete mixing and dust control. As proposed, this water could only be used off-site if it is transported using trucks that would utilize the proposed truck filling station. In addition, the proposed project includes a plan for the future production of .4 mgd of disinfected tertiary recycled water, the highest standard of recycled water, which could be put to a wide range of uses, including agricultural irrigation, groundwater replenishment and residential landscaping. However, as proposed, the only way to transport this higher quality water off-site would be using trucks. No additional infrastructure is proposed and the project does not include any planning for future infrastructure that could be used to transport the water.

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The availability of water in Morro Bay has improved since the late 1980s and early 1990s, due to the arrival of water from the State Water Project in 1997. However, as described in the City’s Water Management Plan Status Report of December 2008, the reliability of State Water has decreased due to judicial decisions regarding endangered fish species and concerns about global warming. In addition, the use of State Water is extremely energy intensive and has significant environmental impacts far removed from Morro Bay, including impacts on anadromous fish and other species in the Delta. These, and other, State water concerns highlight the general issue associated with ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to move towards and ensure a locally sustainable water supply.

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LCP Policy 3.08(5) states that “even with the delivery of state water, use of reclaimed water is the City’s second highest priority [after conservation] and remains a productive source of potential conservation for both large and small scale projects...” This LCP policy goes on to state that reclaimed water should be required as part of a wastewater plant upgrade. The LCP also requires the City to ensure the availability of water supply for priority uses such as commercial fishing and agriculture and visitor-serving uses. In addition, the Estero Area Plan in the San Luis Obispo County LCP, which was updated in 2009 and applies to the Cayucos area, addresses the need for water reclamation. Although the County’s LCP is not the standard of review for development within the City, it provides appropriate context for services that extend outside the City and are affected by the proposed project. The Estero Area Plan includes Public Facilities Program III.B.1 on page 3-25, which encourages sewage disposal agencies to find alternative uses for reclaimed water, and Program III.A.9 on page 3-25, which encourages the use of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation where there is a source of adequate quality wastewater.

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Therefore, the LCP clearly requires the City to pursue water reclamation as part of this WWTP project. In addition, the Commission’s recent action approving the Los Osos Waste Water Project and the Commission’s recent certification of the above-mentioned water reclamation programs in the San Luis Obispo County LCP make it clear that the Commission has clear expectations for meaningful water reclamation programs to be included in new wastewater facilities and projects. Furthermore, the use of reclaimed water would help the City meet its water supply needs and ensure water supply is available for priority uses as required by the LCP, especially if/when State Water is restricted or unavailable. The use of reclaimed water would also reduce the impacts to the groundwater basin caused by pumping for water. Reclaimed water could be used for many purposes, including agricultural irrigation inside and/or outside of the district’s service area, injection wells to maintain and enhance the water quality and biological resources associated with the Chorro and Morro groundwater basins as required by LCP Policy 11.17, and residential and municipal landscaping, among other uses. The use of reclaimed water could also obviate the need for an ocean outfall, and the related benefits of eliminating this component of wastewater treatment in Morro Bay must be a part of the DEIR alternatives analysis, including the measures necessary to eliminate the outfall itself if other uses for the reclaimed water make the outfall unnecessary.

As proposed, the upgraded WWTP would produce 1.5 mgd of high quality tertiary treated water, but only a very small portion of that would be reclaimed. The remainder would be discharged to the ocean, both causing impacts to aquatic resources and wasting an important water supply. For the currently proposed project, the DEIR must provide details about the quantity of water that would be reclaimed, the timeline for when reclaimed water would be available, and the constraints associated with transporting the water off-site using trucks and the truck filling station. The DEIR must also discuss the impacts of using trucks to transport the .4 mgd of disinfected tertiary recycled water that would eventually be produced, including the impacts to air quality and GHG emissions as well as the impacts to public access to the coast caused by the additional truck traffic, and then it must identify appropriate means to address such issues (e.g., the potential for reclaimed water infrastructure, etc.).

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Finally, the DEIR must provide details for project alternatives that would include more significant opportunities to provide reclaimed water as required by the LCP. Such alternatives should provide increased quantities of reclaimed water, with at least one alternative providing details about the potential to reclaim 100% of the wastewater produced, timelines for when the reclaimed water would be available, and information about the infrastructure that would be necessary to fully accommodate the reuse of the water (and details regarding infrastructure like the ocean outfall that could feasibly be eliminated). It seems likely that a reclamation program, including one expanded to result in full reuse, will require associated pipeline infrastructure as opposed to solely truck transport, and the DEIR needs to identify any feasibility issues associated with such a program. Again, such evaluation must be made a coequal part of the overall investigation of alternatives previously described, including in relation to the potential to eliminate the ocean outfall component of the project.

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**Water Quality.** The existing WWTP has three storm water outfalls. One extends from the project site through the dunes and onto the beach, one discharges directly into Morro Creek, and a third routes storm water through the treatment plant and then discharges it from the ocean outfall. The DEIR states that the beach storm water outfall is frequently covered with sand and therefore requires regular maintenance. It is unclear from the DEIR if changes would be made to the existing storm water conveyance system.

Water quality is especially important in this project given the magnitude of the project size, the proximity to sensitive coastal resources and the industrial nature of the use. The LCP requires development to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats, including streams, dunes, and other biological resource areas, and where unavoidable, to minimize such impacts and to appropriately offset and mitigate for such impacts . In addition, LCP Policy 9.10 requires runoff to be retained on-site when possible, Policy 9.11 prohibits new development from degrading water quality, and Policy 9.12 requires new development to minimize runoff and erosion. The Coastal Act’s marine resource protection policies may also come into play in the Commission’s retained jurisdictional areas. The DEIR does not currently include adequate information regarding the manner in which storm water would be addressed, and must be supplemented to include sufficient information to analyze the project for consistency with these and related policies. The DEIR must provide a detailed explanation of how storm water would be collected, filtered, and treated, and how it would leave the site, and it must identify ways to ensure that all storm water is appropriately managed so that it does not result in polluted runoff, including , by treating storm water in the treatment plant itself, and/or through increasing on-site infiltration. In addition, the DEIR must provide information about the impacts of the project on runoff quantity, quality and velocity, including those impacts that would be caused if the vacant northern portion of the site is paved, as proposed. Again, as with other issue areas, such water quality details need to be part of each alternative evaluated.

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Finally, the DEIR relies on compliance with the SWPPP and other water quality requirements to ensure that any impacts to water quality would be mitigated. However, the DEIR needs to provide sufficient detail to ensure this, including by describing all proposed measures and BMPs to protect water quality during construction and operation of the plant.

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**Rob Livick, City of Morro Bay**

**Morro Bay – Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

**November 12, 2010**

**Page 12**

**Conclusion.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important, major public improvement project. Given the significant issues raised by the proposed project and the range of issues it raises with the certified LCP and the Coastal Act, including the location of this major new infrastructure project in an extremely hazardous and sensitive area, the reduced wastewater treatment capacity, and the lack of a significant water reclamation program, we respectfully request that the project be re-envisioned in terms of alternative siting and design, and that the DEIR be revised and recirculated to address our concerns, including with respect to a more robust identification of project alternatives that can better address the LCP and the Coastal Act. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project or these comments, please contact me at the address and phone number above.

Sincerely,



Madeline Cavalieri

Coastal Planner, Central Coast District Office

cc: State Clearinghouse (SCH #2008101138)  
Bill Callahan, Cayucos Sanitary District Manager





SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECEIVED  
OCT 28 2010  
City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

October 26, 2010

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Subject: Comments for Morro Bay-Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Livick,

Please accept these comments on the Morro Bay-Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Based on the contents of the DEIR, it does not appear that our department will have permit jurisdiction over the proposed project. If Alternative 3 (or any other alternative that may be analyzed) was to be chosen, and the site is located within County jurisdiction, the alternative would require a Coastal Development Permit from the Department of Planning and Building. Additionally, if major upgrades or re-routing of sewer lines are proposed within areas of County jurisdiction, then those activities would likely require the issuance of a Coastal Development Permit. Our department has reviewed the DEIR for the above mentioned project and submits the following comments:

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The County General Plan contains goal statements that apply to the provision of public facilities and services and the conservation of resources. As expressed in the *Framework for Planning, Coastal Zone*, these broad goals include:

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- *Balancing the capacity for growth allowed... with the sustained availability of resources.*
- *Conserving nonrenewable resources and replenishing renewable resources.*
  - The Estero Area Plan contains "Programs" which are recommended non-mandatory actions to achieve community or areawide objectives. Specific to this project, the Estero Area Plan addresses concerns related to the community of Cayucos, the City of Morro Bay, and the surrounding rural areas. Implementation of each program is the responsibility of the county or other public agency with jurisdiction over a particular area of concern. Based on our departments review, this project has the potential to provide a supplemental water source for various purposes including but not limited to landscape irrigation, municipal and industrial

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uses, and agricultural irrigation. It does not appear that the proposed project has analyzed the potential to "utilize" the treated water for beneficial uses (consistent with the programs listed below). Ocean outfall seems to be the primary method of disposal identified in the DEIR with an option for future reclaimed water facilities. When a project of this nature is proposed, opportunities to implement programs related to water recycling are of the utmost importance. Specific to wastewater and water supply, our department has identified the following programs in the Estero Area Plan that are applicable to this project:

- *Agricultural Water Supplies.* Maintain the quantity and quality of ground water resources currently consumed by production agriculture. Where sources of adequate wastewater quality are available, develop a program with appropriate agencies to use treated wastewater for irrigation.
- *Water Management-Chorro & Morro Basins.* The county and city of Morro Bay should jointly develop a groundwater management program that results in cooperative planning among affected agencies. The program should encourage better recharge through use of percolation basins and consider drilling of new wells and changing the frequency of well pumping.
- *Wastewater Recycling.* Sewage disposal agencies should work with the County Public Works and Health Departments and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop a program to find alternative uses for treated wastewater, such as irrigation (e.g. on agricultural lands and the Morro Bay Golf Course), groundwater recharge, and environmental enhancement.

Source: Estero Area Plan, 2009 (Page 3-25)

The DEIR should identify potential beneficial uses for the treated effluent including additional infrastructure and processes as a part of the proposed project.

- Wastewater treatment requirements based on buildout (as identified in the Estero Area Plan) for the community of Cayucos and the city of Morro Bay is between 1.738 and 1.821 mgd utilizing the following assumptions:
  - *Using this methodology, Cayucos' average dry-weather wastewater flow at buildout would range from about 0.318 mgd (assuming 61.5% occupancy for existing development and 95% occupancy for new development) to about 0.401 mgd (assuming 80% and 95% occupancy for existing and new development, respectively).*
  - *Morro Bay's projected flows at buildout are approximately 1.42 mgd.*

Source: Estero Area Plan, 2009 (Page 3-12)

Unless the assumptions identified in the Estero Area Plan are incorrect, it does not appear the proposed project will have capacity to serve buildout of the two communities. An undersized treatment facility has the potential to result in spills during peak flow conditions. If the buildout assumptions identified in the Estero Area Plan are not correct, please clarify. If these assumptions are correct, please demonstrate that the plant is appropriately sized to serve the buildout of both communities.

- The DEIR must comply with section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, which requires *a range of feasible alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.*

Potentially significant effects that could be lessened by alternatives which have not been studied and are not located on the proposed project site include: water quality issues associated with the WWTP ocean discharge (recycled water could be used for various beneficial uses other than ocean outfall), potential effects of the WWTP ocean discharge on marine organisms, offsite flooding impacts associated with a new WWTP footprint (raising the elevation of the site above the 100-year flood elevation); hazardous materials use and safety near sensitive receptors (high school and visitor serving uses); and aesthetic impacts to the site and surrounding public areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. If you have any questions about these comments, please feel free to contact me at (805) 788-2352.

Regards,



Murry Wilson  
Environmental Resource Specialist

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RECEIVED

NOV 03 2010

Public Services Department

November 4, 2010

Rob Livick  
City of Morro Bay Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay CA 93442

SUBJECT: APCD Comments Regarding the MB - Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Livick,

Thank you for including the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) in the environmental review process. We have completed our review of the proposed project located at 160 Atascadero Road in Morro Bay. The proposed project would replace the existing waste water treatment plant with new, upgraded facilities and would demolish the existing facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would upgrade the WWTP to provide secondary treatment to all wastewater effluent with tertiary filtration capacity of 1.5 mgd. Specifically, the following modifications have been made to the project description:

- 1) The existing onsite composting program at the WWTP would be discontinued.
- 2) Dewatered sludge produced at the new treatment facilities would be hauled offsite for composting or otherwise processed and disposed in accordance with federal and state regulations;
- 3) The existing treatment plant would be demolished once the new treatment plant is complete and brought online.

*The following are APCD comments that are pertinent to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for this proposed project.*

GENERAL COMMENTS

As a commenting agency in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for a project, the APCD assesses air pollution impacts from both the construction and operational phases of a project, with separate significant thresholds for each. **Overall, there is insufficient information in the Draft Environmental Impact Report to adequately review the Air Quality impacts associated with the proposed project. Please address the action items contained in this letter that are highlighted by bold and underlined text.**

1

**The formatting of the Air Quality section needs to be modified.** Mitigation Measures 3.2-1a, 3.2-1b and 3.201c should be moved to be grouped with the “Project Construction” to keep all construction impacts and mitigation measures together.

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## **CONSTRUCTION SECTION**

### **Construction Phase Exceedance EIR:**

This project’s Draft Environmental Impact Report evaluated the construction phase emissions using assumptions for emission factors, equipment fleet and construction schedule. Based on this assessment, the project exceeds the APCD’s quarterly construction ROG + NO<sub>x</sub> emission threshold by 0.1 tons. There are additional construction phase activities identified below that do not appear to be included in this assessment; therefore as currently drafted the DEIR has underestimated the total air quality impact of the construction phase. All of SLO County APCD’s construction phase comments and any recommended mitigation requirements are conditional, pending the results of an updated and finalized Table 3.2-7 (Emissions from Project Construction).

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Based on the APCD’s review of the construction emissions, while demolition activities were factored into the construction emissions, it appears that on-road hauling was not included in the demolition calculations. Equipment that is demolished at a site is generally hauled off-site for recycling or disposal. Therefore, excluding the truck trips associated with demolition result in an underestimation of construction emissions. There is also no mention to the number of daily truck and employee trips associated with the construction phase of the project.

Prior to finalization of the Environmental Impact Report, **please provide the SLO County APCD with an updated construction phase calculations and/or table detailing the amount of emissions generated from the construction portion of the project, including all truck trips and employee trips. These numbers then need to be compared to the SLO County APCD’s significance thresholds and mitigated as appropriate.**

### **Construction Mitigation**

Based on the exceedance of the APCD’s construction phase significance threshold, the applicant will be required to complete Standard Mitigation Measures and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for construction equipment. If after the standard and BACT measures are factored into the estimation, the project still exceeds the Tier 1 threshold then off-site mitigation is typically required. However, to try and avoid off-site mitigation a Construction Activity Management Plan (CAMP) should be developed to reduce project specific emissions on-site. The CAMP should include project specific information (i.e., fleet make-up, emissions level, schedule, etc.) that will allow for more refined project emissions to be determined. Whenever off-site mitigation measures are deemed necessary, it is important that the developer, lead agency and APCD work together to develop and implement the measures to ensure a successful outcome. **This work should begin at least six months prior to issuance of final city permit for the project. For more information and further guidance, please refer to the APCD’s 2009 CEQA Handbook.**

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Potential APCD construction phase mitigation includes:

- Implementation of a Construction Activity Management Plan, as stated in the DEIR, and shall include all feasible mitigation measures to reduce ROG + NO<sub>x</sub> and GHG emissions;
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications;
- Fuel all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment with ARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road);
- Use diesel construction equipment meeting ARB's Tier 2 certified engines or cleaner off-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State off-Road Regulation;
- Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the ARB's 2007 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation;
- Construction or trucking companies with fleets that do not have engines in their fleet that meet the engine standards identified in the above two measures (e.g. captive or NO<sub>x</sub> exempt area fleets) may be eligible by proving alternative compliance;
- All on and off-road diesel equipment shall not idle for more than 5 minutes. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job sites to remind drivers and operators of the 5 minute idling limit;
- Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors is not permitted;
- Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors;
- Electrify equipment when feasible;
- Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible; and,
- Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel.

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Greenhouse Gases Significance Criteria, Page 3-2.19:

**It should be noted that section is out of date.** OPR has finalized the guidelines pursuant to SB97.

- "As discussed above, at this time there are no statewide guidelines for greenhouse gas emission impacts, but this will be addressed through the provisions of Senate Bill 97 (SB 97). OPR has until July 1, 2009 to draft the new GHG guidelines, and the State Resources Agency will thereafter have until January 1, 2010 to certify and adopt the regulations. In the interim, local agencies must analyze the impact of GHGs. For this analysis, the project would be considered to have a significant impact if the project would be in conflict with the AB 32 State goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The assumption is that AB 32 will be successful in reducing GHG emissions and reducing the cumulative GHG emissions statewide by 2020. It is important that the state has taken these measures, because no project individually could have a major impact (either positively or negatively) on the global concentration of GHGs."

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Mitigation Measure 3.2-1b, page 3.2-23

**Please include the following language at the end of this mitigation measure:**

All PM<sub>10</sub> mitigation measures required should be shown on grading and building plans. In addition, the contractor or builder should designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust

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offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. **The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to land use clearance for map recordation and finished grading of the area.**

Table 3.2-7, page 3.2-21

We are unable to determine how the numbers in this table were calculated. **Please provide detailed explanations and/or non-PDF spreadsheets to show how the numbers were reached, for APCD verification. Also, as the construction phase emissions are finalized (including the schedule), please illustrate the actual quarterly emissions rather than annual figure divided by four.**

#### Demolition Activities

The Draft Environmental Impact Report indicated that there are existing structures on the proposed site that will be demolished. Demolition activities can have potential negative air quality impacts, including issues surrounding proper handling, demolition, and disposal of asbestos containing material (ACM). Asbestos containing materials could be encountered during demolition or remodeling of existing buildings. Asbestos can also be found in utility pipes/pipelines (transite pipes or insulation on pipes). **If building(s) are removed or renovated; or utility pipelines are scheduled for removal or relocation this project may be subject to various regulatory jurisdictions, including the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M - asbestos NESHAP).** These requirements include but are not limited to: 1) notification requirements to the APCD, 2) asbestos survey conducted by a Certified Asbestos Inspector, and, 3) applicable removal and disposal requirements of identified ACM. Please contact the APCD Enforcement Division at (805) 781-5912 for further information.

#### Naturally Occurring Asbestos

The project site is located in a candidate area for Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA), which has been identified as a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). Under the ARB Air Toxics Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations, **prior to any grading activities at the site, the project proponent shall ensure that a geologic evaluation is conducted to determine if NOA is present within the area that will be disturbed. If NOA is not present, an exemption request must be filed with the District (see Attachment 1). If NOA is found at the site, the applicant must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM.** This may include development of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and an Asbestos Health and Safety Program for approval by the APCD. Please refer to the APCD web page at <http://www.slocleanair.org/business/asbestos.asp> for more information or contact the APCD Enforcement Division at 781-5912.

#### Construction Phase Idling Limitations

Public health risk benefits can be realized by idle limitations for diesel engines. To help reduce the emissions impact of diesel vehicles accessing the facility, the applicant shall implement a "no idle" zone for diesel delivery trucks. Heavy-duty diesel idling emissions shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible using the following techniques:

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a. Idling Restrictions Near Sensitive Receptors for Diesel Equipment

1. Idling areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors (i.e., Morro Bay High School and RV Park);
2. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors is not permitted;
3. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended;
4. Implement plug-in electrification for truck refrigeration units; and,
5. Signs that specify the no idling requirements must be posted and enforced at the site.

b. Idling Restrictions for On-road Vehicles

Section 2485 of Title 13, the California Code of Regulations limits diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles that operate in the State of California with gross vehicular weight ratings of greater than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:

1. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
2. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 100 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.

Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind drivers of the 5 minute idling limit. The specific requirements and exceptions in the regulation can be reviewed at the following web site: [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/2485.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/2485.pdf).

c. Idling Restrictions for Off-Road Equipment

Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5 minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(3) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use off-Road Diesel regulation: [www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf).

Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind off-road equipment operators of the 5 minute idling limit.

Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil

**Should hydrocarbon contaminated soil be encountered during construction activities, the APCD must be notified as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after affected material is discovered to determine if an APCD Permit will be required. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered:**

- Covers on storage piles shall be maintained in place at all times in areas not actively involved in soil addition or removal;
- Contaminated soil shall be covered with at least six inches of packed uncontaminated soil



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or other TPH –non-permeable barrier such as plastic tarp. No headspace shall be allowed where vapors could accumulate;

- Covered piles shall be designed in such a way to eliminate erosion due to wind or water. No openings in the covers are permitted;
- The air quality impacts from the excavation and haul trips associated with removing the contaminated soil must be evaluated and mitigated if total emissions exceed the APCD’s construction phase thresholds;
- During soil excavation, odors shall not be evident to such a degree as to cause a public nuisance; and,
- Clean soil must be segregated from contaminated soil.

**The notification and permitting determination requirements shall be directed to the APCD Engineering Division at 781-5912**

**Construction Permit Requirements**

Based on the information provided, we are unsure of the types of equipment that may be present during the project’s construction phase. Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities will require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit. Depending on the equipment used the portable sludge dewatering process may require permitting. The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to page A-5 in the District's CEQA Handbook.

- Power screens, conveyors, diesel engines, and/or crushers;
- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- IC engines;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;
- Concrete batch plants;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Tub grinders; and
- Trommel screens.

**To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project, please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.**

**OPERATIONAL PHASE MITIGATION**

There is no mention to the total amount of truck trips and employee trips during the operational phase of the project. The DEIR says, “project operation would generate up to 30 additional truck trips per week, or up to six truck trips per day, associated with hauling sludge, screenings, and grit, delivery of chemicals, and delivery of recycled water.” **Please clarify the amount of truck trips that will be operating during the operational phase of the project (including the baseline number of truck trips) and compare the total emissions to the APCD’s significance thresholds. The amount should also show the employee trips that will be occurring on a daily basis and should include the mileage of the truck trips that will be going to and from the site to dispose of materials (mentioned on page 3.2-22).**

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions Section, page 3.2-28

After adding the metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e for construction, operation and on-road vehicle exhaust, the total of metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e should be 416; **this number should be modified. This calculation should also be modified to include any on-road hauling trips related to demolition.**

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This section indicates that the proposed project would construct new oxidation ditches and a Residuals Facility building that would contain the solids handling facilities. Please indicate how the proposed project will address the methane released from these ditches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and confirm the emissions are included in the total CO<sub>2</sub>e operational emissions..

Operational Permit Requirements

Currently, the WWTP holds a permit with the APCD for the existing emergency diesel generator and digester boilers located onsite. MBCSD will be required to secure a new Permit to Operate from APCD for the proposed emergency diesel generator to be located at the new WWTP. Based on the information provided, we are unsure of any additional types of equipment that may be present at the site. Operational sources may require APCD permits. The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to page A-5 in the District's CEQA Handbook.

- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- Chemical product processing and or manufacturing;
- Electrical generation plants or the use of standby generator;
- Pipelines;
- Public utility facilities;
- Boilers;
- IC Engines;
- Sterilization units(s) using ethylene oxide and incinerator(s);
- Cogeneration facilities;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;
- Concrete batch plants;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Tub grinders; and
- Trommel screens.

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**To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project, please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.**

Odor Impacts, page 3.2.6

APCD requires an update of the existing Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) for any new permitted work. **Once the updated OIMP is completed, please submit to the SLO County**

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**APCD for review and approval. Please contact the APCD Enforcement Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information.**

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at 781-5912.

Sincerely,



Meghan Field  
Air Quality Specialist

MDF/mag/arr

cc: Tim Fuhs, Enforcement Division, APCD  
Gary Willey, Engineering Division, APCD

Attachments:

1. Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Construction & Grading Project Exemption Request Form, Construction & Grading Project Form

h:\plan\ceqa\project\_review\3000\3500\3502-3\3502-3.doc



RECEIVED  
 OCT 12 2010  
 City of Morro Bay  
 Public Services Department

October 8, 2010

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
 Public Services Director/City Engineer  
 City of Morro Bay  
 955 Shasta Avenue  
 Morro Bay, CA 93442

Dear Rob,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade Draft Environmental Impact Report. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) supports Morro Bay and Cayucos in their efforts to upgrade wastewater treatment and improve the water quality of effluent released into the ocean, through the full secondary treatment of all effluent discharged through the ocean outfall and tertiary filtration capacity equivalent to the peak season dry weather flow (PSDWF). These upgrades will decrease the impact of wastewater on local marine and estuarine ecological resources.

The creation and use of disinfected secondary-23 recycled water is an important aspect of the project, as it helps to address freshwater constraints in Morro Bay. We strongly urge the JPA, City of Morro Bay, and Cayucos to utilize this source of recycled water to the maximum extent possible. The use of freshwater in our watershed has a significant impact on our biological and physical resources and MBNEP has encouraged conservation of freshwater as much as possible.

We appreciate that Alternative 3 (Chorro Valley location) was analyzed. The analysis adequately demonstrates that this alternative on balance is not the environmentally superior alternative due to impacts on aesthetics, air quality, odor, land use, and noise. Thank you for your work in developing this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lexie Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lexie Brown  
 Assistant Director,  
 Morro Bay National Estuary Program



SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 15755 • San Luis Obispo, California 93406  
Phone: (805) 543-8717 • Fax: (805) 543-8727  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/santalucia>

RECEIVED  
NOV 01 2010  
City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay CA 93442

October 29, 2010

Re: Morro Bay-Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant DEIR

Dear Mr. Livick,

The Sierra Club would like to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, but we find the DEIR so deficient that we are unable to fully review it or submit substantial comments on the project's presumed impacts and proposed mitigations.

The fundamental problems with the environmental analysis lie in the project description and the alternatives analysis. At several points, the DEIR seems to be unaware that the proposed project constitutes new coastal development at a new site, not an upgrade/rebuild of the existing WWTP at its current location. For this reason, supporting citations from Coastal Land Use Policy and the General Plan are frequently irrelevant and do not apply to the project.

The alternatives analysis fails to evaluate a separate, complete facility as a project alternative. The DEIR notes, but does not follow, the CEQA requirement that "the discussion of alternatives shall focus on alternatives to the project or its location which are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any significant effects of the project, even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the project objectives, or would be more costly." [emphasis added] (CEQA Guidelines at 15126.6b).

The DEIR also fails to heed the Dec. 8, 2008, request of the California Coastal Commission to "identify a suite of potential beneficial uses for this treated water along with any additional infrastructure and processes that would be needed to reclaim this potential source of water relative to various alternative beneficial uses." The failure to include an analysis of water reclamation as part of a proposal for a waste water treatment plant in the state of California, in view of what is currently known about the present and future availability of potable water, is not acceptable.

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The result of all of the above deficiencies is numerous inconsistencies with CEQA and Morro Bay's Local Coastal Plan throughout the DEIR and a failure to conform with the LCP's policies and those of the California Coastal Act.

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We previously urged the JPA board to direct staff to engage in early consultation with Coastal Commission staff so as to avoid delays in the project review and permitting process. As that consultation evidently did not happen, such delay is now unavoidable. The DEIR must correct these deficiencies and be recirculated. It cannot be certified in its current form.

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Thank you for your attention to these issues.



Andrew Christie  
Chapter Director



November 3, 2010

***Via electronic mail***

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
 City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
 955 Shasta Ave.  
 Morro Bay, CA 93442  
 rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

***Re: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Morro Bay-Cayucos  
 Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade Project***

Dear Mr. Livick,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (“NRDC”), I write to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project (“Project”).

First, I once again commend the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos for upgrading the treatment plant to better protect the marine ecosystem offshore from the plant, and especially the threatened sea otter population. In addition, the tertiary upgrade will result in a new, drought-proof water supply. Given the uncertainty of a reliable imported water supply in California due to climate change and other factors, increasing local supplies is a laudable step.

Yet, the DEIR fails to analyze the impacts from climate change that will affect the coastal treatment plant, notably sea level rise. The Department of Water Resources has concluded, “Sea levels are rising, and it is generally accepted that this trend will continue.”<sup>1</sup> Even a sea level rise at the lower end of the estimated range “poses an increased risk of storm surge and flooding for California’s coastal residents and infrastructure, including many of the state’s wastewater treatment plants.”<sup>2</sup> Flooding is clearly a problem at the plant—it lies in a 100-year flood plain, has experienced flooding in the past, and a flood analysis study shows flooding in the range of 3 to 4.5 feet.<sup>3</sup> Sea level rise will exacerbate this problem. Yet the flood protection and reduction recommendations in the DEIR fail to account for sea level rise, and are therefore inadequate. At a minimum, the DEIR and the flood reduction and protection measures need to be revised to account for a future increase in flooding as a result of sea level rise.

Further, the Project should put the treated water to the best use as quickly as possible. It is not clear that the proposed Project site would best achieve this goal because the DEIR did not

<sup>1</sup> California Department of Water Resources, *Managing an Uncertain Future* (Oct. 2008), at 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 7.

<sup>3</sup> DEIR, Appendix D, at 3.

November 3, 2010

Page 2

analyze any other stand-alone sites. If any other sites have been brought to the attention of the JPA that carry a decreased risk of flooding and better options for putting the treated water to beneficial use, the DEIR should consider and analyze them. Given that the Project has an 8-year timeframe, even though NRDC's consultant proved the Project could be completed in much less time, there should be ample time to re-visit the alternatives analysis within the current timeframe before completing the EIR.

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Please feel free to contact me at (310) 434-2300 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michelle S. Mehta  
Attorney, Water Program  
Natural Resources Defense Council



The Otter Project  
www.otterproject.org

November 4, 2010

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
Public Services Director/City Engineer  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us  
Fax: (805) 772-6268

Via email and fax

Dear Mr. Livick:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR for the Morro Bay Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). My comments are made on behalf of The Otter Project and our 3000 members nationwide.

Our interest in this issue is based on our belief that improved water quality will benefit people, wildlife, and the ecosystems all life depends upon. There has been much said about whether or not the WWTP is impacting the local sea otter population in Estero Bay. The concern for sea otters is driven by the grim statistics we receive month after month detailing the very high – highest in the State – mortality of otters in this coastal segment. Otters die in unusual numbers in Estero Bay. However, it is very true that no conclusive link has been established between the WWTP and sea otter mortality. We cannot say that existing practices are impacting sea otter health. But can't we all agree that improved water quality is good for everyone and everything? It's in this spirit that I offer our comments.

I want to thank the members of the Morro Bay City Council and the Cayucos Sanitary District for their hard work and dedication towards resolving this issue. The JPA has made difficult decisions for the benefit of the local citizenry. Thank you!

From the beginning of our involvement many years ago our concerns have been the timeline for construction and quality of the final effluent.

In regards to timeline, although we would have preferred a faster pace, we all agreed to the completion date reflected in the draft EIR. However, the protracted timeline was the direct



The Otter Project  
A Nonprofit Organization  
475 Washington Street, Suite A  
Monterey, CA 93940  
PH: 831-646-8837  
FX: 831-646-8843  
Report Pufflers: 831-646-8940

result of Morro Bay and Cayucos agreeing to treat to tertiary standards. On May 24, 2007, Cayucos Sanitary District agreed to upgrade the plant to tertiary standards. On May 29, 2007, the Morro Bay City Council similarly agreed. These agreements are memorialized on page three of the 2008 "Settlement Agreement for Issuance of Permits to Upgrade the Morro Bay-Cayucos Sewage Treatment Plant" (Agreement) between Morro Bay-Cayucos JPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. On January 2, 2009 NRDC, The Otter Project, EcoSLO, and the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club submitted a Petition for Review to the State Water Resources Control Board. On January 8, 2009 the petitioners asked that the petition be held in abeyance; the petition can become active if all conditions of the agreement are not met.

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As stated on page 1-10, "The tertiary filtered effluent would meet Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water and as such could be used for certain beneficial uses as listed in Table 1-1." This clever wording does not hide the fact that the water is only being treated to secondary standards, a clear violation of the Agreement.

Even the tertiary filtration appears to be minimal: "The tertiary filter would be a cloth filter or equivalent unit that provides a high degree of suspended solids removal and is suitable to produce reclaimed water in the future" (page 2-9, underline added). Tertiary filtration is a phrase generally used to refer to sand and/or activated carbon filtration to remove suspended materials and some toxins. With the minimal description of the filtration provided, I fail to see how meeting a "secondary-23" standard (not even the highest *secondary* standard) meets any definition of a tertiary standard. Effluent quality meeting a tertiary standard is what is important, not the application of a barely minimal tertiary technique. I encourage the Morro Bay-Cayucos JPA to fully embrace tertiary treatment and construct a facility producing disinfected tertiary recycled water. Water in California is far too valuable to waste or use only once.

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The quantity of water treated appears to have slipped. The design specifications stated in the WWTP waiver are:

Average Dry Weather Flow:	2.06 MGD
Peak Seasonal Dry Weather Flow:	2.36 MGD
Maximum Wet Weather Flow:	6.64 MGD

I must assume that these are flows provided by Morro Bay and Cayucos based on actual measurements, perhaps factoring in planned near-term (within the five year term of the permit) growth.

On page ES-2 the Executive Summary states: "The proposed project would construct facilities to provide full secondary treatment for all effluent discharged through its ocean outfall and to provide enhanced treatment with tertiary filtration capacity equivalent to the PSDWF of 1.5 mgd." On page 2-5 the Project Description states: "The proposed project would include installation of an extended aeration activated sludge process (EAAS) to treat the entire effluent stream at a PSDWF of approximately 1.5 mgd." Will the minimally filtered water be blended with less treated water further diminishing the quality of the final effluent? I can find no

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explanation for the near 40-percent, 860,000 gallons per day reduction in capacity. I would urge the Morro Bay Cayucos JPA to enlarge the flow capacity of the WWTP to at least 2.36 mgd.

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As stated above, our concerns are the timeline and effluent quality. We have been contacted by Morro Bay and Cayucos citizens asking that we comment on the site location, inundation of the current site by sea level rise and 100-year storms, and other matters. We have encouraged these members of the public to express their concerns through this process. We want to encourage the JPA to be open to critical public comments and we would encourage you to consider additional sites. It seems to us that while the outfall may be "ocean dependent" the WWTP certainly is not. Although we will push for the agreed upon timeline, we are always open to exploring adjustments if time is needed to explore new site alternatives.

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In summary, the draft EIR describes a project that meets the timeline but does not meet the tertiary effluent standard both the Sanitary District and City Council agreed to. Further, the flow capacity is so diminished that this further brings into question the final effluent quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. We will continue to track this project with much interest.

Sincerely,



Steve Shimek  
Chief Executive



November 4, 2010

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
 Public Services Director/City Engineer  
 City of Morro Bay  
 955 Shasta Avenue  
 Morro Bay, CA 93442  
 rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us  
 Fax: (805) 772-6268

*Via electronic mail*

Dear Mr. Livick,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo Chapter and its membership ("Surfrider") in regard to the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the proposed Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches through conservation, activism, research and education.

Surfrider supports the upgrade of the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant ("WWTP") to tertiary treatment standards and achievement of the project objectives. Surfrider respectfully submits the following comments on the DEIR:

## **I. Scope of the Project**

### Tertiary treatment:

As previously submitted in Surfrider's comments on the Notice of Preparation, the scope of the project should include upgrade to tertiary treatment, as this is the level of treatment already unanimously approved by the City of Morro Bay<sup>1</sup> and the Cayucos Sanitary District<sup>2</sup>. Although the DEIR implies that the proposed project entails upgrading to tertiary standards, that is not the case. More accurately, the proposed project plans to upgrade to secondary-23 standards. If the true intent of the project is to upgrade the WWTP to advanced secondary treatment, clarification should be provided in the EIR.

### Cost-benefit analysis of recycled water options:

Table 1-1, which outlines the legally accepted and unaccepted beneficial uses of Title 22 recycled water, shows that the uses of recycled water treated to the secondary-23 recycled water standards are quite limited. The project proponents should consider a cost-benefit analysis of the different levels of tertiary treatment and associated lawful beneficial uses and the demand for recycled water for these various beneficial uses. Benefits could include both economic benefits

<sup>1</sup> City of Morro Bay, City Council Meeting on May 29, 2007

<sup>2</sup> City of Morro Bay and Cayucos Sanitary District, Joint Meeting (JPA) on May 24, 2007

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and environmental benefits (i.e. cessation of use of the ocean outfall). It may be more cost effective to upgrade to higher level of treatment if the demand for water with this level of treatment is greater than demand for water treated at lower tertiary levels. It may be more affordable to use recycled water for some uses than imported water from the State Water Project or other water sources. Such an analysis may or may not be considered beyond the scope of the EIR, but such a study could be beneficial to the community both economically and environmentally.

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Plumbing for Recycled Water Use in Operations and Maintenance Buildings:

An additional onsite beneficial use of recycled water, whether now or in the future, could be for non-potable uses (i.e. toilet flushing) in project buildings. In anticipation of possible future disinfected tertiary recycled water created by the plant and/or changes in state regulations, especially considering that MBCSD is already “planning for future improvements to the proposed project that would produce [...] disinfected tertiary recycled water<sup>3</sup>, it could be beneficial and cost effective to plumb the buildings to make use of recycled water for non-potable uses such as toilet flushing.

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**II. Significant Impacts Described in the DEIR Which Are Not Appropriately Characterized, Not Fully Mitigated, or Apply an Inappropriate Threshold of Significance**

Air Quality, 3-2:

*Threshold of significance Local standards for air quality:*

Since the project proposes to truck sludge for disposal in Kern County, the Kern County standards (over which the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has authority) should also be included in the DEIR and included in the establishment of the thresholds of significance for impact assessment.

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*Treatment plant energy consumption:*

The estimated amount of energy required to operate the proposed facility is significantly greater than the amount of energy used at present; in fact, the DEIR states energy use will be more than twice current use at build-out. The current energy usage should be considered in establishing the threshold of significance.

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The EIR applies an inappropriate threshold of significance by stating that although the project will significantly increase its emissions of GHG relative to its current emissions of GHG, it is not in conflict with AB 32 since it does not come close to the threshold of “major sources of GHG emissions” which are said to be responsible for 94% of stationary emissions. AB 32 requires the statewide reduction of greenhouse gas levels; to argue that an individual project does not have a role to play in meeting this target is facetious.

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<sup>3</sup> DEIR, Introduction p. 1-10



Also, regarding the significance threshold of energy efficiency which describes four types of analyses used to determine whether a project could be in conflict with the state goals for reducing GHG emissions (3.2-27), the rationale provided in the EIR is flawed specifically in relation to Item C: “The basic energy efficiency parameters of a project to determine whether its design is inherently energy efficient.” Although Surfrider is supportive of recycled water and agrees that, generally speaking, it is more energy efficient than imported or desalinated water, there is no estimate of how much imported water or desalinated water will actually be offset, or if these sources will be offset at all. Furthermore, the energy efficiency analysis should focus on the types of treatment processes proposed and overall plant operations and analyze their efficiency relative to alternative treatment processes and plant operations

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Impacts 3.2-1 and 3.2-2

As described in Section 3.2, the proposed project will result in an increase in trucking for project operations. The DEIR incorrectly states that there will be no significant impacts that results from this increase in trucking, despite the fact that both San Luis Obispo County and Kern County are currently in nonattainment of state standards for pollutants that area generated by trucks, such as PM10 (and PM2.5 if considering Kern County attainment status). Increasing trucking and increasing creation of additional PM10 and PM2.5 would result in significant environmental impacts by virtue of the fact that it further exacerbates a known existing significant environmental impact. Adequate mitigation should avoid or offset these additional pollutant increases.

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Impact 3.7-1: Construction and operation of the proposed project could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

*Treatment plant capacity:*

The extent of Impact 3.7-1 is not fully characterized in that it does not provide detailed information sufficient to substantiate the decisions underlying the proposed treatment capacity of the treatment plant. Specifically, Surfrider finds that there is a lack of evidence used to arrive at the proposed capacity (PSDWF of 1.5 MGD) and finds that there is no consideration of Peak Seasonal Wet Weather Flows in determining the appropriate capacity of the treatment plant. Without adequate data to show how population projections translate into influent flows, and in the absence of analysis considering Peak Seasonal Wet Weather Flows and if or how the plant will be sized to accommodate significantly greater flows during the wet season, the public has no way of knowing whether the treatment capacity is sufficient. If the treatment plant is not appropriately sized to treat all influent at all times, this could result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

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Mitigation Measure 3.7-1

Although the technical report prepared for the Flood Hazard Analysis (Appendix D) suggests that “raising the WWTP site will alleviate most of the inconveniences of smaller floods on the operation of the plant, but will not improve the flooding situation for the neighboring properties”, and furthermore states that, “We recommend that one or more of the measures to alleviate smaller flooding be implemented to mitigate the small impacts that the new plant will have on

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the floodplain” (pp. 3-4), the mitigation measures proposed in the DEIR do not follow this advice and are therefore inadequate.

Specifically, the technical memo states that additional improvements need to be made to Atascadero Rd. for the project to avoid impacting neighboring properties. If such mitigation is not included in the project proposal, then it there would be an outstanding significant impact that has not been adequately mitigated.

Mitigation Measure 3.7-3

The proposed mitigation for Impact 3.7-1, as mitigated by Mitigation Measure 3.7-3, is impermissibly vague and does not describe how the NPDES permit conditions will be met. Without explanation of best management practices (“BMPs”) that can be feasibly implemented, the reader cannot assume it will be feasible to meet NPDES permit requirements. Given the information in the Flood Hazard Analysis in Appendix D which describes the current drainage system comprised of five outlets for stormwater, one can only reasonably conclude that unless the stormwater system is completely overhauled, it would not be feasible to comply with the NPDES permit standards for redevelopment and new development in the City of Morro Bay—specifically the hydromodification standards. Failure to appropriately mitigate adverse impacts from storm water would result in significant impacts to the environment.

*Stormwater treatment capacity:*

As described on page 3.3-5, some amount of stormwater generated onsite has historically been diverted to the headworks at the WWTP. The DEIR does not state whether or not this practice will continue. If it will continue, the treatment plant capacity must consider this additional influent. The DEIR does not describe whether or not such consideration has been taken into account; if it has not, this could result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

*Stormwater runoff during construction:*

On this same page, the DEIR states that “a small amount of storm water runoff may discharge into the creek during construction”. To provide proper characterization of the impact so that an appropriate assessment of the impact can be made, an estimate of the volume of stormwater should be provided.

Impact 3.7-3: The proposed project would alter the drainage pattern of the project site and floodplain and could place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area.

*Site preparation/stabilization:*

In the project description, it is stated that the WWTP will be situated at approximately one foot above the predicted 100-year flood elevation (p. 2-14). In the subsequent section on subsoil stabilization, the DEIR states that the site is subject to settling from unconsolidated materials (p. 2-14). It is unknown whether or not the DEIR contemplates this expected settling and accounts for that in Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 which proposes to construct the new WWTP on elevated



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fill. To adequately mitigate flood hazard, the EIR should specifically require that the fill itself be substantial enough to raise the project sufficiently above the 100-year flood elevation so that the fill elevation after settling is at or above one foot above the 100-year flood elevation.

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*Below-grade infrastructure*

The DEIR fails to describe impacts of below-grade infrastructure (pump stations, collection pipes, etc.) within the 100-year flood hazard area. Without such a description, it is unknown what the potential impacts are and if they have been appropriately mitigated to an insignificant level.

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*Coastal hazards that would impact the 100-year flood hazard zone*

A detailed analysis of future flood risk should be conducted at the site which include the effects of sea level rise, storm surge, and maximum wave runup. It should be noted that sea level rise has the potential to amplify several other environmental issues—such as elevated groundwater levels, wave runup, and tsunami inundation area—which in-turn can impact flooding hazard.

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*Flood Hazard Area:*

Because adequately treated wastewater is vital to the health and economy of a region, a high standard of protection should be used in planning flood protection. Designers should plan a facility that will withstand at least a 500-year flood that may be experienced over the lifetime of the facility.

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Impact 3.7-4: The proposed project could result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

*Inappropriate threshold of significance:*

Although the DEIR includes an analysis of hazard due to tsunami, this analysis incorrectly characterizes the project as “an update to an existing project” that is already vulnerable to a tsunami, and uses this characterization to justify the inappropriate dismissal of the need to consider tsunami hazard to the new proposed project. The project as proposed plans to erect new structures including offices and treatment works in an area along the coast where tsunami events are known to have occurred and where adverse impacts from these events have resulted. Therefore, the DEIR applies an inappropriate threshold of significance, which has resulted in an unidentified and unmitigated potentially significant impact.

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*Sea level rise:*

While sea level rise may not impact the risk of tsunami inundation, as stated in the DEIR on page 3.7-20, certainly it would impact the extent of inundation given that the mean high tide line is expected to be significantly elevated by the end of the century. The EIR should consider this impact.

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Mitigation Measure 3.7-4

According to the model in Appendix D, only MB6 could potentially result in avoidance of flooding to the project area and to neighboring properties. However, it was removed from consideration as a viable option because of cost and difficulty of construction (Appendix D, p. 14). In the absence of any feasible alternative that sufficiently mitigates flooding impacts to the project area and/or neighboring properties to avoid altering the drainage pattern in a way that results in onsite and offsite flooding, an unmitigated significant impact exists.

19

**III. Impacts not identified or mitigated in the DEIR**

Collection system:

The DEIR does not address how the proposed project will correct deficiencies in the current and remaining WWTP facilities and infrastructure, including but not limited to pumps, lift stations and collection pipes. It is reasonably foreseeable that failure to address these issues could result in potentially significant adverse impacts to the environment due to spills caused by system malfunction.

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Furthermore, given that updates to the collection system are not considered in the DEIR for the proposed project, sizing may be an issue due to continually aging pipes and increasing inflow and infiltration (“I/T”) and rising groundwater levels due to sea level rise.

Influent pump station:

Need to ensure that this pump station will operate with redundant pumps (not just multiple pumps to accomplish the job, as described, but additional pumps that would kick on if capacity is superseded or in case of pump failure) and a backup power generator

21

Standby power:

Although an impact in this context is not considered in 2.4.2, to avoid potentially significant impacts that would result from a lack of fuel to supply the backup generator in the event of power failure, separate fuel storage tanks should be used for WWTP vehicles. If the WWTP and WWTP vehicles are to be served from the same tank, the EIR should require that a reserve amount of fuel be left in the tank sufficient to operate the generator for a period of 48 hours.

22

Geology:

The DEIR does not make clear how the various geological issues (i.e. liquefaction and other seismic hazards) will be managed (or if they are manageable) during the construction phase. Excavation of soils right next to the existing plant could result in destabilization of the soils that currently support the existing treatment works. It is unclear how and to what extent excavation for the proposed project would impact the geologic stability of the existing project and, if the impact would be significant, how and if it could be properly mitigated.

23



It is also unclear how building a floodwall or placing fill under the MB10 or MB12 scenarios will impact neighboring areas or the existing treatment works during construction. The DEIR only describes post-construction related scenarios.

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#### **IV. Missing Information and Fundamental Flaws in the DEIR**

##### Project Description, 2-0

###### *Location of Temporary Sludge Dewatering Equipment:*

The DEIR does not describe in writing or in illustration where the proposed temporary sludge dewatering equipment will be located. In the absence of this information, there may be significant impacts that are not mitigated.

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##### Biological Resources, 3-3

###### *State laws protecting biological resources:*

The threshold of significance for impacts to biological resources should also mention California Coastal Commission wetlands delineation which uses a 1 of 3 criteria standard as opposed to the Army Corps' 3 of 3 criteria.

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##### Geology, 3-5:

###### *Soil compaction:*

It is unclear the volume of soil/fill that would be needed to be brought in to adequately elevate the proposed project site above the 100-year flood plain. It is also unclear where this soil/fill would be sourced from.

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###### *Topography:*

In the Topography description within the Geology analysis (3.5-1), there is no discussion about project area topography; specifically, there is no discussion or description of project area elevation and proximity to the high tide line.

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###### *Erosion:*

There is no discussion of coastal erosion rates and potential impacts on the project such as hazards.

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##### Hazards, 3-6

The DEIR provides no discussion of coastal hazards such as coastal erosion, wave runup and sea level rise.

##### Hydrology, 3-7

###### *Sea level rise:*

Based on recent findings, the EIR underestimates sea level rise. Although Executive Order S-13-08 identifies the IPCC's global sea level predictions of 7 to 23 inches, these figures are not the

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figures the state has identified for future planning. The 2007 IPCC report<sup>4</sup> took an extremely conservative approach, and estimated that seas could rise from 0.2 to 0.6 meters by 2100. The IPCC scenarios accounted only for the thermal expansion of the world’s oceans, and did not consider increased volume from melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

The State Coastal Conservancy and State Lands Commission have both adopted a uniform scenario of 1.4 meters, of 4.6 feet, of sea level rise by the year 2100 for planning purposes.<sup>5</sup> As outlined in the State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document, and applying the guidance given in the document regarding project timeframes, adaptive capacity and risk tolerance, it could be advisable for the project to consider a more conservative figure.

Given that sea level rise may be a stand-alone issue of concern and that it also impacts other issues such as groundwater levels, tsunami/coastal flooding inundation, coastal erosion rates, etc., failure to employ an appropriate estimate of future sea level rise could result in significant impacts to the environment.

*Description of Project Area Setting:*

In its description of the Project Area, the DEIR fails to consider proximity to the ocean and fails to include the ocean in its characterization of surface waters or other water features. This is important because of potential impacts to the ocean (i.e. water quality) and potential impacts caused by/associated with close proximity to the ocean (including but not limited to tsunami, sea level rise, wave runup, and coastal erosion).

*Regulatory Setting:*

The Regulatory Setting for the Hydrology analysis must also consider the California Coastal Act (state law) and City of Morro Bay Local Coastal Plan (local law – Specifically Policy 9.14) which establish regulations related to siting of development in the coastal zone; in particular, these laws dictate setbacks necessary to avoid hazards such as tsunami, wave runup and coastal erosion. Additionally, the section on Thresholds of Significance (in Impact Assessment 3.7.3) needs to be revised to include significance criteria for violation of the standards set forth in LCP Policy 9.14

*Figure 3.7-2:*

Figure 3.7-2, which characterizes the FEMA flood zones, does not provide a description of what the FEMA zone designations mean in terms of flooding hazard.

<sup>4</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007 Assessment Report.

<sup>5</sup> State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document, October 2010.

[https://d1m7jskxfd7v6.cloudfront.net/uploaded/documents/2010/10/california-sea-level-rise-interim/sealevelrise\\_interimguidance.pdf](https://d1m7jskxfd7v6.cloudfront.net/uploaded/documents/2010/10/california-sea-level-rise-interim/sealevelrise_interimguidance.pdf)

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Alternatives, 6-0

*Alternative locations:*

The DEIR only considers one alternative location at which to site the proposed project. The other alternatives propose to make use of the same site at/near the current WWTP. Arguably there are several other potential locations (such as those identified in Appendix A of these comments) that may be viable and that may avoid significant impacts, such as impacts from flood hazard, that have yet to be fully and appropriately mitigated by the proposed project. Additionally, the DEIR states that a feasibility study for a stand-alone WWTP was performed by Cannon Associates. Presumably there were alternative locations investigated in this report, but they are not mentioned in the DEIR, despite the CEQA requirement that the “EIR should also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible during the scoping process” (*CEQA Guidelines* § 15126.6(c)). These sites should be considered and analyzed in a revised EIR.

~~~~

In conclusion, Surfrider would like to thank the City of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitary District for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. Some of the suggestions Surfrider has submitted may require the revision and recirculation of the DEIR, such as additional alternatives analysis. The intent of such a recommendation is not to unnecessarily prolong the upgrade process, as Surfrider supports an expedient upgrade; however, Surfrider does not encourage haste to move forward with a project that may not achieve long-term protection of coastal water quality. Surfrider hopes that its comments are helpful in achieving a successful upgrade.

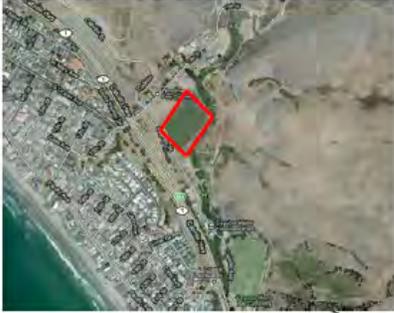
Sincerely,



Jeff Pienack, Chair  
Surfrider Foundation  
San Luis Obispo Chapter  
[slo@surfrider.org](mailto:slo@surfrider.org)

## Appendix A

Whale Rock Site - In Cayucos, 7 Acres  
5 miles from proposed WWTP, East of Hwy 1



Chevron Oil Facility - Between Cayucos & Morro Bay,  
20 Acre Site  
2.5 miles from proposed WWTP, East of Hwy 1



Hwy 41 Corridor Madonna Property  
-East of Morro Bay,  
17 Acre Site  
1.75 miles from proposed WWTP,  
East of Hwy 1



Chorro Valley Alternative 3 hybrid  
WWTP concept studied in DEIR,  
2.5 Miles from proposed WWTP



Proposed WWTP 7.6 Acre Site



Hayashi (10 acres) or Giannini (12 acres)  
Properties - East of Morro Bay,  
0.5 to 0.75 miles from proposed  
WWTP, East of Hwy 1



Power Plant - Up to  
17 Acres  
0.15 miles from  
proposed WWTP



PG&E/City Property - 7.5  
Acres 0.66 miles from  
proposed WWTP





# Northern Chumash Tribal Council

*A Native American Corporation - NorthernChumash.org  
67 South Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805-528-0806*

Rob Livick, Pe/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 722-6268

Re: Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

Dear Rob:

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is a California Native American Chumash governing body; we located in San Luis Obispo, CA and were formed under the State of California Senate Bill 18 Guidelines for a State Recognized Native American Tribal Organization. NCTC is a 501(c)3 tax exempt SDB Hub Zone Native American Corporation.

NCTC are the caretakers for Chumash Ancestors, Mother Earth and all that live on her living body in San Luis Obispo County. The Chumash Nation is the First Nation we have been here from the beginning of time; science has placed us with Arlington Cave on the Channel Islands at about 17,000 years. But for us our ancestors and elders tell us of our creation as one continuum. The Chumash are the oldest Native American Nation in the Americas, we have the oldest government and are the original caretakers of this land, we are still here we have not gone anywhere and we stand today to protect the Ancestors and Mother Earth.

The village sites of Morro Bay are Sacred Chumash Nation Places, these Sacred Sites are buried under the ground where Morro Bay sits today, it is NCTC job to protect these sites for the future generations to come, and the Sacred Mysteries buried are incredible treasures of knowledge and wisdom. The Chumash community has much to offer for a better way to live upon the living Mother Earth.

NCTC is currently working with the lead agency (Morro Bay) and ESA to develop a plan to reach an acceptable mitigation for the current facility. We are undertaking a study of the current site to determine if the site can reach a reasonable mitigation level concerning Native American Chumash Cultural Resources. We should have a plan in place and working very soon, which will allow the project to meet its deadlines with the different agencies. Any alternative sites will need to be evaluated in the same way.

Be Well,

Fred Collins  
Tribal Administrator  
Northern Chumash Tribal Council

**ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND-USE CONSULTING  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TEACHING NATURE, NATIVE CULTURES &  
FARMING**

# City of Morro Bay Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Comment Card

Written comments may be submitted tonight during the meeting, or mailed/faxed/mailed to the contact information given below:

(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

RECEIVED

OCT 14 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department  
@ the JPA Meeting

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6268 Fax  
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

*\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\**

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

- ① IN THE ALTERNATIVES ONLY CHORDO VALLEY WAS EXAMINED —  
NEED TO LOOK AT SITES WITHIN CITY LIMITS EAST OF HIGHWAY 1.  
EXAMPLE HAYASHI FARM ON LITTLE MORRO CREEK RD. 1
- ② NOT ENOUGH ON REUSE OF WASTEWATER. 2
- ③ NO PLAN FOR REUSE OF EXISTING PLANT SITE. — VISITOR  
SERVING AREA. REQUIRES PUBLIC REUSE. 3
- ④ BUILDING THE PLANT ON THIS SITE REQUIRES EXCAVATION  
OF INDIAN BURIAL SITES AND REPLACEMENT WITH  
ENGINEERED BACK FILL. THIS IS EXCESSIVE COST  
AND DISTURBS INDIAN BONES NEEDLESSLY — 4

Name: BARRY F. BRANIN

Phone: 805 771-9310

Address: P.O. Box 540 / MORRO BAY, CA 93442

*\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\**

Michael Lucas  
 2637 Koa Avenue  
 Morro Bay, California 93442

Rob Livick, Public Services Director  
 City of Morro Bay

**Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant  
 Questions on Draft Environmental Impact Report  
 September, 2010**

Dear Rob-

Please pass the following comments on to ESA for inclusion in the written response portion of the next version of the EIR. I have summarized the main points of the page and section referenced and on occasion provided additional notes on the points.

Michael

cc [via e-mail]: Mayor Peters, Morro Bay City Council, Planning Commissioners, Jack McCurdy,

[page]

**ES-1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

ES-2 es.3 objectives  
 minimize flooding impacts onsite and adjoining properties

**Questions:**  
**What is the definition in this particular use/case of 'adjacent'?**  
**Is the High School considered adjacent?**  
**Despite the mitigation described, is MBCSD possibly liable for damages due to change in natural drainage conditions?**

1

ES-3 es.4  
 Influent pump station required –

**Questions:**  
**There have been numerous discussions where this is described as a 'gravity feed' system, yet there are two pumping stations?**

2

Fig ES-1 Property Lines

**Question:**  
**It appears that structure 'RF' in on the concrete operations site; as no property lines are shown- does the proposed plant fit entirely on the current property?**  
**If not, how is the concrete plant being compensated?**  
**Are there any contingency plans should the system require additional space during design phase?**

3

ES-5 future reclamation/ancillary facilities

**Questions:**  
**Were there any discussions about 'banking' process cooling water with the power plant? [see also 3.10-2 below]**  
**Is it anticipated this future modification for reclamation possibly requires additional land or rights-of-way?**  
**Is it anticipated this future modification require any kind of process shut down or temporary loss of capacity?**

4

ES-6 project construction . 24 month construction.

**Questions:**  
**Which soils critical path is this based on, 'low' site correction 3 months, or 'maximum' 12 months?**  
**Do latest site costs include placement of engineered fill [assumed for flooding] and soil stabilization [assumed for liquefaction from seismic ]?**

5

Site preparation time based on what kind of soil mitigation is needed.

**Questions:**  
**Do preliminary soils borings suggest that the old ponds noted on 1880 era surveys, and earlier possible marsh areas need to be 'dug out'?**  
**If so, does this suggest that the level to dig to is below sea level and that the site perimeter may need to be sheet piled similar to Avila or other 'clean-up' sites?**  
**Is past vibration compaction method for existing plant satisfactory for new plant foundations given changing seismic regulations and increased site level? [see p. ES-15 below]**  
**When touring the Pismo plant, it was described that a matrix of deep caissons of stone was apparently constructed to help distribute the massive load of filled 'ditch' tanks. Is that level of site excavation anticipated given the preliminary borings?**

6

ES-7 Alternates

**Questions:**  
**Why no alt 4 of complete new plant on other vacant/underused/traded site in Morro Bay or outskirts?**

This is significant for a number of reasons, most importantly that the city is increasingly tourist business dependent, and any waterfront asset that can be 'enhanced' through consideration of an alternate site vs 'little or no impact' based on existing sewage treatment plant occupation should be seriously vetted and considered. This is an environmental impact report, not an economic one, and it seems a stand alone site was dismissed at an early stage due to the establishment of the concept of 'upgrade', which at one time may have been a very valid assumption. It seems once the site structures are demolished and fill plateau added 'upgrade' is a misnomer.

7

ES-9 **tableES-1summary table aesthetics**

3.1-1 impact scenic vistas....non glare exterior coatings to 'blend in'

**Questions:**

**Please verify that the images contained included the input of the five foot raised flood plane.**

**Several of the chosen images used as views are certainly helpful to understand the layout, but not the aesthetic impact.**

**3.1-2 is not at eye level- it is a northwest aerial shot well above the ocean that does not disclose perimeter project profiles;**

**3.1-3 is not at eye level, perhaps as much as 15 feet above the dune plateau;**

**Why were there no scenic vistas studied from the following areas which would potentially show a very different project due to proximity to the higher walled portions/ two story portions of the project:**

**- adjacent southwest beach areas from eye level at beach or creek [view of beachgoers more accurate than 3.1-2];**

**- southwest from Morro Rock parking lot [probably the largest oceanfront and populated public space];**

**- south from the unpaved extension of the Embarcadero that ends in parking at the south side of the creek [visitor serving parking];**

**- upper levels of the Power Plant [possible future high-end development site]?**

**Why were no techniques such as vegetative walls investigated to mitigate building impact?**

3.1-2 project site and surroundings NONE REQUIRED

**Questions:**

**It seems like no attempt is made to upgrade the street image; Is it anticipated utilities will be undergrounded?**

**Why is the addition of a second floor to industrial use and raising of the site five feet not considered an impact that needs mitigation in a beach community?**

3.1-3 lighting- day and night issues

**Questions:**

**What is anticipated as the night impact of the south facing open second floor?**

**Will this not get the same 'industrial lighting' that will make this very visible despite 'no glare' fixtures?**

ES-11 3.2-2 "...net increase of any criteria pollutant..."

**Question:**

**It appears the loss of on-site composting will result in a 100 fold increase in truck traffic transporting materials to the central valley- how is this not an increase in pollutants?**

3.2-4 odors

**Question:**

**Mitigation looks to 'new' sources of odor. Does this mean the existing kinds of odors present or periodically present will not be mitigated?**

ES-12 3.4 cultural resources- -requires on-site archeologist and Native American monitor all ground work.

ES-14 Given the nature of testimony by representatives of the Northern Chumash and Salinan communities, it must be assumed that there will be significant cultural resources impacted. The scale of this may only be inferred from the intensity of their discussion, but confirmed by confidential sources that are not in the public realm. In theory, these mitigation processes require a time delay every time certain significant resources are encountered/unconcealed.

**Questions:**

**The testimony in the public hearings about this site by Native American leaders was compelling- are there examples where a site was so impacted by significant resources or burials that it becomes nonviable?**

**How has the schedule reflected the possible delays in construction due to these issues, which assume halt of construction?**

**How has the budget reflected these issues?**

ES-15 3.5 soils/seismic/liquefaction

There is no current design project soils report or actual design to suggest how much site prep work is needed here.

While there is no 'design' yet, certain assumptions must have been made to project and more importantly, protect the budget as the study moves forward. The site obviously, from the preliminary borings, presents challenges due to overarching earthquake codes, specific liquefaction issues and subsoil quality that many possible engineering solutions mitigate.

**Questions:**

**May it be assumed these possible techniques vary greatly in cost and site impacts?**

**What subsoil techniques were anticipated in the budget process and draft EIR?**

**What site assumptions were made for scope of excavations?**

**What costs for excavation and foundation/substructure were made associated with the preliminary soils report information?**

**What mitigates the flood condition in regard to stability of the fill when exposed to flood scouring action at its edges/boundaries?**

**As an oceanfront site, why was a tsunami and associated scouring action not identified as an issue and mitigated? This is important because at least two dune breaching storms have occurred within the last 100 years, as documented by comparison of late 1800 surveys of the position of Morro Creek and images from the 1960's of the Sand Spit. I noted these in testimony at the MBCSD in 2009.**

ES-16 3.6 hazardous materials 1) construction 2) operations

**Question:**

**Given the construction processes, potentials for hazardous waste, etc. is it assumed the RV park can remain open during the construction process?**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |    |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ES-18      | 3.7 hydrology- 100 year flood plane<br>3.7-4 [note: I believe this is a typo and is supposed to be 3.7-4] "...this location will have least adverse flood impact on adjacent sites."<br><b>Questions:</b><br>This seems to state there will be adverse impacts on adjacent sites. How is this change then 'no impact'?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 16 |
| ES-19      | 3.7-3 "...new hydraulic analysis to document potential reduction of flood levels...."<br><b>Questions:</b><br>Is this implying there may a formula to reduce the height of the new plateau?<br>Planning staff and this author were part of a FEMA conference in the area this last summer about emergency preparedness- what is the view of the consultants on possible impacts of sea rise from global warming for this site?<br>Given a flood may cause limited access for operators, needed materials in or removal of waste, how does this not trigger a mitigation that the site and operations may be temporarily impacted that requires a protocol for emergency management?<br><br>3.7-4 tsunami- no mitigation required<br><b>Questions:</b><br>How is it possible that the risk of the site and infrastructure asset to a tsunami is not an impact?<br>How is this different from the flood plane mitigation?<br>How does this not trigger a mitigation that the site and operations may be temporarily impacted that requires a protocol for emergency management?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 17 |
|            | 3.9 noise 1) construction 2) operations<br><b>Question:</b><br>This section implies that the project needs no mitigation during construction for noise as long as the construction times as noted by city codes/ordinances are maintained?<br>Pile driving vibration seems to look at cracks and building damage- but the typical vibration is not mitigated for the RV park?<br>Is it assumed the RV park could possibly survive years of construction noise and vibration?<br>Is the MBCSD exposed to damages from possible economic impacts of construction?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 18 |
| ES-20      | 3.10 public services/utilities<br><b>Question:</b><br>By not including a recycled water component, the project places an economic burden on residents, requiring buying water from the State as well as placing a burden on the energy for pumping and other infrastructure to bring water here. Why is this not noted as an indirect utility impact?<br><br>3.11 operational traffic seems to be overlooked.<br><b>Questions:</b><br>Does the requisite new truck traffic require mitigation for the large number of students who drive to the High School?<br>Can there be a mitigation that assigns truck traffic to a time when large numbers of student vehicles are not exiting/entering the school grounds?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 19 |
|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 20 |
|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 21 |
| <b>1-1</b> | <b>CH1 INTRO</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
| 1-2        | 1.4 administered by State Water Quality Board<br><b>Question:</b><br>The WQB deadline seems based on punitive thinking and punishment for delay. If the project process is delayed by an alternate moving forward that removes the ocean outfall [the original problem] and recharges the city aquifer [another WQB issue long term], and can be found affordable by the MBCSD is it still thought this deadline is firm?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 22 |
| 1-7        | 1.7.1 existing capacity<br>now: up to .97 mgd is secondary treatment. above is primary only then blended before outfall<br>1995-2009 [avg yr] 1.25 mgd<br>2009: 1.092 mgd avg<br><b>Questions:</b><br>Obviously, the new proposal significantly lowers the volume capacity of the existing plant [to 64% of exist] that was built around engineering and/or code assumptions in the prior era. While an aggressive city policy for trade out for water savings fixtures, and appeals to different gardening techniques and plantings may account for reductions in water use, it may also be assumed demographic changes, as manifest in the local school closures or change from full time residents to out of town owners. Those demographic changes may also be fleeting as baby boomers who have used property as weekend homes may choose to retire here, as weekend homes perhaps return to full occupancy due to need for income by absentee owners, or new families come in [etc.]. Is the plant capacity based on future demographic assumptions or past use records?<br>If a demographic scenario would indicate a future rise in capacity, is there any place for plant expansion on this site?<br>While past use is listed in terms of averages and peaks, why is the proposed system reviewed only in terms of averages?<br>What is the outfall quality of the effluent in the proposed project should influent exceed capacity at peak events?<br>The operators at the Pismo plant during a tour I was part of stated that they asked for a factor for storm water to be added to the system treatment capacity due to system accumulation due to cracks and seams in influent piping. Is the proposed system taking into account such aspects of the aging system in the ground? | 23 |
| 1-8        | 1.7.3 regulatory background. Ocean outfall triggers National Pollution Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permit<br><b>Question:</b><br>if there was a different effluent target, such as 100% recycle, wetlands, or industrial use, with no ocean outfall how does that change the NPDES as regulator?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 24 |

**2-1 CH 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

2-6/ 2-8 residuals facility [see also 2-8 image]

**Questions:**

The description is of an open south elevation- toward the city and Morro Rock. It is also raised on the five/six foot plateau. The illustration provided seems to show exposed work areas on the upper floor that will require lighting. What is the anticipated impact of industrial lighting on the upper level on the nite beachscape from Morro Rock or other view sheds?

What is the anticipated material of the shed-like devices on the upper level?

25

2-7 figure 2-3

**Question:**

In this image the site appears flat, is this an older array before the new plateau/berm?

26

2-11 operations building image.

**Questions:**

While only a preliminary sketch, the proposal appears to include unscreened west facing glass, large north windows, interior corridors and stairs, and incorporate no overt sustainable principles such as a green roof, vegetative walls, optimized daylighting via the architectural treatment, or exterior corridors and stairs that cut down on mechanical footprints and ongoing energy costs. Given a fifty to sixty year life cycle, ongoing maintenance and operating costs, why are no overt seeding of energy goals for the operations building, the easiest one to incorporate such features, stated?

Why place the taller operations structure at the west edge of the development looming over the adjacent RV park below and beachscape?

Why is a 'campus' plan utilized vs. a smaller footprint, less perimeter walls?

Was any consideration given to possible re-use of the 'ruins' of the existing plant as having structural capacity to act as the foundations for the operations building?

If the operations building is seen as a public facility to interpret the plant, why not a public roof deck?

27

2-13 2.4.5 architecture '...designed with a consistent architectural theme that would be compatible with the project site and its surroundings.'

**Question:**

This seems to draw its conclusions from the adjacent concrete yard, and not the drive past two motels, the drive to the community high school, the location of the major highway to a visitor serving beach, the RV park, or the possibilities of the adjacent site uses changing on coming years. Why is the focus so narrow on 'industry' instead of 'green industry' or adjacent sensitive, natural zones that suggest 'park'?

28

'interior would be paved or rocked...'

'after demolition...a finished surface of pavement or rock'

**Question: why is any area that does not need to be paved being considered as such?**

29

2.5.1 schedule compaction may be by 'vibro-compaction'

**Question:**

Is this technique mainly for the ground and fill, or the foundations of the 'ditches' or holding tanks? At 80% compaction, this would seem inadequate for heavy civil infrastructure buildings.

30

2.5.2 construction requires off-site set up areas

**Question:**

Has the impact of off-site operations like this been anticipated in traffic or pollution sections of the DEIR?

31

2-14 site preparation. 35,000 cu yds of engineered fill associated with this site.

**Question:**

Given that the site plateau is built up based on the campus footprint, were smaller footprint arrangements considered, or was this done as a result of future maintenance concerns with space needed for equipment trade-outs, etc.?

32

2-15 excavation dewatering costs or caissons

**Question:**

If 35,000 cy of fill to create earth platform, then 31, 290 cy excavated out for buildings, with 'most' put back in as backfill?

33

2-16 2.6 operation. 2.36mgd current capacity [blended secondary and primary] to 1.5mgd [secondary]  
[see p. 1-7 above]

34

2-17 new process increased biosolids and cannot use the existing site for passive dewatering 18% dried vs 80% dried

**Question:**

Due to site size limitations, 3-8 trips/yr [current] vs new 10 trucks/wk [500+/yr] means a 100 fold increase in truck traffic?

35

2.6.1 hazardous materials rate and quantity of [2 hazardous materials] is not expected to change

**Question:**

If proposed capacity is 64% of current capacity, why is there no corresponding drop of hazardous materials?

36

2-18 2.6.2 energy consumption increase in energy consumption [0.9 million kw v. 1.9million kw]

**Questions:**

Where is the rise in energy to operate the plant coming from?

What is the energy burden of the dewatering mechanism that the site size constraints place on the process?

Were any sustainable building practices or designs aspects considered to reduce ongoing energy consumption?

37

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 2-19            | alternative 3<br><b>Question:</b><br>Why is the alternative not a complete stand alone facility that would free up the current site for other forms of development?<br>Why was the element retained at the existing site for ocean outfall? Don't many sites do the treatment without ocean outfall?                                                                                                                                                             | 38 |
| <b>3-1</b>      | <b>CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, MITIGATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
| 3-1             | population and housing '...no potential for the project to induce population growth'<br><b>Question:</b><br>I am agreed with the statement, but does this project also cap growth due to mechanism for measuring flow? Does not the reduction of plant capacity by 64% preclude 'fullest' build out?                                                                                                                                                             | 39 |
| <b>3.1-1</b>    | <b>3.1 AESTHETICS</b><br>'...adjacent to similar industrial facilities'<br><b>Question:</b><br>The EIR process should seek the idea of 'enhance' vs. defend 'maintain' environmental aesthetics on this important site.<br>Why does the DEIR continually discount the beach and the rv park that is a core visitor and resident resource for Morro Bay?                                                                                                          | 40 |
| 3.1-3           | general plan policy VR-2: 'where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas.'<br>Program VR-2.1: '...shall be visually compatible with the surrounding areas.'<br><b>Question:</b><br>There is no attempt to 'enhance'; the project aesthetics seem to only relate to the concrete factory adjacency; how are these structures contributing in any aesthetic way to the beach environment, visitor serving uses, or High School? | 41 |
| Fig3.1-1        | map of scenic resources<br><b>Question:</b><br>Why was the vista from Morro Rock parking lot to north/northeast along the beach not considered?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 42 |
| 3.1-5           | program VR-3.4: '...protect views along the ocean...minimize land alteration, visually compatible with surrounding areas and where feasible, restore and enhance visually degraded areas'<br><b>Question:</b><br>How is elevating the sewer plant five feet on the fill plateau and adding a second story to several structures not a significant land alteration?                                                                                               | 43 |
|                 | 3.1.3 impact assessment<br>thresholds: significant determination based on...extent of project visibility from sensitive public viewing areas...open space ... degree elements contrast the existing landscape'<br><b>Question:</b><br>How can the assessment be made when impact from the beach and rock have not been assessed?                                                                                                                                 | 44 |
| 3.1-6<br>3.1-10 | painted concrete buildings<br>mitigation measure 3.1-1<br><b>Question:</b><br>Paint at the ocean is a maintenance issue- paint abrades in ocean air and needs repainting? Why not integrally colored concrete or vegetative screening?                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 45 |
| Fig3.1-2        | [aerial view from the ocean]<br><b>Question:</b><br>Isn't this view irrelevant for visual simulation/aesthetic impact, as it is unavailable to the public due to it's height above grade?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 46 |
| Fig3.1-3        | [image elevated above beach from nw ]<br><b>Questions:</b><br>Is this view above five foot eye level as well?<br>Does this view include the impact of the five foot plateau?<br>The view is an advantageous choice to sell the project, as the new project is slid farther south behind the RV structures. However, that places it closer to southwest beach and south creek areas. Wouldn't either or both of those be more critical to an accurate assessment? | 47 |
| 3.1-10          | would not degrade existing character or quality of site<br><b>Questions:</b><br>If site is at low level of quality, but adjacent to high value beach tracts, why not obligated or tasked to enhance vs maintain? The perimeter seems possibly sinister if a 6 foot security fence is atop a 5 foot knoll. Is the fence at the top or bottom of the knoll?                                                                                                        | 48 |
| 3.1-11          | lighting. additional light sources may increase local light levels<br><b>Question:</b><br>Was any light simulation done to assess the nite visual quality/impact of the upper level open portion of the maintenance structure?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 49 |
|                 | Table 3.1-1 visual character no mitigation needed.<br><b>Question:</b><br>How can the DEIR dismisses beach and tourist context and need to restore degraded or industrial area impact on beach and visitor serving commercial?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 50 |

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>3.2-1</b> | <b>3.2 AIR QUALITY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | Assuming the 100 fold increase in truck traffic, isn't there an operational impact on air quality due to the proposal?                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 51 |
| 3.2-5        | Sensitive Land Uses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | Why is the beach and visitor/resident use of beach left off the list of sensitive uses. Morro Bay's income and future depend on a productive beach image and positive beach experiences.                                                                                                                                                             | 52 |
| 3.2-11       | table 3.2-4 million solar roofs/ca solar initiative, solar water heating, green buildings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | Given the list of green and energy saving techniques listed in the table, why is the project not availing itself of any of these for the architectural components?                                                                                                                                                                                   | 53 |
| 3.2-26       | odors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
| 3.2-27       | impact 3.2-4 and mitigation 3.2-2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|              | <b>Questions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|              | The section seems to say 'we don't think there will be odors, but if there are complaints we'll identify the source and fix it?' Is this a 'wait and see mitigation'?                                                                                                                                                                                | 54 |
|              | Why is there not any kind of documentation for this technology at a similar plant, as to number of complaints and viability of techniques?                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
| <b>3.3-1</b> | <b>3.3 BIOLOGICAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
| 3.3-9        | impact on sea otter from influent/effluent cat feces: '...could result removal of t. gondii...'                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
|              | <b>Questions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|              | Can one conclude this is a guess, or should there be monitoring of the effluent to see?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 55 |
|              | Have no existing plants had this same problem that could scientifically document the efficacy of the technology?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
| <b>3.4-1</b> | <b>3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |
|              | [see ES-12 and ES-14]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 56 |
| <b>3.5-1</b> | <b>3.5 GEOLOGY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
| 3.5-5        | seismic hazards. Not subject to ground rupture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
| 3.5-6        | shaking + liquefaction/soils type= project site is a high hazard liquefaction zone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | This is an issue, should a stand-alone alternative on another site be explored, that entails a risk, mitigation, and cost for this site that may not be associated with another site, correct?                                                                                                                                                       | 57 |
| 3.5-7        | erosion – site susceptible to wind erosion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | Why not acknowledgement here that it is susceptible to erosion from flood and tsunami?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 58 |
|              | Should flood and tsunami erosion possibility be acknowledged, and a stand-alone alternative on another site be explored, this site entails a risk, mitigation, and cost that may not be associated with another site, correct?.                                                                                                                      |    |
| 3.5-11       | impact 3.5-1 ground shaking. Mitigation 3.5-1 Seismic risk- references building codes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
|              | <b>Questions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|              | Correctly noted that building codes deal with human life safety and set standards to assure as best can be anticipated building survives so people can survive- but what is the impact of seismic on operational survivability?                                                                                                                      | 59 |
|              | What are the special impacts of this site and setting from operational failure relative to its proximity to the ocean?                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
| 3.5-11       | impact 3.5-2 liquefaction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
| 3.5-12       | mitigation: geotechnic solution based on final soils report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | While the geological report will produce findings that can be technically met by a competent engineering design, and thus mitigate the impact, is it possible, based on previous borings, that the geotechnical report will contain recommendations about subsoils that require a complete excavation of the building footprints to below sea level? | 60 |
|              | Was the lower end of the subsoil capability used as an assumption or was a higher soils capacity?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| <b>3.6</b>   | <b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
| 3.6-11       | no impact or mitigation for hazardous chemical accident.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | Given the nature of the chemicals/hazardous materials in use, is an accident possible that creates a need for protocols for coordination with the High School or RV park?                                                                                                                                                                            | 61 |
|              | Does the increased truckloads of materials out from the site create a hazardous waste issue due to an accident?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
| <b>3.7</b>   | <b>HYDROLOGY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
| 3.7-5        | wallace group letter for revision of flood map elevations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
|              | <b>Questions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|              | So the 3 to 4.5 foot rise is contingent on the acceptance of this letter?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 62 |
|              | What is the current flood plane height vs the Wallace scenario?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
| 3.7-8        | fig 3.7-2 FEMA flood zones                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
|              | <b>Question:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|              | There is no explanatory key-what are the meanings behind site's designated A-14 and B zones?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 63 |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 3.7-17      | operation. due to size of proposed WWTP pretreatment for storm water may be required.<br><b>Questions:</b><br><b>Explain the source for this- roof/paved surfaces?</b><br><b>If so, why not, given the extended life cycle, do grey water uses?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 64 |
| 3.7-20      | tsunami. because existing plant is exposed, don't need to mitigate. The Tsunami Emergency Response Plan provides measures that would lessen the potential for catastrophic failure.<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>Explain what this plan is and how it keeps catastrophic failure from happening.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 65 |
| <b>3.8</b>  | <b><u>LAND USE [RECREATION]</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
| 3.8-1       | 3.8.1 Setting regional setting notes harbor but not beach or creeks.<br><b>Questions:</b><br><b>Why is the beach not mentioned as part of the regional setting, when the site is virtually on the beach and the City policies direct care for waterfronts?</b><br><b>Why aren't the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas of the Morro Creek watershed mentioned?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 66 |
| 3.8-5       | coastal access.<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>Atascadero Road is a unique roadway in that it is the only major access to the beach that does not cross through residential areas or the possible congestion of the Embarcadero. It is a natural extension of Rt 41 that is a link with RT 101 and the Central Valley. It has gathered several RV parks, and two motels- it is an emerging visitor serving area with huge economic upside impact if industrial uses were relocated, and potentially positively impacting the north Main Street business area. Why was this visitor serving aspect not more overtly acknowledged?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 67 |
| 3.8-8       | land use policy LU-39. '...priorities shall be established for coastal land uses'<br>land use program LU 39.3 '...since the an important operational element, the outfall line, is coastal-dependent'<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>If an alternative process and/or alternative site made ocean outfall not necessary, then the logic dictates the 'higher use' of the site be coastal land use, correct?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 68 |
| 8.8-11      | recreation impact. The proposed project would not result in deterioration of existing recreational facilities<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>What is the possibility of a peak event that produces a low quality effluent that may call for a beach closure?</b><br><b>What is the record of beach closures [if any] of the current plant?</b><br><b>Would possible beach closures due to peak discharge be considered a 'deterioration'?</b><br><b>The public testimony suggests the adjacent visitor serving RV park already suggests conditions are difficult. Where in the report does the impact of the continued use on the beach or visitor serving housing at rv park and local hotels occur?</b><br><b>Proposals have been put forth for bike trails/walking paths over a pedestrian/emergency vehicle bridge from the extension of the Embarcadero across Morro Creek. How does the project impact future recreational opportunities?</b> | 69 |
|             | Land use. Project would not divide a community.<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>On the map, given the extent of industrial uses and pedestrian restrictions from Rt 1 to the beach in the project area, one could conclude the city is already divided. This project is a 50+ year commitment to that split. Isn't a better term 'further' divided?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 70 |
| <b>3.9</b>  | <b><u>NOISE AND VIBRATION</u></b><br>[see ES-19]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 71 |
| 3.9-12      | ambient noise of operations. Ambient noise of WWTP, ocean, concrete plant, rt1 all blend. No mitigation required.<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>This seems to suggest that masking from other sources mitigates the noise from the plant but will it louder than the current facility from the RV park?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 72 |
| <b>3.10</b> | <b><u>PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 3.10-2      | 3.10.1 environmental setting. no current recycled water uses.<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>With the bay water intake of the adjacent power plant in jeopardy, was any consideration given to discussing with the power plant owners the treated water serving as a source for the modified wet cooling alternate study of the replacement power plant? [Note: if I read the last public docs on the plant correctly, revised wet cooling 5% of once through cooling= 370mgd x .05=20mgd] In theory removes ocean and bay issues from power plant and WWTP, if 1.5mgd can be stored up [wetlands?] for power plant use. Speculation: would plant cooling process raise temps in water to act like cleaner?]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 73 |
|             | Solid waste management. We lose on-site capacity for compost and increase off-site<br><b>Question:</b><br><b>Is this loss a factor of site sf, hazard to mitigate, cost, or what? This seems to be another impact of this site vs. another possible alternate site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 74 |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 3.10-3 | other utilities. only construction energy use note.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 75 |
|        | <b>Question:</b><br><b>By not treating the wastewater at high tertiary level, there is an impact on continued dependence on the State Water Project, and the energy required to get it here. Shouldn't any alternative process that could impact that dependence reflect that impact that ocean outfall makes us dependent on outside water?</b>                                                                                                                                          |    |
| 3.10-4 | california energy action plan- sustainability, efficiency.<br>[see 2-18 and 2-19]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 76 |
| 3.10-5 | integrated waste management- state goal 50% composted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 77 |
|        | <b>Questions:</b><br><b>Does the massive trucking off site satisfy the composting goal?</b><br><b>If another site could provide composting capacity then this should be a negative impact of this site, correct?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
| 3.10-6 | 3.10.3 impact assessment<br>threshold of significance<br>significant impact if:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 78 |
|        | puts draw on other public facilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
|        | <b>Questions:</b><br><b>Why is a doubling of the power use not a significant impact on the proposed scheme?</b><br><b>Why is the continued dependence on the State Water Project, and increasing dependence with Morro Bay build out, due to this project not a significant impact?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|        | exceeds wastewater treatment requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 79 |
|        | <b>Question:</b><br><b>In several places in the DEIR the term 'future water quality standards' is used with implication that the requirements will become more strict. Given that, why is it a significant impact to upgrade the treatment beyond requirements, especially if another water issue [aquifer recharge, industrial water, potable water] is an outcome?</b>                                                                                                                  |    |
|        | results in new treatment plant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 80 |
|        | <b>Question:</b><br><b>This seems to steer one away from a discussion of impact trade-offs, or off-sets, such as 'enhancement' over 'no impact', returning a beach block site to tourist serving recreational or commercial use as suggested by city planning documents, aesthetic enhancement of the waterfront by retiring an industrial use. A scenario where an alternative 'new plant' produces this 'significant impact' may be mitigated by such positive trade-offs, correct?</b> |    |
|        | requires new or expanded water supplies.<br>[see above discussion on State Water Project dependence]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 81 |
| 3.10-7 | effects local energy supplies such that additional electric is req'd.<br>[see above discussion on increased power consumption, lack of on site power generation, and indirect impact of continued State Water Project power use]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 82 |

## Kathleen Wold - Fwd: My comment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant EIR

---

**From:** Rob Livick  
**To:** Jacobus, Jennifer; Wold, Kathleen  
**Date:** 10/28/2010 1:20 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: My comment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant EIR

---

DEIR comment

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
Public Services Director/City Engineer  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Avenue  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
[rlivick@marro-bay.ca.us](mailto:rlivick@marro-bay.ca.us)  
Phone: (805)772-6261 Fax: (805)772-6268  
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

*CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This e-mail message contains work product or other information which is privileged, confidential and/or protected from disclosure. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you think that you have received this message in error, please e-mail or phone the sender. If you are not the intended recipient any dissemination, distribution or copying is strictly prohibited.*

>>> "A. Reeves" <[asidreeves@gmail.com](mailto:asidreeves@gmail.com)> 10/28/2010 11:24 AM >>>  
Dear Mr. Livick:

In my opinion, the failure of the EIR to include reclamation of the effluent as an immediate element of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant is an oversight of major importance.

We are reminded daily about the world-wide scarcity of water. It's imperative that you keep this in mind as you pursue the ultimate decisions on the final design of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The technology is available. The need is now.

Many communities have already taken the necessary steps to provide for full treatment and alternative uses of recycled water:

<http://tinyurl.com/26o9277>

Morro Bay cannot afford to put off fully treated tertiary water and the infrastructure to distribute it! It would only be more expensive and problematic in the future to accomplish this. It's both an economic and environmental necessity to include this final step.

I urge you to make this a priority.

Anne Sidaris-Reeves

# City of Morro Bay Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Comment Card

Written comments may be submitted tonight during the meeting, or mailed/faxed/mailed to the contact information given below:  
(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

**Rob Livick, PE/PLS**  
**City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department**  
**955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442**  
**(805) 772-6268 Fax**  
**rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us**

RECEIVED

OCT 28 REC'D

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOC.  
LOS ANGELES

*\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\**

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

*It did not take a look at alternatives and therefore did not satisfy the requirements of a required eir. Very shallow report and a waste of \$375,000.00 (approx)*

Name:

*Darrelly Cutler*

Phone:

*772-7232*

Address:

*Morro Bay*

*\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\**

**City of Morro Bay**  
**Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project**  
**Comment Card**

Written comments may be submitted tonight during the meeting, or mailed/faxed/mailed to the contact information given below:

(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
 City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
 955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
 (805) 772-6268 Fax  
 rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

RECEIVED  
 OCT 28 2010  
 City of Morro Bay  
 Public Services Department

*\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\**

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

The alternative location "Chorro Creek" should not be the only other site considered or used as an example of "why not" another location. At least "three" alternative sites should be considered to be sure of a correct location, environmentally. Also considered a use for the current site other than sewage treatment. Create \$\$ for a new plant elsewhere. Not in a Flood Plane!

The storm water runoff - flood flow plan does not come close to having a plan for spillage and what to do when the plant floods. Especially from a Tsunami. This is most likely the flood that will happen at the current location. A flood from a Tsunami will take this site completely away. Where will our shit go then??

Name:

Steve Hennigh

Phone:

805 995 1993

Address:

Good Clean Fun Surf & Sport 136 ocean fr. Cayucos 93430

*\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\**

City of Morro Bay  
Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project  
Comment Card

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RECEIVED

(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

OCT 29 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6268 Fax  
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

*\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\**

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

Has Kern County been notified about the increased sludge being delivered to that county? At the present time Kern County is in court with Los Angeles County to stop disposal of sludge in Kern County. What will happen if Kern County stops receiving sludge?

Name: Richard L. Rutherford

Phone: (805) 225-1171  
(661) 873-9606

Address: email  
rrutherford7@aol.com

*\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\**

Nicole & Brian Dorfman  
570 Olive Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-441-7552  
[nicole@briandorfman.com](mailto:nicole@briandorfman.com)  
[brian@briandorfman.com](mailto:brian@briandorfman.com)

---

November 2, 2010

Rob Livick  
Public Services Director  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Ave.  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Dear Rob,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR for the Waste Water Treatment Upgrade Project in Morro Bay. If you would like to talk to us further about this issue, please use the contact information on the letterhead above.

**Our greatest concern is for the beneficial reuse of treated effluent.**

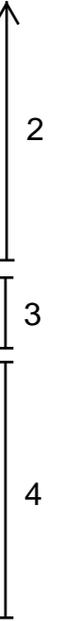
- As property owners in Morro Bay, we fully support paying our fair share for a WWTP that treats the wastewater to full Title 22 tertiary requirements for unlimited beneficial reuse.
- We support paying our fair share to bring this water to agricultural and urban users.
- We strongly believe that the need and price paid for this additional water will only grow and that it would be very short sighted not to plan for future use at this critical juncture.
- We are very disappointed this is not an alternative in the DEIR.

**We have great concerns about construction of a *brand new* Waste Water Treatment Plant at the 140 Atascadero Road location in Morro Bay.**

- The MBCSD is proposing the new WWTP to be built just south of the current facility at the 140 Atascadero Road. However, the DEIR did not offer an appropriate range of project location alternatives for a completely new and rebuilt WWTP.

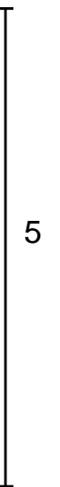
1  
2

- The DEIR did not include analysis of a stand-alone treatment plant at another location, such as in Cayucos, on non-city owned property, east of Highway 1, along the Route 41 corridor, or between Morro Bay and Cayucos.
- The DEIR did not include an analysis of the possible site use of the abandoned facilities at the Chevron property along Toro Creek nor was there analysis of a location along the Highway 41 corridor.
- The proposed new WWTP site on 140 Atascadero Road remains within the FEMA identified Flood Zone--even after mitigation measures.
- We are concerned that the new WWTP site will continue to be in conflict with numerous coastal act policies, including Morro Bay's, and that building at this location may eventually cost the community more than if proper analysis of viable alternative project locations are conducted now.
- As property owners in Morro Bay, we are willing to pay our fair share of the additional costs, if any, for the proper location of a WWTP.



**We have concerns about prime, ocean front property being used to build this new and improved WWTP:**

- The fact that the current WWTP is located in a key tourism area of Morro Bay is an unfortunate reality of past decisions made in our community. We wonder why would today's leaders of the City of Morro Bay continue to support a WWTP at this location, considering that the current plant will be totally demolished when the new plant is up and running?
- It's vital to remember that Morro Bay's continued economic vitality and growth depend upon its citizens and leaders to treasure, nurture, appropriately develop and consistently promote our greatest asset: our coastal location, which is incomparably scenic, biologically diverse and globally unique.



Thank you for your time and attention to our input on this matter. We look forward to continuing the conversation and following the progress of this vital infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

---

Nicole Dorfman

---

Brian Dorfman

NOV 02 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

Lee & Christine Johnson  
117 Mindoro Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-305-3759  
[leejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:leejohnson@yahoo.com)  
[christinemjohnson@mac.com](mailto:christinemjohnson@mac.com)

November 1, 2010

Rob Livick  
Public Services Director  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Ave.  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Dear Rob,

We are happy to have the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR for the Waste Water Treatment Upgrade Project in Morro Bay. Please see our comments below. If you would like to contact us, please feel free to use the information on the letterhead above.

**We have great concerns about construction of a *brand new* Waste Water Treatment Plant at the 140 Atascadero Road location in Morro Bay.**

- The MBCSD is proposing new and completely rebuilt WWTP just slightly to the south of the current facility at the 140 Atascadero Road site. However, the DEIR did not provide an appropriate range of project location alternatives for a completely new and rebuilt WWTP.
- Unfortunately, the DEIR did not include analysis of a stand-alone treatment plant at another location, such as in Cayucos, on non-city owned property, east of Highway 1, along the Route 41 corridor, or between Morro Bay and Cayucos.
- The DEIR did not include an analysis of the possible site use of the abandoned facilities at the Chevron property along Toro Creek nor was there analysis of a location along the Highway 41 corridor.
- The proposed new WWTP site on 140 Atascadero Road remains within the FEMA identified Flood Zone--even after mitigation measures. The DEIR does not provide an appropriate range of project location alternatives for a completely new and rebuilt WWTP outside of a known flood zone. We are concerned that the new WWTP site will continue to be in conflict with numerous coastal act policies as well as the City of Morro Bay's own

1  
2

coastal plan and may--in the long run--cost the community more than if proper analysis of viable alternative project locations are conducted now.

↑ 2

- As property owners in Morro Bay, we are willing to pay our fair share of the additional costs, if any, for the proper location of a WWTP.

↑ 3

**And perhaps the most overlooked issue of the WWTP location at 140 Atascadero Road is this:**

- Is a WWTP the highest and best use of this ***oceanfront*** property for the future?
- The fact that the current WWTP is located in a key tourism area of Morro Bay is an unfortunate reality of past decisions made in our community. However, why would today's leaders of the City of Morro Bay continue to support a WWTP at this location at all?
- It's vital to remember that Morro Bay's continued economic vitality and growth depend upon us, its citizens, to treasure, nurture, appropriately develop and consistently promote our greatest asset: our coastal location---which is incomparably scenic, biologically diverse and globally unique.

↑ 4

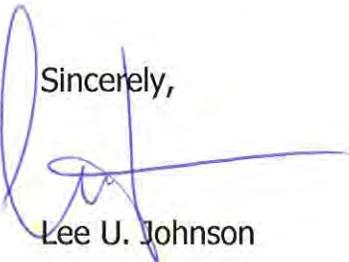
**We have great concerns about beneficial reuse of treated effluent.**

- As property owners in Morro Bay, we fully support paying our fair share for a WWTP that treats the wastewater to full Title 22 tertiary requirements for unlimited beneficial reuse.
- We support paying our fair share to bring this water to agricultural and urban users.
- We are disappointed this is not an alternative in the DEIR.

↑ 5

Thanks, Rob, for your time and attention to our concerns. We look forward to continuing the conversation and following the progress of this important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,



Lee U. Johnson



Christine M. Johnson

Jamie Irons  
598 Shasta Ave.  
Morro Bay Ca. 93442

Rob Livick  
Public Services Director  
City of Morro Bay  
955 Shasta Ave.  
Morro Bay Ca 93442

Subject: Questions and comments on the Morro Bay WWTP Draft EIR.

**Flood Analysis**

- How does the flood analysis address future upstream projects that increase flows to the creek?

1

**To address smaller, more frequent flooding p.17**

- Why not consider the old WWTP area as a drainage basin with the ability to drain or be pumped to the dune outfall zone?

2

**Flood Protection and flood reduction methods pg.15**

- General comments and concerns: In regard to Flood proofing of individual components, I have a concern about the electrical switchgear facility in particular. One flood or minor water intrusion could render the plant inoperable for days or more under the best of circumstances. Consider a sealed door or an extra foot of elevation for that particular building.

3

**Chapter 3 Environmental setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures**

**Light and Glare pg.3.1-11**

- Mitigation Measure 3.1-2: Consider adding: Minimize the use of light poles, use light bollards.

4

**Visual Character pg.3.1-11**

- The proposed project could impact visual character of the project site and its surroundings. No mitigation measures required. Why not a landscape plan?

5

**Future Reclaimed Water Facilities and Ancillary Facilities pg. ES-5**

- Though no offsite distribution infrastructure for reclaimed water is anticipated at this time. Will the project include the reclaimed water delivery header to the street for future infrastructure?

City of Morro Bay  
Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project  
Comment Card

Written comments may be submitted tonight during the meeting, or mailed/faxed/mailed to the contact information given below:

(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

RECEIVED

OCT 04 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department  
@ Planning Commission

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6268 Fax  
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\*

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

PLANNING Commission

OCT. 4, 2010

A FLOW STUDY THAT I PERFORMED BETWEEN MARCH 2003 AND NOV 2004 FOR THE CAYUCOS SANITARY DISTRICT, WHILE STEVE TANAKA OF WALLACE ENGR. WAS CONTRACTED BY THE CITY OF MORRO BAY TO DO A FLOW STUDY IN NORTH MORRO BAY SHOWS THAT THE PEAK DRY WEATHER FLOW PARAMETER IS SEVERLY UNDERESTIMATED. THE PEAK DRY WEATHER FLOWS ARE MUCH GREATER THAN 1.5 MGD AVE.

Richard E. T. Sadowski

Name: RICHARD E. T. SADOWSKI Phone: 772 2610  
CWEA GRADE 4 CERTIFIED  
Address: WASTEWATER COLLECTION OPERATOR 490 JAVA ST. MB

\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\*

**City of Morro Bay**  
**Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project**  
**Comment Card**

Written comments may be submitted tonight during the meeting, or mailed/faxed/mailed to the contact information given below:

(Comments must be received no later than November 4, 2010)

Rob Livick, PE/PLS  
City of Morro Bay, Public Services Department  
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6268 Fax  
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us

RECEIVED  
NOV 03 2010  
City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

*\*\*Verbal comments will be recorded during tonight's meeting following the presentation\*\**

I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the subject project:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED COMMENT - 2 PAGES

Richard Sadowski

Nov. 3, 2010

Name: RICHARD E.T. SADOWSKI Phone: 805-772-2610

Address: 490 JAVA ST. MORRO BAY, CA 93442

*\*\*If you are not presently on the public notice mailing list, but would like to be, make sure to provide your address on the meeting sign-in sheet\*\**

RECEIVED

October 30,2010

NOV 03 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

Dear Mr. Rob Livick, PE/PLS Public Services Director/City Engineer

As per your request for comments on the Draft EIR, consider this my formal comment that will supplement the hand written comment that I had personally given you et an earlier Morro Bay Planning Commission meeting.

Since you were not yet employed by the city during the time when Morro Bay and Cayucos were performing sewer flow studies of their respected wastewater collection system infrastructure, allow me to explain why the Peak Dry Weather flow parameter of the Draft EIR is grossly underestimated.

Between February 2003 and November 2004, I was employed as the Collection Systems Supervisor for Cayucos Sanitary District (CSD, a Special District). Along with my Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering I hold the highest classification for wastewater collection system operators from the California Water Environment Association, CWEA Grade IV. During my employment at the CSD, I discovered that the CSD's monthly calculated flows that were being submitted to the city were erroneous, due to inoperable flowmeters at Lift Station 5. As you know Lift Station 5 is located within the city limits and is the final wastewater collection point for the community of Cayucos. At that time, I notified the CSD Board of Directors and drafted a CIP (Capitol Improvement Project) request to budget for new flowmeters at Lift Station 5. While the CIP was being reviewed by the CSD Board, I went to the flowmeter manufactures laboratory in Los Angeles and attempted to calibrate the two flowmeters. We were only able to calibrate one of the flowmeters by replacing some circuitry. With the calibrated flowmeter, we were able to calculate each of the pump flow rates and than compare flow readings with pump hours for the monthly flow that was submitted to the city. Bruce Keogh, MB/Cay WWTP Manager and Dave Phillips, Morro Bay Wastewater Collections System Manager were both made aware of the flow issues that were discovered at the time. It was agreed by the CSD District Manager and by the above mentioned Morro Bay city staff that the flows from Cayucos would be based on flowmeter readings and pump hours until the new flowmeters were ordered and installed at Lift Station 5.

As we continued to collect flow data throughout the year, we would document daily rainfall amounts in order to get a handle on the severe inflow and infiltration problems that were present. In the monthly reports that were submitted to Mr. Keogh, along with the calculated daily average flow, included were an analysis of variance and standard deviation calculations from the monthly data.

The data showed that a simple monthly average calculation was deceptive in determining Peak Dry and Wet weather flows, due to the high variance and standard deviation numbers. This can be attributed to high tourist events and significant rainfall during certain times of the year. Further investigation revealed that during various times of the year the daily flow from Cayucos alone was enough to surcharge the WWTP capacity to treat the sewage resulting in less than secondarily treated sewage to be discharged via the WWTP outfall pipe.

In 2004, Morro Bay contracted Wallace Engineering to perform a flow study for the city. Steve Tanaka was Wallace's engineer on that project. While he was performing the sewer flow study in north Morro Bay, he had contacted me regarding diverting sewer flows from Cayucos via the bypass valves located near Yerrba Buena on North Main Street to the North Main Street Sewer Main (60/40 line) that Morro Bay and Cayucos own. At the time I questioned him regarding this, stating that by doing so the flow data that was being calculated for the North Morro Bay area would be deceptive since the flows from Cayucos were already being monitored and recorded. This practice would result in partial flows from Cayucos that already had been accounted for to be added again.

In 2005 the city released the Sewer System Master Plan update. This report sited flow data that was significantly flawed. For example, the report underestimates the increase in wet weather flows due to Inflow and Infiltration and underestimates the peak dry weather flow during the summer months. This city's Sewer System report was later issued a 'Negative Declaration' per CEQA by the city's capitol improvements manager, siting that any negative environmental concerns would be addressed in the EIR for the WWTP upgrade.

Mr. Livick, if you have read any of the four reports that I had co-authored and submitted to the city regarding the Morro Bay sewer collection system, it is obvious that the condition of the Morro Bay and



Cayucos sewer collection system is having a sever effect on the local environment. For the past 5 years, I have been stating that the current parameters that are being used to size the WWTP upgrade are erroneous and must be revisited. I have personally video taped several miles of the Cayucos sewer collection system and have reviewed enough of the Morro Bay sewer collection system to validate my conclusion on the condition of our underground infrastructure. Currently the city staff has notified a City Council member that it is on a 30 year plan for sewer infrastructure repair. In my professional opinion this is unexceptionable given the public health risks that are involved and the drinking water aquifers that are effected.

Please submit this e-mail to the Draft EIR comments for review and the written response from the city as well.

↑  
1



Richard E.T.Sadowski  
CWEA certified Grade IV Wasterwater Collection Operator  
Bachelor of Science Degree Mechanical Engineer.

RECEIVED

NOV 03 2010

City of Morro Bay  
Public Services Department

**Jennifer Jacobus**

---

**From:** Rob Livick [RLivick@morro-bay.ca.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Jacobus; Kathleen Wold  
**Subject:** Fwd: EIR Comments

One More, Still nothing from the CCC

Rob

>>> Jack McCurdy <jack.mcc@att.net> 11/4/2010 5:01 PM >>>  
COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR AT [http://www.ceqapost.com/portal.php?user\\_id=87](http://www.ceqapost.com/portal.php?user_id=87)

**1. INCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC IN DISCUSSION OF THE EIR**

Members of the Morro Bay and Cayucos communities were not adequately made aware of the review of the proposed replacement of the wastewater treatment plant to be undertaken by the Joint Powers Agreement parties, which are the city of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitary District, through the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This resulted mainly from the failure to make available to residents of these two communities the opportunities to participate in public meetings at which the EIR was on the agenda. The EIR was on the agenda of the city Planning Commission on Oct. 4, but no notices or alerts were made available to the public about the substance of the consideration of the EIR or any opportunities to comment or ask questions, other than in routine matters before the Commission. And for all the obvious reasons, the planned plant replacement is not routine and should require special effort to make the public aware of any discussion about it. Then on Oct. 14, the JPA board scheduled at its meeting a presentation by ESA of the highlights of the EIR, and again, nothing out of the ordinary was done to make the public aware of it. Finally, without any previous mention, discussion or notice, the Morro Bay City Council members of the JPA board on Oct. 14 discussed and seemed to agree to schedule a "workshop" on Oct. 28, although no location or time was announced at that time. Subsequently, a "public meeting" was announced by the city in a newspaper advertisement, which could be interpreted as a conventional public hearing where each speaker is afforded only three minutes to ask questions. Traditionally, in such public hearing situations, those questions are rarely, if ever, answered. Made aware of this confusion, the city manager clarified in a personal email that the "public meeting" would be a "workshop style" gathering. Collectively, this record of misinformation and confusion served to at least potentially discourage attendance at the meetings. As it turned out, about 11 residents attended the Oct. 28 workshop. This clear failure of the presiding agencies to make any additional effort to involve the public in the EIR review fails to meet the spirit if not the literal requirements of CEQA and its guidelines, and therefore it calls for a new process to provide residents with opportunities to learn and interact with EIR developers as well as JPA board members about this multi-million dollar, once-in--lifetime capital improvement project.

1

**2. FAILURE OF THE EIR TO COMPLY WITH CEQA GUIDELINE 15126.6 (c)**

This section states that. "the EIR should also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible during the scoping process and briefly explain the reasons underlying the lead agency's determination." Yet at the Oct. 28 workshop, Tom Barnes, Southern California water group director for ESA, stated to those present that alternatives to the present locale of the plant had been considered by the ESA staff in developing the EIR. He said "moving the site inland would create more significant impacts" and would be "inconsistent with the (city's) General Plan." But the EIR that ESA developed makes no mention of such alternative sites being considered, which Barnes said they were. Had they been considered, as Mr. Barnes said they were, CEQA guidelines require them to be reported in the EIR, as per the section cited above, which states, "The EIR should also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible during the scoping process and briefly explain the reasons underlying the lead agency's determination." This serious omission alone requires revision, reconsideration and resubmission of the EIR to the responsible agencies.

2

**3. FAILURE OF THE EIR TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES UNDER CEQA GUIDELINE 15126.6 (a)**

The EIR clearly states that it did not consider any stand-alone alternative sites (contrary to point 2 above), even though this section states, "

Alternatives to the Proposed Project. An EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project..." As is well known, the Guideline goes on to describe the circumstances under which alternatives will be considered. But this explanation in no way detracts or modifies the clear language at the beginning of the section, which can only be interpreted to say: the EIR shall consider alternatives, which the EIR either did not do or did not report in its final document. Therefore, this EIR must be revised to meeting statutory requirements.

3

#

**Jennifer Jacobus**

---

**From:** Rob Livick [RLivick@morro-bay.ca.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 05, 2010 8:23 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Jacobus; Kathleen Wold  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: DEIR Comments

From last night

Rob

>>> Mr Noah Smukler <nsmukler@yahoo.com> 11/4/2010 9:55 PM >>>

Hi Bob, I just got home so sorry for the late reply. The comment period was scheduled to close today @ 5pm, so I suggest you submit these directly to Rob Livick tomorrow morning. I'll also follow up and see if we can make an exception for your comments.

Rob's email is: Rob Livick <RLivick@morro-bay.ca.us>;

---

**From:** Robert Staller <morrocreekranch@gmail.com>  
**To:** nsmukler@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thu, November 4, 2010 7:58:27 PM  
**Subject:** DEIR Comments

Hi, Noah:

As I mentioned on my telephone message this evening, I hope it is not too late to advance these ideas concerning deficiencies and omissions in the DEIR.

Outline Re: Material Deficiencies in the DEIR Pertaining With the  
Proposed Upgraded Morro Bay/Cuyueos Tertiary Water Treatment Plant.

ERRORS/OMISSIONS

ERROR 1:

Lack of proper identification and evaluation of likely alternative locations out of the existing floodplain on Dynergy's higher elevation:

1. Tank farm northeast of the Dynergy Power Plant scheduled for soonest demolition.
  - a) Advantages: limited alternative use.
  - b) Release present obsolete treatment plant property for higher more valuable ocean frontage development.
2. Chorro Creek Valley site southeast of the present obsolete plant east of Highway 1 in a rechargeable riparian stream basin, and present City owned water-well field. Expand intensive AG development with the reclaimed water.



1

3. Toro Creek Valley -- Northeast of present obsolete water treatment plant that is closer to Cayucos. This location offers attractive recharge potential for reclaimed water and expanded high-value agriculture development in the Toro Creek Valley.

4. Morro Creek Valley. (Little Morro Creek Valley). Same as above, located east and south of present obsolete plant -- Recharge and expanded AG development potential.

5. Factor in the extra-incident cost involved to upgrade the tertiary treated reclaimed waste to standards appropriate to avocados, lemons and other high value crops (i.e. Chinese vegetables) and State drinking water standards to supplement the local State water requirement in water delivery deficient years.



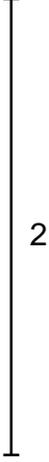
1

QUERY:

Presently the citizens and motel guests in Morro Bay and Cayucos flush their toilets and showers and have sufficient water at present and seem unconcerned that a million gallons of secondary treated sewer water is discharged into the ocean.

Soon after incurring a \$30 million (more or less) obligation involving higher water rates and still discharging a million gallons of tertiary treated water into the ocean, what is the economic advantage for the citizens of Morro Bay and Cayucos? Their toilets still flush, their showers and all other water needs are as before except we all owe 30 million dollars plus interest plus higher sewerage fees.

What would be the better alternative? Spend maybe 10% more and bring the reclaimed water to that level of purity that it becomes a valuable sell-able resource.



2

QUERY

Are there any bodies of fresh, clean water anywhere in California without anxious customers ready and able to purchase this valuable resource for domestic, industrial or agricultural purposes?

OMISSION 2:

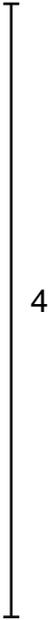
Presently there exists a 24" diameter steel pipe extending from the Dynergy Power Plant 3+ miles northeast up to the top of the former Tank Farm Consortium on a 58-62 acre parcel located at 625 foot elevation.

Properly reclaimed water from the proposed new water treatment plan could be pumped up to this elevation and gravity distributed to the Toro Creek Valley, Morro Creek Valley, Little Morro Creek Valley, Chorro Creek Valley and San Bernardo Creek Valley bringing several thousand AG acres into high value agricultural production from what is now seasonal animal grazing. The incremental property taxes derived and economic benefits of this strategy cannot be overstated. Naturally, surplus water could still be discharged into the ocean; but all dollars derived from this reclaimed product would be a revenue off-set for the cost of this upgraded reclamation.

Consider the many ranchers and farmers presently in these overdrawn fragile aquifers; and then consider the wide spread economic benefits that will be derived from the possible availability of sufficient reclaimed water. These agricultural dollars are multiplied by at least 5 times as they pass through the local economy. This matter alone constitutes a major omission in the DEIR present report.



3



4

# CHAPTER 10

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## Response to Comments

### 10.1 CEQA Requirements

Before the City of Morro Bay, as the Lead Agency, may approve the proposed project, it must certify that the Final EIR: a) has been completed in compliance with CEQA; b) has been presented to the Morro Bay City Council, as the decision-making body for the Lead Agency, which reviewed and considered it prior to approving the project; and c) reflects the City's independent judgment and analysis.

*CEQA Guidelines* specify that the Final EIR shall consist of the following:

- the Draft EIR or a revision of that draft;
- comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR;
- a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR;
- the response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- any other information added by the Lead Agency.

This Final EIR for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project consists of:

- the public Draft EIR published under separate cover (Chapters 1 through 8);
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR along with the written comment letters received (Chapter 9);
- A response to each comment received on the Draft EIR including any revisions made to the text of the Draft EIR in response to such comment (Chapter 10); and
- A compilation of revisions to the text of the Draft EIR made by the Lead Agency (Chapter 11).

### 10.2 Comments on the Draft EIR and Responses to Comments

The Draft EIR for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project (proposed project) was circulated for public review for 45 days (September 20, 2010 through November 4, 2010). During this period, the City of Morro Bay held three public meetings to provide interested persons with an opportunity to comment orally or in writing on the Draft EIR.

The public meetings were held at the Morro Bay Planning Commission Meeting on October 4, 2010; WWTP JPA Meeting on October 14, 2010; and at the Morro Bay Community Center on October 28, 2010. Several oral comments and written comment were received at the public meetings.

Table 9-1 in Chapter 9 lists the comment letters received during the public review period for the Draft EIR. Comment letters also are included in Chapter 9, along with the summaries of oral comments received during the three public meetings. The responses to comments are provided here in Chapter 10. Responses are numbered to correspond to the comment numbers that appear in the margins of the comment letters and summary of oral comments.

### **10.3 Corrections and Additions to the Draft EIR**

Revisions to the Draft EIR were developed in response to comments received during the public review period. The revisions appear as indented text in the responses. This Final EIR is a reprinted version of the Draft EIR that includes the revisions. Where the responses indicate additions or deletions to the text of the Draft EIR, additions are indicated in underline and deletions in ~~strikeout~~. A summary of all corrections and additions are compiled in Chapter 11.

## **10.4 Summary Issue Responses**

### **Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis**

Numerous comments were received suggesting that alternative locations be considered to construct the WWTP. This Master Response describes the alternatives analysis included in the Draft EIR and explains the Draft EIR's rationale for concluding that an off site alternative would result in greater impacts than the proposed project.

#### **CEQA Alternatives Analysis**

The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.6) require that an EIR consider alternatives to a project that could avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts of a proposed project. As summarized in Table ES-1 in the Draft EIR, the proposed project would not result in any significant and unavoidable environmental impacts. Nonetheless, Chapter 6 of the Draft EIR provides an assessment of three project alternatives. Table 6-2 summarizes the results of the alternatives analysis, concluding that none of the potential project alternatives would result in fewer impacts than the proposed project.

The EIR provides substantial evidence that locating a treatment plant in a new location would not eliminate any significant impacts (as there are none for the proposed project) but would rather introduce new potentially significant impacts at the new location. The Draft EIR concludes that upgrading the existing plant would present fewer environmental impacts and would likely be much less costly.

CEQA does not require that project alternatives be evaluated at the same level of detail as the proposed project, but should “include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis and comparison with the proposed project” (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(d)). The analysis in the Draft EIR provides substantial evidence that constructing a new treatment plant inland in a new location would result in greater effects. As a result, the Draft EIR concludes that the proposed project is the environmentally superior and preferred alternative. The Draft EIR complies with CEQA alternatives analysis requirements.

## **Chorro Valley Alternative**

One of the alternatives considered in Chapter 6—the Chorro Valley Alternative evaluated on page 6-7—involves constructing a new facility at a new location inland from the existing plant. This location was identified as a result of a series of feasibility studies conducted to examine fatal flaws in developing a stand-alone treatment plant in a new location (Cannon Associates, 2007; Boyle Engineering 1999). The feasibility studies evaluated alternative locations and the potential reuse of treated effluent for agricultural irrigation or creek enhancement. The feasibility studies concluded that the Chorro Valley location with Chorro Creek enhancement was a potential feasible alternative. As a result, the Chorro Valley alternative was evaluated in the Draft EIR as a project alternative. The Draft EIR concludes that moving the plant from its existing location to the Chorro Valley location would not avoid any significant impacts of the proposed project, while potentially creating several new significant environmental impacts. These new potentially significant impacts include:

- Aesthetics impacts in the new location which is visible from surrounding open space land and State Highway 1, which is a state-designated scenic highway;
- Construction impacts to air quality, noise, and traffic from constructing multiple new Pipelines between the proposed new location and the existing WWTP;
- New odor impacts experienced by neighboring residential areas; and
- Land use incompatibility with the site and surroundings, which are designated for residential use.
- Increased energy consumption during plant operation due to the need to provide power for pumping sewage up-grading to the Chorro Valley location and back to the existing WWTP site for discharge to the outfall.
- Increased GHG emission associated with the increased energy consumption.
- Potential impacts to water quality due to uncertainty whether discharge to creeks would be permitted based on water quality and quantity requirements.

In addition, operation of the plant in an inland location would result in increased costs required to pump sewage to an inland location; substantial land acquisition costs; and the inability to meet the RWQCB’s mandated schedule to upgrade discharge water quality.

As a result of this assessment, the Draft EIR concludes that moving the treatment plant to another location, be it inland or otherwise, would result in greater impacts than the proposed project and is therefore not considered the environmentally superior project.

## Suggested Additional Alternatives

Several comments on the Draft EIR proposed additional location alternatives. **Table 10-1** below summarizes each of these proposed locations. As described in the table, each of the sites presents potential impacts that are similar to the Chorro Valley Alternative evaluated in the Draft EIR on page 6-7. The Chorro Valley Alternative is similar to the suggested alternatives in that each of the suggested new alternative sites is located inland, requiring new pump stations and force main pipelines to convey sewage uphill to parcels that are closer to residents or open space that also may be in the coastal zone. None of the suggested alternatives would remove the facility from the coastal zone as defined by the California Coastal Commission or avoid the new potentially significant impacts associated with the Chorro Valley Alternative described in Table 6-2 of the Draft EIR and summarized in Table 10-1 below.

## Treatment Upgrade

A principal assumption made in the comments requesting additional alternatives analysis is that the proposed project should be considered as an entirely new treatment plant rather than an upgrade of the existing plant. The City disagrees that the proposed project constitutes construction of an entirely new treatment plant in a new location. The purpose of the project as noted on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is to upgrade treatment capabilities to meet discharge permit water quality requirements. The objective of the project originally envisioned by MBCSD is to comply with RWQCB permit requirements by upgrading the level of treatment provided by the MBCSD treatment plant at the existing location. In order to maintain treatment capabilities during construction, new facilities will be built next to the old facilities. When the new facilities are completed, they will be connected to the collection system and the old facilities will be demolished. Building new facilities directly on top of the old facilities is not possible while maintaining their treatment function during construction.

In addition, the proposed project would remove the plant from the 100-year flood plain. This is a substantial benefit of the proposed project compared to the existing condition. To do this, the proposed project would build new facilities on lands that currently are used for industrial purposes, in accordance with the land use and zoning designations, and are owned either by the City of Morro Bay or jointly by the City and CSD. The City feels that the use of adjacent industrial property that effectively removes this vital public utility from the flood plain is not equivalent to constructing a brand new treatment plant in a new location within the coastal zone.

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

| Alternative Location Evaluated in the Draft EIR     | Approximate Distance From Proposed WWTP | New Potentially Significant Impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chorro Valley Alternative 3, evaluated in Draft EIR | 2.5 miles east                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aesthetics</li> <li>• Construction impacts to air, noise, traffic from new pump station and force main to new location</li> <li>• Odor</li> <li>• Land use compatibility in coastal zone</li> <li>• Increased energy use for new pump station</li> <li>• Increased GHG emissions</li> <li>• Increased water quality impacts</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Suggested Additional Alternative Locations          | Origin of Suggestion                    | Approximate Distance From Proposed WWTP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Impact Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Whale Rock Site – In Cayucos, 7 acres               | Surfrider Letter                        | 5 miles north                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of an industrial land use to an area not zoned for industrial uses creating a potentially significant and unavoidable impact due to conflict with the General Plan/LCP</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets and Highway 1</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors not presently exposed to odor impacts</li> <li>• Impacts to local character and aesthetics since surrounding area is not industrial uses</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> |

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

|                                                                                     |                         |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Chevron Oil Facility –<br/>Between Cayucos &amp; Morro<br/>Bay, 20 acre site</p> | <p>Surfrider Letter</p> | <p>2.5 miles north</p>      | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of industrial facility in this location may be incompatible with LCP</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets and Highway 1</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors, such as recreational visitors to the beach, not presently exposed to odor impacts</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site due to proximity to Toro Creek and surrounding open space</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> <li>• Increased impacts to visual character of the site and aesthetics since surrounding area is characterized by open space/beach and is visible from Highway 1, a State Scenic Highway</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> |
| <p>Hwy 41 Corridor Madonna<br/>Property – East of Morro<br/>Bay, 17 acre site</p>   | <p>Surfrider Letter</p> | <p>1.75 miles northeast</p> | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of agricultural lands to industrial public facility uses is inconsistent with LCP and would be a significant and unavoidable impact of the project</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets, Highway 1, and Highway 41</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors, such as residential land uses to the west, not presently exposed to odor impacts</li> <li>• Impacts to local character and aesthetics since surrounding area is characterized by open space and agriculture and site is visible from Highway 41, an Eligible State Scenic Highway</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site, due to proximity to Morro Creek and surrounding open space</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                            |                         |                               | <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Hayashi (10 acres) or<br/>Giannini (12 acres)<br/>Properties – East of Morro<br/>Bay (morro valley)</p> | <p>Surfrider Letter</p> | <p>0.5 to 0.75 miles east</p> | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of agricultural lands to industrial public facility uses is inconsistent with LCP and would be a significant and unavoidable impact of the project</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets and Highway 1</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors, such as residential land uses to the south, not presently exposed to odor impacts</li> <li>• Impacts to local character and aesthetics since surrounding area is characterized by open space and agriculture and site may be visible from Highway 41, an Eligible State Scenic Highway, and Highway 1 a designated State Scenic Highway</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site due to proximity to Little Morro Creek and surrounding open space</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> |

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

|                                           |                         |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Power Plant – up to 17 acres</p>       | <p>Surfrider Letter</p> | <p>0.15 miles south</p> | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors not presently exposed to odor impacts, such as Coleman Park and Embarcadero</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site and pipeline alignment across Morro Creek</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>PG&amp;E/City property – 7.5 acres</p> | <p>Surfrider Letter</p> | <p>0.66 miles east</p>  | <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of industrial facility in this location may be incompatible with LCP</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets and Highway 1</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors, such as residential area to the south, not presently exposed to odor impacts</li> <li>• Impacts to local character and aesthetics since site is currently characterized by vacant land, is adjacent to open space, and is visible from Highway 1, a State Scenic Highway</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site, due to proximity to Little Morro Creek and neighboring open space</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the proposed project</li> <li>• Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> |

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

|                                                                                                |                          |                                       | <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stand-alone site in Cayucos on non-city owned property, East of Hwy 1, along Route 41 corridor | DORFMAN-2 ;<br>JOHNSON-1 | --                                    | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Highway 41 Corridor Madonna Property identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Madonna Property entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Between Morro Bay and Cayucos                                                                  | DORFMAN-2 ;<br>JOHNSON-1 | --                                    | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Chevron Oil Facility site identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Chevron Oil Facility entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tank farm                                                                                      | STALLER-1                | NE of power plant                     | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Power Plant site identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Power Plant entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Chorro Creek Valley site                                                                       | STALLER-1                | SE of proposed WWTP,<br>East of Hwy 1 | <p>Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Chorro Valley site described in the Draft EIR:</p> <p><b>New Significant and Unavoidable Impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of agricultural lands or open space to industrial public facility uses is inconsistent with LCP and would be a significant and unavoidable impact of the project</li> </ul> <p><b>New Impacts Requiring Mitigation to be Less than Significant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to traffic from installation of pipelines including primary streets and Highway 1</li> <li>• Increased potential for odor impacts to sensitive receptors not presently exposed to odor impacts, such as residential land uses</li> <li>• Impacts to local character and aesthetics since surrounding area characterized by open space and residential land use rather than industrial land use</li> <li>• Potential impacts to biological resources at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site due to proximity to Chorro Creek and its tributaries and open space</li> <li>• Potential impacts to known or previously unknown cultural resource sites at pump station site, pipeline alignment, or new plant site</li> <li>• Increased potential for spills due to new pump station and force mains</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts Similar to Proposed Project but with Greater Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional construction impacts to air and noise associated with new pump station and force main would be greater than the proposed project and impact new areas not affected by the</li> </ul> |

**TABLE 10-1  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SITE LOCATIONS**

|                                                |                                |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                |                                |                     | <p>proposed project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased energy use and GHG emissions for operation of new pump station</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Avoided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>Less than Significant Impacts Avoided or Lessened in Severity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> |
| Toro Creek Valley                              | STALLER-1                      | NE of proposed WWTP | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Chevron Oil Facility along Toro Creek identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Chevron Oil Facility entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Morro Creek Valley (Little Morro Creek Valley) | STALLER-1                      | SE of proposed WWTP | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Hayashi or Giannini Properties along Little Morro Creek identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Hayashi or Giannini Properties entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                    |
| Within Morro Valley                            | PLANNING-2<br>(verbal comment) | 0.5 miles           | Suggested site not specified, but general description indicates a location similar to the Highway 41 Corridor Madonna Property identified in the Surfrider Letter. See Madonna Property entry above for applicable impact summary.                                                                                                                                                                     |

Note:  
LCP = Local Coastal Plan

## Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water

Numerous comments were received stating that the proposed project does not consider the beneficial use of recycled water and does not consider additional infrastructure to distribute recycled water. As noted on page 2-12 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would include a truck filling station for recycled water that could supply up to 10 water trucks per week. The Draft EIR describes potential end uses of the water on page 2-12, as well. Table 1-1 summarizes all the allowed end uses for recycled water in accordance with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, which regulates the allowable applications for purposes of protecting public health. Given the scale of the proposed project, the Draft EIR concludes that the limited use of recycled water in compliance with Title 22 regulations would have no adverse environmental impacts. The Draft EIR acknowledges on page 2-19 that waste discharge requirements (WDRs) would be required to make this water available for use.

The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system or identify consistent water demands to be served. Rather, the proposed project makes recycled water available for limited delivery by water truck if there is a demand for the product. The primary goal of the proposed project as noted on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is to upgrade treatment facilities to meet discharge water quality permit requirements. It is not within the purview of the MBCSD to implement a recycled water distribution system or master plan. The proposed project has been designed to support future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan as the community develops demand for the commodity. This is stated in one of the project objectives, which is to accommodate future installation of reclamation capability (Draft EIR, page 2-2). The proposed project in no way discourages development of a recycled water system for the region, but rather encourages it.

As stated on page 2-10 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project does not include offsite distribution infrastructure for reclaimed water. This infrastructure is beyond the scope and objectives of the proposed project. An offsite recycled water distribution system would be considered a separate project. A recycled water distribution system for the City of Morro Bay and community of Cayucos would require a new, dedicated pipeline distribution system that is separate from the existing potable water system, plus new storage tanks and pump stations to move water from the treatment plant to the end users. Development of such a distribution system would require the following:

- An update to the 1999 Comprehensive Recycled Water Study (Carollo, 1999) to identify current recycled water end users and demands;
- Identification of the recycled water purveyor for Morro Bay and Cayucos
- Development of a Recycled Water Master Plan to consider alternative pipeline alignments and locations for pump stations and storage tanks
- Identification of funding mechanisms for designing, constructing and operating the system; and
- Separate environmental review for the Recycled Water Master Plan in accordance with CEQA.

The proposed project would support future development and implementation of a recycled water distribution system for Morro Bay and Cayucos, if local decision-makers determine such a system to be desirable and economically feasible.

## **10.5 Comment Letter Responses**

### **Letter 1, State Water Resource Control Board**

#### **Comment SWRCB-1**

The comment requests notification of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of the proposed project. The comment requests copies of environmental documentation applicable to the proposed project, including the Final EIR, MMRP, all comments received during the review period, and the City responses to comments.

#### **Response SWRCB-1**

The City intends to comply with the submittal of the listed environmental documentation to the SWRCB for their review.

#### **Comment SWRCB-2**

The comment states that the CWSRF Program requires additional CEQA-Plus environmental documentation and review. The comment states that the SWRCB can consult directly with any federal agencies regarding environmental issues that need to be resolved prior to SWRCB approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the project.

#### **Response SWRCB-2**

The Draft EIR has been prepared with consideration of CEQA-Plus requirements as stated in Chapter 1. The City intends to comply with any additional requirements of the CEQA-Plus review process. The City will contact Ms. Michelle Lobo for consultation regarding compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations as they pertain to the proposed project.

#### **Comment SWRCB-3**

The comment states that the proposed project is subject to the provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act and must obtain approval from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and/or National Marine Fisheries Services for potential effects to special-status species.

#### **Response SWRCB-3**

In support of the potential consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, special-status federal species were evaluated in the Biological Resources section of the EIR. It was determined that there would be no significant impacts to special-status federal species. Copies of the NOP and Draft EIR were sent to the USFWS for their review. No comments were received from the agency. The City will consult with the SWRCB regarding any necessary consultations with the USFWS and NMFS.

**Comment SWRCB-4**

The comment states that the proposed project must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in which the SWRCB is the responsible agency for carrying out the requirements, including direct consultation with the SHPO. The comment requests copies of current Records Search (and affiliated maps) for the project area showing all recorded sites and surveys in relation to the APE for the project.

**Response SWRCB-4**

The Draft EIR summarizes site surveys, record search, and Native American consultations that have been conducted to date regarding the proposed project. The City intends to provide information to Ms. Cookie Hirn at SWRCB to facilitate the Section 106 compliance, including the Cultural Resources Technical Report that has been prepared in support in the Draft EIR. The Technical Report includes copies of the Records Search for the project area and identification of the APE.

## Letter 2, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast

**Comment CRWQCB-1**

The comment states that although the DEIR lacked a tentative construction schedule for the WWTP upgrade, the Central Coast Water Board staff anticipates that the construction schedule would comply with the conversion schedule identified in Section B.1 of the December 2008 Settlement Agreement.

**Response CRWQCB-1**

The Draft EIR identifies in Chapter 2 that proposed construction of new replacement facilities, startup, and commissioning of the new WWTP would take approximately 24 months. The Draft EIR does not identify a specific construction schedule, but the approximate length of time for construction of subsequent phases is provided. The City of Morro Bay and Cayucos Sanitary District are aware of the conversion schedule identified in the 2008 Settlement Agreement; the project currently is on schedule to meet the construction and conversion deadline by March 31, 2014, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement with the Central Coast RWQCB.

**Comment CRWQCB-2**

The comment states the JPA should consider the eligibility requirements for discharge permits in the event that the proposed project requires dewatering. The comment provides descriptions of discharge permits that may be applicable if there is dewatering of groundwater required during construction activities. The comment also describes eligibility details for a waiver of waste discharge requirements that the JPA may also apply for if the JPA demonstrates that the discharge would not degrade water quality to ground water or surface waters.

## Response CRWQCB-2

The Draft EIR identifies the SWRCB and RWQCB WDRs for construction dewatering in the Hydrology section (pages 3.7-13 and 3.7-16) as well as in Mitigation Measure 3.7-2. The Draft EIR text on page 3.7-16 and Mitigation Measure 3.7-2 has been revised to include additional information about the eligibility for coverage under the WDRs, the General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges, and actions that the City would be required to take prior to gaining coverage under the WDRs. The following revisions have been made:

Draft EIR, page 3.7-13:

### ***SWRCB WDRs for Construction Dewatering***

Construction of the proposed project would require dewatering during excavation for new facilities. Discharge of the removed waters requires WDRs from the SWRCB.

Dewatering discharges are considered a low-threat discharge if the groundwater does not contain significant quantities of pollutants that would violate the provisions of the Basin Plan. The dewatering discharges for the proposed project would be considered low-threat discharges and would be covered under one of two Low Threat Permits. Discharges to land would be covered under the SWRCB General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality (Water Quality Order No. 2003-003-DWQ). MBCSD would be required to develop and submit a discharge monitoring plan (DMP) along with the application for coverage of dewatering activities. The DMP must include, at a minimum, a list of pollutants believed to be present in the discharge, approximate concentrations of the pollutants in the discharge, monitoring locations, monitoring frequencies, and a reporting schedule. Alternatively, ~~or discharged~~ discharges to surface waters would be covered under ~~in accordance with~~ the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality (Water Quality Order No. R3-2006-0063). Under General WDR No. R3-2006-0063, MBCSD would be required to analyze the proposed water for pollutants prior to gaining coverage under this permit that would allow discharge to surface waters. The quality of water proposed for discharge must comply with water quality criteria listed in Attachment D of the General WDR No. 43-2006-0063. Coverage is not eligible if any water quality criterion is not met, and MBCSD must look to other methods or alternative plans to address dewatering activities and excess water. The City would be required to adhere to the discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the General WDR No. R3-2006-0063.

Coverage under the General WDRs requires MBCSD to file a Notice of Intent to comply with the general order ~~and a discharge monitoring plan (DMP) with SWRCB~~. MBCSD would be required to comply with the terms and conditions of the General WDRs ~~and DMP issued by SWRCB~~ to avoid impacts to surface and groundwater quality.

The proposed project may also be eligible for the General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges (General Waiver Order No. R3-2008-0010). To apply for this waiver of

discharge requirements, MBCSD would need to demonstrate that dewatering discharges to groundwater or surface waters would not degrade water quality. MBCSD's application and enrollment would be contingent upon the review and approval of CCRWQCB.

Draft EIR, page 3.7-18:

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-2:** MBCSD shall require the construction contractor to file a Notice of Intent to comply with the SWRCB or CCRWQCB Low-Threat General WDRs prior to initiating excavation and dewatering activities and to comply with all requirements and conditions of the General WDRs, including preparation of a discharge monitoring plan (DMP). If applicable, MBCSD may apply for the General Waiver of waste discharge requirements. MBCSD shall submit an application to the CCRWQCB for approval that demonstrates that the discharge from dewatering activities would not degrade water quality of groundwater or surface waters.

### **Comment CRWQCB-3**

The comment states that the DEIR lacks discussion of a Recycled Water Policy and development of a salt and nutrient management plan that supports the SWRCB's strategic plan to promote the use of recycled water to achieve sustainable local water supplies. The comment suggests that the FEIR should include a discussion regarding the JPA's involvement in a regional stakeholder group to develop a salt/nutrient management plan and adequate recycled water irrigation practices.

### **Response CRWQCB-3**

The proposed project include a truck filling station to accommodate the beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale, as needed based on municipal demand and as would be permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The recycled water would be used for beneficial uses as listed in Table 1-1 in the Draft EIR in accordance with Title 22, which regulates the allowable applications for purposes of protecting public health. Given the scale of the proposed project, the Draft EIR concludes that there would be no adverse environmental impacts associated with the use of recycled water. Also given the scale of the proposed project, there is no need for MBCSD to develop a salt or nutrient management plan. The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### **Comment CRWQCB-4**

The comment states that the proposed project is subject to the MEP standards of the Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit as a redevelopment project and suggests strategies and methods to prevent or minimize water quality impacts from the proposed project. The comment states that Low Impact Development practices must be included as mitigation in the Final EIR.

**Response CRWQCB-4**

The NPDES Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit and the City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) are described on pages 3.7-6 and 3.7-13, respectively, of the Draft EIR. In response to the comment, the following edits have been made to incorporate hydromodification control criteria and LID methods as requested by the Central Coast RWQCB.

Draft EIR, page 3.7-13:

***City of Morro Bay Storm Water Management Plan***

The Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) was prepared by the City of Morro Bay to comply with mandatory requirements of the USEPA NPDES Phase II Final Rule and the SWRCB General Construction Permit. The SWMP, last updated in February 2009, provides an integral approach for the prevention of pollution from storm water runoff in Morro Bay. The program is managed by the City of Morro Bay Public Services Department and implemented by the Harbor Department, Recreation and Parks, and staff from the Public Services Department. The SWMP includes an array of BMPs that meet the six minimum control measures listed in the NPDES Phase II General Stormwater Permit in order to achieve ~~meets~~ ~~the four additional~~ conditions required by the CCRWQCB: (1) maximize infiltration of clean storm water; and minimize runoff volume and rates; (2) protect riparian areas, wetlands, and their buffer zones; (3) minimize pollutant loading; and (4) provide long-term watershed protection.

The SWMP is required to address how new and redevelopment projects maintain pre-development hydrologic characteristics (e.g., flow patterns, surface retention, recharge rates) in order to minimize post-development runoff impacts and prevent or minimize water quality impacts to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP). The City is currently participating in the regional Joint Effort to develop hydromodification control criteria and applicability thresholds for new and redevelopment projects. In the meantime, the CCRWQCB has recommended interim requirements for hydromodification that would apply to the proposed project. With regard to first condition mentioned above, the following interim hydromodification standards would apply to the proposed project to maximize infiltration of clean storm water and minimize runoff volume and rates:

- For new and redevelopment projects, Effective Impervious Area shall be maintained at less than five percent of total project area
- For new and redevelopment projects that create and/or replace 5000 square feet or more of impervious surface, the post-construction hydrographs shall match within one percent the pre-construction runoff hydrographs, for a range of events with return periods from 1-year to 10-years
- For projects whose disturbed project area exceeds two acres, preserve the pre-construction drainage density for all drainage areas serving a first order stream or

larger, and ensure that post-project time of concentration is equal or greater than pre-project time of concentration.

The CCRWQCB recommends implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) practices where possible as an alternative to conventional BMPs to control storm water runoff where it is generated, using natural and engineered infiltration and storage techniques. Eight common LID practices include:

1. Reduced and disconnected impervious surfaces
2. Native vegetation preservation
3. Bioretention
4. Tree boxes to capture and infiltrate street runoff
5. Vegetated swales, buffers, and strips
6. Roof leader flows directed to planter boxes and other vegetated areas
7. Permeable pavement
8. Soil amendments to increase infiltration rates

Projects covered under the General Stormwater Permit must incorporate LID methodology into new and redevelopment ordinances and design standards unless permittees can demonstrate that conventional BMPs are equally effective or would result in substantial cost savings that will still adequately protect water quality and reduce runoff volume. Justification based on cost must show that the cost of LID practices would be prohibitive and would exceed any benefit otherwise per SWRCB Order No. WQ 2000-11.

Draft EIR, page 3.7-17:

Storm water discharge from the proposed WWTP would be subject to regulation by an NPDES General Industrial Permit, which requires implementation of BAT and BCT to control the quality of storm water runoff from industrial land uses. The General Industrial Permit also requires the preparation of a SWPPP and a monitoring plan. The SWPPP must identify the sources of pollutants and the means to manage the sources to reduce storm water pollution. Due to the size of the proposed WWTP, a pretreatment program for storm water also may be required. MBCSD would be required to submit a new NOI to comply with the General Industrial Permit for the proposed new WWTP following completion of the proposed project. The WWTP is also subject to the BMPs included in the City of Morro Bay's SWMP, including any relevant post-construction BMPs and LID practices to control runoff and protect water quality. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.7-3 would ensure that project operation does not impact water quality standards or violate waste discharge requirements.

Draft EIR, page 3.7-18:

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-3:** MBCSD shall file a Notice of Intent to comply with the NPDES General Industrial Permit requirements upon completion of the proposed project. MBCSD also shall prepare a SWPPP and monitoring plan, as required by the General

Industrial Permit, that identify sources of pollutants and the measures to be implemented to manage the sources and reduce storm water pollution and storm water runoff volume. The SWPPP shall include relevant BMPs from the City of Morro Bay's SWMP or LID practices in compliance with the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. MBCSD shall demonstrate that the BMPs or LID practices meet the hydromodification criteria for redevelopment projects as defined in the City's SWMP and required by the CCRWQCB.

## Letter 3, California Coastal Commission

### Comment COASTAL-1

The comment states the Draft EIR incorrectly refers to the proposed project as an upgrade to the WWTP. The Draft EIR must consider the project as a new development because the project consists of demolishing the existing WWTP and constructing a new WWTP. The Draft EIR must provide information regarding additional alternative locations that could meet the project objectives while achieving consistency with the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and the Coastal Act.

### Response COASTAL-1

The City disagrees that the proposed project constitutes construction of an entirely new treatment plant in a new location. The purpose of the project as noted on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is to upgrade treatment capabilities to meet discharge permit water quality requirements. The objective of the project originally envisioned by MBCSD is to comply with RWQCB permit requirements by upgrading the level of treatment provided by the WWTP at the existing location. In order to maintain treatment capabilities during construction, new facilities will be built next to the old facilities. When the new facilities are completed, they will be connected to the collection system and the old facilities will be demolished. Building new facilities directly on top of the old facilities is not possible while maintaining their treatment function during construction. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

### Comment COASTAL-2

The comment states the proposed project site is located in a high hazard area, within the proximity of the beach, public recreational access and visitor-serving uses, and on a Native American burial ground. The comment states the Draft EIR must provide a robust analysis of feasible alternatives sites in order to provide the information necessary to evaluate the project's consistency with the LCP.

### Response COASTAL-2

As noted on page 3.8-11 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project is consistent with the overlying land use plans including the Local Coastal Plan (LCP). The proposed project is consistent with LCP Policy 9.14. The existing plant site is zoned for General Industrial uses and is currently a permitted use by the California Coastal Commission. The plant site connects to the ocean outfall which is clearly a coastal dependent land use. The proposed project provides substantial benefit

by allowing for the treatment plant to be elevated above flood waters. There is no indication in the CCC-approved LCP that the industrial parcels within the coastal zone should be converted eventually to non-industrial uses. If the City chooses to convert these land uses in the future, the City General Plan and LCP would need to be revised. Locating a new treatment plant inland would conflict with the CCC-approved LCP if agricultural, residential, or other non-industrial land use designations were affected.

The project area is not designated as Visitor Serving Commercial. The City's General Plan and Coastal Land Use Plan intentionally locate industrial land uses directly adjacent to visitor serving uses and the beach. Future planning or policy decisions to change locations of industrial land use are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

The Draft EIR evaluates potential impacts to Native American resources in Chapter 3.4. Mitigation Measures 3.4-1a and 3.4-1b would ensure that any resources potentially present on site would be avoided or otherwise treated appropriately in coordination with Native American representatives and the State Historic Preservation Officer. As evidenced by Letter 11 from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC), the City is currently working with the NCTC to ensure protection of Native American resources.

### **Comment COASTAL-3**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not sufficiently provide other feasible alternative locations for the proposed project that would be capable of accommodating a WWTP that would meet the current and future needs of the City and surrounding entities. The comment states moving the site location farther inland has the potential to avoid hazard issues and reduces the project's impacts on other environmental resources, as well as increases the utility of and distribution of potential water reclamation water.

### **Response COASTAL-3**

In the context of CEQA, the purpose of an Alternatives Analysis is to identify alternatives that "substantially alter any significant effects of the project" (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(b)). The Draft EIR concludes that the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts. Nonetheless, the Draft EIR evaluates an off-site alternative. The analysis concludes that the off-site alternative would introduce several new potentially significant impacts relative to the proposed project. Therefore, the offsite alternative is not considered the environmentally superior alternative. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

### **Comment COASTAL-4**

The comment states LCP Policy 5.03 does not apply to the proposed project because the project would involve the construction of a new WWTP. The comment states the Draft EIR needs to be clear that a new replacement WWTP is not the same as maintaining the existing plant and that LCP Policy 5.03 should not be used as a reason for siting the proposed project at the current location.

**Response COASTAL-4**

The City disagrees that the proposed project constitutes construction of an entirely new treatment plant in a new location. See **Response COASTAL-1**. The WWTP and outfall are integrated facilities and not necessarily components to be separated. Together these facilities are considered coastal dependent. As cited in Program LU-39.3 and LCP Policy 5.03 (Draft EIR, page 3.8-8 to 3.8-9), “[t]he Morro Bay Wastewater Treatment facilities shall be protected in their present location since an important operational element, the outfall line, is coastal-dependant.” Elimination of the outfall line is not an objective of the proposed project.

**Comment COASTAL-5**

The comment states the Draft EIR must provide the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the hazards policies of the LCP, including Policies 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.05 and 9.06. The comment states the Draft EIR should include an evaluation of sites that do not share the same degree of hazardous constraints.

**Response COASTAL-5**

The proposed project would remove the treatment plant from the 100-year flood plain. This is considered a major benefit of the project. As noted on page 3.8-11 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project is consistent with the overlying land use plans including the LCP, including Policies 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.05, and 9.06. Locating a new treatment plant inland would conflict with the CCC-approved LCP if agricultural, residential, or other non-industrial land use designations are affected. See response to **Comment COASTAL-2**. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

**Comment COASTAL-6**

The comment states the proposed new WWTP is not exempt from Policy 9.03, which prohibits all new development in the 100-year floodplain, except for flood control projects, agricultural uses, and off-setting improvements. The comment states the proposed location cannot be approved unless amendments are made to the LCP. The comment states the Draft EIR must provide information about alternative sites that are not within the 100-year flood plain.

**Response COASTAL-6**

The proposed project would remove the treatment plant from the 100-year flood plain. This is considered a major benefit of the project. As noted on page 3.8-11 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project is consistent with the overlying land use plans including the LCP. The Draft EIR considers an offsite alternative location. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

**Comment COASTAL-7**

The comment states the Draft EIR must evaluate the WWTP as a new development in the tsunami inundation area and provide the information necessary to evaluate the project for consistency with the LCP, including Policy 9.01, which requires new development to be located to minimize risks

to life and property in relation to tsunami threats. The comment states the Draft EIR must provide information about alternative site locations.

### **Response COASTAL-7**

The City disagrees that the proposed project constitutes construction of an entirely new treatment plant in a new location. See **Response COASTAL-1**. Also, please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

### **Comment COASTAL-8**

The comment states the Draft EIR should discuss project impacts as a result of sea level rise conditions and determine whether future sea level rise would put the WWTP in danger from erosion. The comment states the Draft EIR should provide the elevation and inland extent of storm surge and flooding that may occur over the life of the development due to shoreline dangers. The comment also states the Draft EIR must include a description of any future shoreline protection or other project modifications that would be necessary to protect the WWTP under such future hazardous conditions.

### **Response COASTAL-8**

The Draft EIR discusses potential impacts associated with sea level rise on page 3.7-20. The Draft EIR references estimates of sea level rise and concludes that the plant is sufficiently elevated to be protected from inundation resulting from a modest rise in mean sea level of 23 inches in the next century. Recently, the State Lands Commission's recent report on Sea Level Rise Preparedness estimates that sea level could rise 16 inches in California by 2050 due to global climate change (State Lands Commission, December 2009). As the Draft EIR states on page 3.7-20, the proposed project would increase the elevation of the treatment plant from approximately 16 feet amsl to approximately 23 feet amsl and provide substantially greater protection from future storm surge events than is provided by the existing plant. In particular, the proposed project will eliminate the open sludge drying beds which are currently within the 100-year flood plain.

In May 2009, the Pacific Institute prepared an evaluation of the population, infrastructure, and property that would be at risk from a projected sea level rise of 1.4 meters (m) in the year 2100 (Pacific Institute, 2009). The study includes a series of maps that indicate changes in coastal base flooding and erosion high hazard zones in 2100 due to a 1.4-m sea level rise. The map for Morro Bay North includes the WWTP site and indicates that by the year 2100, storm surge events could breach the barrier sand dunes and inundate inland areas, including the existing treatment plant and Morro Bay High School. The Morro Dunes RV Park, which is located at a higher elevation, would not be inundated. The map shows that the existing WWTP would remain above the high hazard erosion zone. These long-term projections suggest that the existing plant site may be subject to inundation in the future during a storm surge event. The proposed project would elevate the treatment plant, similar to Morro Dunes RV Park, providing substantially greater protection from future storm surges than the current condition.

The Draft EIR concludes that the risk of inundation due to sea level rise is speculative. In support of this, the Pacific Institute report clearly states that the analysis is for informational purposes only; is not to be used for planning purposes; and is not to be used to assess actual coastal hazards. Nonetheless, given the best available information to-date, the flood protection measures that would elevate the proposed facilities out of the 100-year flood zone would also reduce the risk of inundation due to sea level rise. The Draft EIR concludes that although moving the entire plant inland would eliminate potential impacts of future sea level rise, future storm surge inundation could be prevented by elevating the plant and thus reducing any potential impact to less than significant levels. The Draft EIR concludes that the significant impacts resulting from moving the plant inland as evaluated in the Chorro Valley Alternative would outweigh the less than significant impacts of keeping the plant in the existing location.

**Comment COASTAL-9**

The comment states Mitigation Measures 3.5-2 and 3.5-4 in the Draft EIR require future geotechnical investigations that will provide recommendations for future modifications to the project that would avoid and minimize hazards, including liquefaction. The comment states that future studies will not be adequate for CDP purposes and that necessary investigation should be conducted now and discussed in the Draft EIR to allow for proper evaluation of the project and alternatives for consistency with the LCP and Coastal Act.

**Response COASTAL-9**

The Draft EIR evaluates potential geologic hazards associated with sandy soils beneath the site on page 3.5-15. To mitigate potential risk from unstable soils and seismic events, the Mitigation Measures 3.5-2 and 3.5-4 require that a complete geotechnical assessment is conducted prior to completion of the final site designs in order to adequately apply CBC building specifications. The Draft EIR commits to implementing CBC standards in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1 and concludes on page 3.5-11 that compliance with the CBC would minimize geologic hazards to less than significant levels. Geotechnical investigations are currently underway as part of the project design phase. The results of the investigation will be incorporated into the information provided as part of the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application and is not necessary for the Draft EIR.

**Comment COASTAL-10**

The comment states construction and operation of the proposed project at the current WWTP location would impact the surrounding public access areas and recreational resources. The comment provides LCP policies and sections from the Coastal Act that the Draft EIR should consider and evaluate with respect to impacts on public access and recreation opportunities on the proposed site location.

**Response COASTAL-10**

The City disagrees that the proposed project constitutes construction of an entirely new treatment plan in a new location. The proposed project constitutes redevelopment of the treatment facilities at the existing location, and as such the project is consistent with the overlying land use plans including the LCP (see Draft EIR, page 3.8-11). The Draft EIR evaluates the project's potential

for conflicts with surrounding land uses during both construction and operational phases, including recreation in Section 3.8, aesthetics in Section 3.1, noise in Section 3.9, and traffic in Section 3.11. The Draft EIR concludes that the replacement of the existing facility with upgraded facilities would not adversely affect the surrounding land uses. See also response to **Comment COASTAL-2**.

As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would be constructed on lands that are designated as General (Light) Industrial in the City's General Plan, and the corresponding zoning designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). The project area is not designated as Visitor Serving Commercial. The City's General Plan and LCP intentionally locate industrial land uses directly adjacent to visitor serving uses and the beach. The proposed project would not reduce the availability of oceanfront land because the proposed properties are already used for industrial purposes. Future planning or policy decisions to change locations of industrial land use are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

The proposed project would have no adverse effects to recreational opportunities associated with the Morro Bay State Park and beach. The proposed project does not affect directly any existing recreational facilities and does not impact continued use of the beach or other visitor serving uses along the coast. The proposed project does not preclude the development of planned future recreational projects, including bike trails, walking paths, or the extension of the Embarcadero across Morro Creek.

#### **Comment COASTAL-11**

The comment states that construction and operation of the proposed project has the potential to obstruct and degrade important public views. The comment states the Draft EIR viewshed analysis is limited with only three vantage points provided in the visual simulations. The comment states the Draft EIR should include more detailed discussion of what WWTP elements would be visible from public streets and other public access points as well as a description of proposed lighting at the new WWTP for analysis of potential impacts to nighttime views.

#### **Response COASTAL-11**

The Draft EIR identifies scenic resources and roadway in the project vicinity, including Atascadero Road, Highway 1, and Morro Rock (Draft EIR, Figure 3.1-1). The Draft EIR provides three visual simulations of the proposed project in Figures 3.1-2, 3.1-3, and 3.1-4. These simulations show that the new facilities would be visible from surrounding areas due to the height of the residuals facilities, oxidation ditches, and administration building. The Draft EIR concludes that the facilities would not block designated scenic views or substantially alter the existing character of the site. The visual simulations and architectural renderings provided in the Draft EIR and preliminary and subject to change during the design phase of the project. More specific information about architectural features, materials, and color palettes will be included with materials submitted for the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application and is not necessary for the Draft EIR.

**Comment COASTAL-12**

The comment states the Draft EIR must further identify and evaluate the landscaping plans for the proposed project, including visual depictions from initial installation to maturity, in order to evaluate for the visual impacts from proposed landscaping.

**Response COASTAL-12**

Mitigation Measure 3.1-1 requires the exteriors of the new facilities to be coated with non-glare coatings to blend with the surrounding landscape. As part of the project, perimeter landscaping would be installed to soften views of the facilities. The Draft EIR concludes that the proposed new facilities including the elevated structures would not substantially alter the character of the existing condition and would not result in a significant impact to local vistas or character. In response to this comment and **Comment IRONS-5**, the following revision is made the project description to include a landscape plan for the project site:

Draft EIR, page 2-5:

In addition, two new paved access roads would be installed from Atascadero Road, one to provide access to the WWTP for staff, maintenance vehicles, and deliveries, and one to provide separate public access to the Operations Building. New security fencing and landscaping would be installed around the perimeter of the project area. During project design, a landscape plan would be developed for the project site and approved by the City. The configuration of facilities shown in Figure 2-2 is preliminary and subject to change during the design engineering process for the proposed project.

As indicated above, specific landscape plans, designs, plant palettes, and plant species will be developed during the design phase of the project and will be included with materials submitted for the CDP application. Specific landscape information is not required for the Draft EIR.

**Comment COASTAL-13**

The comment states the Draft EIR must provide a greater alternative analysis to evaluate whether other potential alternatives sites share the same constraints on visual resources as the proposed project. The comment states the Draft EIR needs to describe and explain the visual costs and benefits for various alternative sites and designs.

**Response COASTAL-13**

The alternatives analysis in Chapter 6 evaluates an off-site location on page 6-7. The analysis concludes that placing a new treatment plant in a location not previously developed with industrial uses could result in a significant impact to local character and viewsheds by introducing a negative aesthetic element into the visual landscape. Introducing industrial facilities into an area that is characterized by undeveloped or open space lands would have adverse aesthetic impacts relative to the proposed project particularly if the site is visible from a scenic highway. This could be the case in any new location not already developed with industrial uses. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

**Comment COASTAL-14**

The comment states the Draft EIR should provide information necessary to evaluate alternative sites for consistency with the LCP and applicable policies of the Coastal Act with respect to archaeological resources. The comment states the LCP requires that significant archaeological and historic resources be preserved to the greatest extent possible and requires all available measures in order to avoid development on these significant sites.

**Response COASTAL-14**

The Draft EIR evaluates potential impacts to Native American resources in Chapter 3.4. Mitigation Measures 3.4-1a and 3.4-1b would ensure that any resources potentially present on site would be avoided or otherwise treated appropriately in coordination with Native American representatives and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The project would be constructed on property currently fully developed for industrial uses. As evidenced by Letter 11 from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC), the City is currently working with the NCTC to ensure protection of Native American resources. The Draft EIR concludes that with implementation of the mitigation measures, impacts to Native American resources would be less than significant. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

**Comment COASTAL-15**

The comment states wastewater flow rates estimated for projected build-out of the City and surrounding areas is significantly higher than the 1.5 mgd PSDWF that the upgraded WWTP would treat. The comment states the LCP requires the City to ensure wastewater treatment capacity that will accommodate the build-out population, the Cayucos portion of the service district, as well as commercial and industrial needs of the area. The comment states the proposed WWTP would be unable to treat the average flow at build-out projected by either the Estero Area Plan or the City's LCP.

**Response COASTAL-15**

The calculations of flow and loadings for the proposed project are described in Appendix A to the FMP Amendment No. 2. The project design flow is not based on ultimate community build-out conditions. The project design flow is based on the life of these specific upgraded facilities, which is estimated to be 2030, and the projected population growth within the service area that would occur during this time period. Typically, size and capacity at wastewater treatment plants are upgraded incrementally, often in 20 year increments, to meet demand for projected growth. For the proposed project, flow projections are based on a population of 12,500 for the City of Morro Bay and a population of 5,730 for the community of Cayucos (FMP Amendment No. 2, Appendix A, Table B). According to the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), the City's population will reach between 11,910 and 12,610 in the year 2030 (Draft EIR, page 5-3). In addition, the City's population is constrained by Measure F, which limits the City's population to 12,200, with any increases subject to vote (Draft EIR, page 5-2). As such, a WWTP design capacity based on a City population of 12,500 is appropriate. According to the Estero Area Plan (2009, page 2-14), full build-out would be achieved in the community of Cayucos by the

year 2022, with a population of 4,765. Nonetheless, the proposed project assumes a population of 5,730 in Cayucos by the year 2030 as a conservative estimate.

As described in Appendix A to the FMP Amendment No. 2, the flow rates for the MBCSD build-out population are based on a 15-year historical record of flows, 1995 through 2009 (MWH, 2010). The flow analysis resulted in the following flow parameters, which form the basis for the current design of the proposed project facilities (MWH, 2010):

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Annual Average Daily Flow:            | 1.5 mgd |
| Average Peak Season Dry Weather Flow: | 1.5 mgd |
| Average Day Maximum Month Flow:       | 2.9 mgd |
| Peak Hour Flow:                       | 8.0 mgd |

These design flows differ from those previously estimated in the Estero Area Plan and the City's LCP due to subsequent revisions in population projections within the WWTP service area and revisions to the wastewater generation rate, which has decreased substantially in recent years due to conservation efforts. The information provided in the City's 1988 General Plan will be revised when the next General Plan Update is completed.

In response to the comment the following revisions have been made to the text of the Draft EIR:

Draft EIR, page 2-17:

... In the year 2030, the ~~The~~ proposed project would generate between 2,800 and 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) per year ~~at build-out~~. Dewatered sludge would be hauled offsite for composting or otherwise processed and disposed in accordance with federal and state regulations...

...Between 2004 and 2007, annual truck trips required to haul biosolids offsite ranged from three to eight. Assuming truck capacity is 10 metric tons, under the proposed project in the year 2030 ~~at build-out~~, up to 10 truck trips per week would be anticipated for hauling sludge from the WWTP under average conditions and up to 16 truck trips per week would be anticipated for hauling sludge from the WWTP during PSDW conditions (July – August).

Draft EIR, page 2-18:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in energy consumption at the WWTP. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kilowatt hours (kWH) per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWH per year. In the year 2030, At

~~build-out~~, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year.

Draft EIR, page 3-10-3:

... Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kilowatt hours (kWh) per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWh per year. In the year 2030, ~~At build-out~~, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year...

Draft EIR, page 3-10-8:

Between 2004 and 2007, the WWTP produced between approximately 165 and 226 dry metric tons of USEPA Class B biosolids (80 percent solids). Operation of the new treatment facilities would generate approximately 2,800 to 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) of unclassified sludge per year ~~at build-out~~. With the discontinuation of the onsite composting program, 100 percent of sludge produced at the new facility would be hauled offsite for composting or disposal otherwise in accordance with 40 CFR Part 503.

Draft EIR, page 3-10-10:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in energy consumption at the WWTP. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kWh per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWh per year. In the year 2030, ~~At build-out~~, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year.

Draft EIR, page 4-9:

All sludge produced at the new WWTP would be mechanically dewatered to 15 to 18 percent solids rather than solar dried to 80 percent solids. As a result the volume of sludge produced at the new WWTP would be greater than the existing WWTP. The proposed project would generate between 2,800 and 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) of sludge per year ~~at build-out~~. Up to 18 truck trips per week would be required for offsite disposal of all screenings, grit and sludge produced at the new WWTP.

**Comment COASTAL-16**

The comment states the Draft EIR should clearly explain how the upgraded WWTP would accommodate the projected demand for wastewater over the life of the project in relation to expected and allowed LCP build-out. The comment states the Draft EIR should include any

modified siting and design measures necessary to appropriately account for wastewater needs consistent with LCP build-out numbers.

**Response COASTAL-16**

The proposed project is designed to accommodate projected wastewater flows in dry and wet weather for planned population growth over the design horizon. See response to **Comment COASTAL-15**.

**Comment COASTAL-17**

The comment states the Draft EIR discusses only one way to transport disinfected secondary-23 recycled water for limited use off-site through the proposed truck filling station. The comment states no additional infrastructure is proposed and the project does not include any planning for future infrastructure that could be used to transport the water.

**Response COASTAL-17**

The proposed project include a truck filling station to accommodate the beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale, as needed based on municipal demand and as permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment COASTAL-18**

The comment states the Draft EIR alternatives analysis should include discussion of the use of reclaimed water and the benefits of eliminating the ocean outfall component of wastewater treatment, including measures necessary to eliminate the outfall if other uses for the reclaimed water make it obsolete.

**Response COASTAL-18**

The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. However, the proposed project does not preclude future development of a recycled water system and in fact supports such a project by providing Title 22 recycled water. In the future, the community may develop recycled water demands that will offset the demand for imported potable water and greatly reduce the volume of effluent discharged through the outfall. However, at this time, to obtain water quality objectives, the proposed project is planned to upgrade treatment capabilities. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment COASTAL-19**

The comment states the Draft EIR must provide details about the quantity of water that would be reclaimed, the timeline for when reclaimed water will be available, and the constraints associated with transporting the water off-site using trucks and the filling station. The comment states the Draft EIR must also discuss the impacts of using trucks to transport the 0.4 mgd of disinfected tertiary recycled water that would eventually be produced (e.g., impacts to air quality, GHG

emissions, public access) as well as identify the appropriate measures for potential impacts (e.g., the potential for reclaimed water infrastructure).

### **Response COASTAL-19**

The discharge of tertiary filtered water through the ocean outfall would have no adverse effects to ocean water quality or aquatic resources, as described in the Draft EIR in Chapter 3.3. The proposed project includes a truck filling station to accommodate the beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale, as needed based on municipal demand and as permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed project only provides for distribution of recycled water using water trucks. The proposed project evaluates the operational impact of up to 10 water truck trips per week. Assuming one water truck carries 10,000 gallons, the recycled water usage would be up to 100,000 gallons per week, or 0.1 mgd. The allowable end uses for Title 22 recycled water are listed in Table 1-1 in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR assumes there would be no impact associated with beneficial uses listed in Table 1-1 given the small scale of reuse associated with the proposed project. If in the future, recycled water demand is such that more than 10 water truck trips would be desirable, the City would be required under CEQA to conduct additional environmental evaluation of the impacts from such operations.

The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. In the future, the local community may evaluate recycled water demands and implement a recycled water program that includes a distribution system. If the community decides to implement a recycled water program, then additional planning and CEQA analysis will be required. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### **Comment COASTAL-20**

The comment states the Draft EIR's discussion of project alternatives must provide more details on significant opportunities to provide reclaimed water as required by the LCP. The comment states project alternatives should provide details on increased quantities of reclaimed water, including the potential to reclaim 100% of the wastewater produced, timelines for the availability of reclaimed water, and information about the infrastructure to accommodate a reuse program.

### **Response COASTAL-20**

The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. Impacts associated with regional distribution and use of recycled water are not within the scope of this project and Draft EIR. If the community decides to implement a recycled water program, then additional planning and CEQA analysis will be required. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### **Comment COASTAL-21**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not clearly discuss if changes would be made to the existing storm water conveyance system given that the existing beach storm water outfall requires regular maintenance. The comment states the Draft EIR does not currently include adequate

information regarding the manner in which storm water would be addressed and the management of treating stormwater, whether through on-site infiltration or in the treatment plant itself. The Draft EIR must provide information about the impacts of the project on runoff quantity, quality and velocity, and what impacts would be caused if the proposed vacant northern portion of the project site is paved.

### **Response COASTAL-21**

The Draft EIR evaluates potential impacts to drainage and storm water quality in Section 3.7. The project is subject to conditions associated with compliance with the NPDES Phase II Municipal Storm Water Permit, the City's Storm Water Management Program, and the Statewide NPDES General Industrial Permit for storm water runoff. Mitigation Measure 3.7-3 requires the City to comply with the Statewide General Industrial Storm Water NPDES permit. In addition, in response to **Comment CRWQCB-4**, Mitigation Measure 3.7-3 has been modified as follows:

Draft EIR, page 3.7-18:

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-3:** MBCSD shall file a Notice of Intent to comply with the NPDES General Industrial Permit requirements upon completion of the proposed project. MBCSD also shall prepare a SWPPP and monitoring plan, as required by the General Industrial Permit, that identify sources of pollutants and the measures to be implemented to manage the sources and reduce storm water pollution and storm water runoff volume. The SWPPP shall include relevant BMPs from the City of Morro Bay's SWMP or LID practices in compliance with the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. MBCSD shall demonstrate that the BMPs or LID practices meet the hydromodification criteria for redevelopment projects as defined in the City's SWMP and required by the CCRWQCB.

In accordance with all above-mentioned regulations, the project would be required to implement best available technology (BAT) and best pollutant control technology (BCT) to control the quality of storm water runoff from industrial land uses (Draft EIR, page 3.3-9). The project would be required to implement best management practices (BMPs) and/or low impact development practices (LIDs) in accordance with the City's SWMP and Municipal Storm Water Permit (see **Response CRWQCB-4**). Due to the size of the WWTP, a pretreatment program for storm water also may be required (Draft EIR, page 3.3-10). Rainfall landing within the treatment plant footprint will be collected and treated, if required, or otherwise conveyed offsite via the existing storm drain system. Storm water on the proposed vacant area will sheet flow off the site to the existing storm drain system. As part of the project, the vacant site would be graded to ensure adequate capacity in the existing storm drain system. Specific systems for storm water collection, treatment, and conveyance will be developed during the project design phase and will be included with materials submitted for the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application.

### **Comment COASTAL-22**

The comment states the Draft EIR relies on compliance with the SWPPP and other water quality requirements to ensure that any impacts to water quality would be mitigated, but the Draft EIR should provide sufficient details to ensure compliance, including descriptions of all proposed measures and BMPs to be implemented during construction and operation of the plant.

**Response COASTAL-22**

Specific storm water quality best management practices will be developed by the construction contractor to ensure that water quality is adequately protected from specific construction methods and equipment implemented by the contractor. Mitigation measure 3.7-1 requires that the SWPPP prepared by the contractor include erosion and sedimentation control measures, waste management measures, and spill prevention measures. The SWPPP control measures would be consistent with the City's SWMP. The EIR concludes that compliance with the City's SWMP and storm water NPDES requirements will adequately protect runoff water quality.

**Letter 4, San Luis Obispo County Dept of Planning & Building****Comment SLOCDPB-1**

The comment states that the SLO County Department of Planning and Building has no permit jurisdiction over the proposed project. If any project alternatives, such as Alternative 3, were to be chosen and located within the County jurisdiction, then the project would require a Coastal Development Permit from the Department of Planning and Building.

**Response SLOCDPB-1**

The comment is noted.

**Comment SLOCDPB-2**

The comment states there are recommended, non-mandatory Programs in the Estero Area Plan, which is part of the County General Plan, that pertain to sustainability and conservation of renewable resources and pertain to the proposed project. The comment states the proposed project has not analyzed the potential to "utilize" the treated water for beneficial uses. The comment states that the ocean outfall is the primary method of disposal with an option for future reclaimed water facilities. The comment identifies three specific Programs in the Estero Area Plan that are applicable to the proposed project; these Programs encourage reuse of recycled water, particularly for agricultural irrigation, groundwater recharge, and environmental enhancement.

**Response SLOCDPB-2**

The Estero Area Plan has jurisdiction over the community of Cayucos but not the City of Morro Bay. As the comment states, the noted Programs are recommended and non-mandatory. The proposed project include a truck filling station to accommodate the beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale, as needed based on municipal demand and as would be permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The recycled water would be used for beneficial uses as listed in Table 1-1 in the Draft EIR in accordance with Title 22, which regulates the allowable applications for purposes of protecting public health. Given the scale of the proposed project, the Draft EIR concludes that there would be no adverse environmental impacts associated with the use of recycled water. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment SLOCDPB-3**

The comment states the Draft EIR should identify potential beneficial uses for the treated effluent including additional infrastructure and processes as a part of the proposed project.

**Response SLOCDPB-3**

The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment SLOCDPB-4**

The comment states the proposed project does not appear to have the capacity to serve the projected build-out populations of the City of Morro Bay and community of Cayucos as identified in the Estero Area Plan. The comment requests an explanation that the plant is appropriately sized to serve the build-out of both communities.

**Response SLOCDPB-4**

Please refer to Response **COASTAL-15**.

**Comment SLOCDPB-5**

The comment states that the Draft EIR must comply with Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines. The comment states that there are significant effects of the project that could be lessened by considering alternative treatment plant sites. The comment states these potentially significant effects include: (1) water quality issues associated with the WWTP ocean discharge, (2) potential effects of the WWTP ocean discharge on marine organisms, (3) offsite flooding impacts associated with a new WWTP footprint; (4) hazardous materials use and safety near sensitive receptors; and (5) aesthetic impacts to the site and surrounding public areas.

**Response SLOCDPB-5**

Chapter 6 of the Draft EIR provides an Alternatives Analysis that includes a range of feasible project alternatives, in accordance with Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for more information.

As quoted in Comment SLOCDPB-5, CEQA requires consideration of alternatives that would “substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.” The potentially significant effects identified in Comment SLOCDPB-5 have been demonstrated to be less than significant in the Draft EIR as described below. CEQA does not require identification of alternatives for effects that have a less than significant impact.

(1) The proposed project would improve the quality of the effluent to be produced at the proposed treatment facilities. The recycled water would be discharged through the ocean outfall or utilized for beneficial uses in accordance with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Ocean discharge would not adversely affect ocean water quality (Draft EIR, page 3.7-17).

(2) Given that the proposed project would improve the quality of effluent discharged through the ocean outfall, there would be no adverse effects to marine organisms, in particular the California sea otter (Draft EIR, page 3.3-9).

(3) The proposed project would build treatment facilities at a higher elevation, to remove the facilities from the 100-year flood hazard area and raise them to the level of one foot above the 100-year flood elevation in accordance with the City's floodplain management ordinance (Draft EIR, page 3.7-19). By doing so, the proposed project would not increase the existing flood elevations on neighboring properties (Wallace Group, 2009; Draft EIR Appendix D).

(4) The proposed project would eliminate the need for one of the three chemicals currently used at the WWTP, ferrous chloride. Operation of the proposed treatment facilities would require continued use of the other two chemicals, sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite, but at a similar rate and volume as under existing operational conditions. There would be no increase in the use of hazardous materials near sensitive receptors during operation of the WWTP (Draft EIR, page 3.6-11). The proposed polymer is not considered to be a hazardous material.

(5) The proposed project would construct replacement treatment facilities on a site that currently is used for industrial purposes and zoned for industrial land uses. Architectural treatments that are in keeping with the character of the surrounding area would be applied to new facilities in compliance with the City's zoning code (17.48.200). The proposed project would not substantially alter the visual character of the project site or surrounding sites (Draft EIR, page 3.1-10).

## Letter 5, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District

### Comment APCD-1

The comment states that the Draft EIR lacks information to adequately be reviewed by the APCD, and requests that their following comments be addressed.

### Response APCD-1

Updated information has been prepared and provided to the SLOAPCD as addressed below.

### Comment APCD-2

The comment states that the formatting of the Air Quality section needs to be modified in order to include mitigation measures associated with construction of the proposed project in one group.

### Response APCD-2

The commenter does not raise any issues about the content of the mitigation measures, therefore no changes are required. The format of the document provides all discussion related to one impact, such as Impact 3.2-1, prior to presentation of the related mitigation measures. Impact 3.2-1 pertains to both project construction and project operation, the discussion of which is provided prior to presentation of Mitigation Measures 3.2-1a, 3.2-1b, and 3.2-1c. For information related to

revisions made to mitigation measures see **Responses APCD-4, APCD-6, APCD-8, APCD-11, APCD-12 and APCD-16.**

**Comment APCD-3**

The comment states that the construction phase emissions that were evaluated for the proposed project exceed the APCD's quarterly construction ROG + NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 0.1 tons. In addition, the comment states that the construction phase emissions calculations in Table 3.2-7 underestimates the actual air quality impact of the proposed project because it failed to evaluate several construction phase activities. APCD request to provide them with updated construction phase calculations and/or table and to re-evaluate the significance thresholds set out by the APCD

**Response APCD-3**

The Draft EIR acknowledges that unmitigated construction emissions could exceed significance thresholds in Table 3.2-7 on page 3.2-21. The Draft EIR further concludes that with implementation of control measures developed within a Construction Activity Management Plan (CAMP) emissions would be reduced to less than significant levels. Haul trips as well as employee trips were included in previous calculations. Trip details can be found in the revised Air Quality Appendix B, which is included in this Final EIR. The revised Appendix B includes additional detail about model assumptions, including construction phases and equipment, and provides additional equations showing calculations of quarterly emissions from annual emissions. There has been no change in the calculation of construction emissions. No revisions are required for Table 3.2-7 in the Draft EIR.

**Comment APCD-4**

The comment states that if the construction phase emissions exceed the APCD's thresholds, the applicant must complete Standard Mitigation Measures and Best Available Control Technology for construction equipment. The comment further states that if construction phase emissions still exceed Tier 1 thresholds, then the applicant must consider off-site mitigation or the preparation of a Construction Activity Management Plan (CAMP) that will allow for more refined project emissions to be determined. The comment lists potential construction phase mitigation measures and suggests that MBCSD should initiate contact with the APCD to develop the CAMP at least six months prior to issuance of final city permit for the project.

**Response APCD-4**

The Draft EIR acknowledges that unmitigated construction emissions could exceed significance thresholds in Table 3.2-7 on page 3.2-21. The Draft EIR further concludes that with implementation of control measures, such as Standard Mitigation Measures and BACT, emissions would be reduced to less than significant levels. These control measures would be identified in the CAMP to demonstrate effective mitigation of construction emissions in accordance with SLOCAPCD standards and thresholds. Mitigation Measure 3.2-1a requires that the CAMP be submitted to and approved by SLOCAPCD prior to initiation of construction. Mitigation Measure 3.2-1a includes most of the SLOCAPCD's recommended potential construction phase mitigation measures, as listed in the comment. If necessary, offsite mitigation measures would be

implemented if required by SLOCAPCD, which would be determined during the process of preparation and approval of the CAMP.

#### **Comment APCD-5**

The comment states that the Greenhouse Gases Significance Criteria on Page 3-2.19 is out of date and that the OPR has finalized the guidelines pursuant to SB97.

#### **Response APCD-5**

The Draft EIR includes relevant background information regarding OPR guidelines. In response to the comment, the Draft EIR text page 3.2-19 has been revised as follows:

##### Draft EIR, page 3.2-19:

~~At this time, few, if any, local governments statewide have adopted anything beyond a case-by-case significance criterion for evaluating a project's contribution to climate change. The OPR has asked the CARB to "recommend a method for setting thresholds of significance to encourage consistency and uniformity in the CEQA analysis of GHG emissions" throughout the state because OPR has recognized that "the global nature of climate change warrants investigation of a statewide threshold for GHG emissions" (OPR, 2008). CARB began the public process of addressing significance thresholds in October 2008, but many decisions need to be made to have final criteria (CARB, 2008b).~~

~~The informal guidelines in OPR's technical advisory and CARB's proposed thresholds provide a general basis for determining a proposed project's contribution of GHG emissions and the project's contribution to global climate change. In the absence of adopted statewide thresholds, OPR recommends the following approach for analyzing GHG emissions:~~

- ~~1) Identify and quantify the project's GHG emissions;~~
- ~~2) Assess the significance of the impact on climate change; and~~
- ~~3) If the impact is found to be significant, identify alternatives and/ or mitigation measures that would reduce the impact to less than significant levels.~~

~~OPR's technical advisory states that "the most common GHG that results from human activity is carbon dioxide, followed by methane and nitrous oxide." State law defines GHGs to also include HFCs, PFCs and SFG. These latter GHG compounds are usually emitted in industrial processes, and therefore not applicable to the proposed project; however, the GHG calculation should include emissions from CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and CH<sub>4</sub>, as recommended by OPR. The informal guidelines also advise that lead agencies should calculate, or estimate, emissions from vehicular traffic, energy consumption, water usage and construction activities.~~

~~As discussed above, at this time there are no statewide guidelines for greenhouse gas emission impacts, but this will be addressed through the provisions of Senate Bill 97 (SB~~

~~97). OPR has until July 1, 2009 to draft the new GHG guidelines, and the State Resources Agency will thereafter have until January 1, 2010 to certify and adopt the regulations. In the interim, local agencies must analyze the impact of GHGs. As discussed above, at this time there are no statewide guidelines for greenhouse gas emission impacts, but this will be addressed through the provisions of Senate Bill 97 (SB 97). OPR has until July 1, 2009 to draft the new GHG guidelines, and the State Resources Agency will thereafter have until January 1, 2010 to certify and adopt the regulations. In the interim, local agencies must analyze the impact of GHGs.~~ For this analysis, the project would be considered to have a significant impact if the project would be in conflict with the AB 32 State goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The assumption is that AB 32 will be successful in reducing GHG emissions and reducing the cumulative GHG emissions statewide by 2020. It is important that the state has taken these measures, because no project individually could have a major impact (either positively or negatively) on the global concentration of GHGs.

#### **Comment APCD-6**

The comment provides additional language that should be included at the end of Mitigation Measure 3.2-1b, and to provide APCD with the name and telephone number of the dust control program monitor prior to land use clearance for map recordation and finished grading of the area.

#### **Response APCD-6**

The Draft EIR text following the end of Mitigation Measure 3.2-1b in the Air Quality section page 3.2-24 has been revised to include provided additional language.

All PM<sub>10</sub> mitigation measures required should be shown on grading and building plans. In addition, the contractor or builder should designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to land use clearance for map recordation and finished grading of the area.

#### **Comment APCD-7**

The comment states that APCD was unable to determine how the numbers in Table 3.2-7 were calculated, and requests to be provided with a detailed explanation with any supporting documentation. The comment also requests that the construction phase emissions be shown as a quarterly figure instead of an annual figure.

#### **Response APCD-7**

The Draft EIR text on page 3.2-21 has been revised as provided below. A revised Air Quality Appendix B has been provided; it replaces the Appendix B originally provided in the Draft EIR. URBEMIS does not output data in quarters, only emissions in pounds per day or tons per year. Quarterly emissions are calculated by dividing annual emissions by four. Equations have been added to the Air Quality Appendix B. The following text has been modified in the Final EIR on page 3.2-21:

NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub> construction emissions were estimated based on URBEMIS default employee maximum crew trips, truck trip, and equipment URBEMIS default equipment plus additional equipment provided by applicant, and truck trips including demolition hauling truck trips based on 80,000 sf of building debris, 43,000 cy of import, and 6,200 cy of export (see Appendix B for details). Emissions are based on criteria pollutant emission factors from URBEMIS 2007. The results of this analysis are summarized in **Table 3.2-7**.

#### **Comment APCD-8**

The comment states that the demolition/removal of existing structures or utility lines may cause the project to be subject to various regulatory jurisdictions associated with asbestos containing material, including the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

#### **Response APCD-8**

Compliance with OSHA regulations pertaining to the removal of asbestos-containing building materials would adequately ensure that hazards from demolition are less than significant. However, in response to the comment, the Draft EIR has been revised on page 3.2-34 to include an asbestos-containing material mitigation measure.

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1d:** Prior to demolition activities, MBCSD shall retain a licensed asbestos inspector to determine the presence of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (ACM) within buildings to be re-used and/or demolished. If asbestos is discovered, the City would comply with asbestos abatement regulations to safely remove all ACM from the site.

#### **Comment APCD-9**

The comment states that the project site is located in an area that is candidate for Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA), as designated by the California Air Resources Board, and requests that a geologic evaluation be conducted to determine if NOA is located onsite. The comment lists the process the project proponent must take if NOA is/is not found onsite.

#### **Response APCD-9**

On page 3.2-4, the Draft EIR notes that the project site is located in an area of western San Luis Obispo County that is known to have occurrences of NOA. The Draft EIR text in the Air Quality section on page 3.2-24 includes Mitigation Measure 3.2-1c that mitigates impacts associated with NOA.

#### **Comment APCD-10**

The comment states that construction phase idling is a public health risk and that heavy-duty diesel idling emissions shall be minimized as much as possible. The comment lists several techniques to help reduce the emissions impact of diesel vehicles access the facility.

**Response APCD-10**

The comment is noted. In **Response APCD-4**, Mitigation Measure 3.2-1a has been modified to restrict diesel idling within 1,000 of sensitive receptors. Mitigation Measure 3.2-1a also provides all necessary idling restrictions, as the comment requests, in the Standard Mitigation Measures provided on page 3.2-23 of the Draft EIR. All on-road and off-road diesel equipment are limited to 5 minutes at any location at the project site and signs are required to be posted.

**Comment APCD-11**

The comment states that the APCD must be notified no later than 48 hours if hydrocarbon contaminated soil is encountered during construction activities in order to determine if an APCD permit would be required. The comment lists several measures that should be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered.

**Response APCD-11**

The Draft EIR evaluates the potential for encountering contaminated soils on page 3.6-2 of the Draft EIR. In response to this comment, a new mitigation measure has been added to the Draft EIR on page 3.2-24:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1e: Should hydrocarbon contaminated soil be encountered during construction activities, the SLOCAPCD shall be notified as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after affected material is discovered to determine if an SLOCAPCD Permit will be required. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered;**

- a. Covers on storage piles shall be maintained in place at all times in areas not actively involved in soil addition or removal;
- b. Contaminated soil shall be covered with at least six inches of packed uncontaminated soil or other TPH non-permeable barrier such as plastic tarp. No headspace shall be allowed where vapors could accumulate;
- c. Covered piles shall be designed in such a way to eliminate erosion due to wind or water. No openings in the covers are permitted;
- d. The air quality impacts from the excavation and haul trips associated with removing the contaminated soil shall be evaluated and mitigated if total emissions exceed the APCD's construction phase thresholds;
- e. During the soil excavation, odors shall not be evident to such a degree as to cause a public nuisance; and ,
- f. Clean soil shall be segregated from contaminated soil.

**Comment APCD-12**

The comment states that the APCD is unsure of the types of equipment that would be present during the project's construction phase. The comment states that permitting may be required for

portable equipment, and lists some equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements.

### Response APCD-12

The comment is noted. Types of equipment that may be present during construction can be found in the Project Description, or Appendix B. The City will comply with all applicable regulations regarding air emissions permitting. The Draft EIR text in the Air Quality section has been revised on page 3.2-24 to include permitting mitigation measure.

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1f:** Prior to the start of the project, MBCSD shall contact the SLOCAPCD for specific information regarding construction permitting requirements.

### Comment APCD-13

The comment requests clarification in the Draft EIR about the amount of truck trips and employee trips that will be utilized during the operational phase of the project, and requests to compare these total emissions with the APCD's significance thresholds.

### Response APCD-13

In response to the comment the following text and tables have been added to Chapter 2, Project Description, to clarify the increase in operational vehicle trips associated with the proposed project:

A summary of the relative increase in operational vehicle trips associated with the proposed project relative to operational trips associated with the existing WWTP is provided in **Table 2-1** below.

**TABLE 2-1  
OPERATIONAL VEHICLE TRIPS**

| <b>Operations Associated with Vehicle Trips</b> | <b>Existing WWTP</b> | <b>Proposed Project</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Offsite Biosolids Disposal (sludge)             | 8 per year           | 10 to 16 per week       |
| Offsite Grit/Screenings Disposal                | 1 per week           | 2 per week              |
| Public Pick-up of Compost at WWTP               | 200 per year         | ---                     |
| Employee Commuter Trips                         | 40 per week          | 30 per week             |
| Daily Operational Service Trips                 | 20 per week          | 20 per week             |
| Chemical Deliveries                             | 1 to 2 per week      | 1 to 2 per week         |
| Water Trucks/Truck Filling Station              | ---                  | 10 per week             |
| <b>TOTAL (maximum per week)</b>                 | <b>67 per week</b>   | <b>80 per week</b>      |

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

In addition, the Draft EIR text in the Air Quality section has been revised and includes a new Table 3.2-7B:

Draft EIR, page 3.2-22:

Operational emissions for the proposed project would be generated primarily from on-road vehicular traffic (see Table 2-1 in the Project Description). Offsite biosolids disposal (sludge) would increase from 8 trips per year to between 10 and 16 trips per week. Offsite grit/screenings disposal would increase 1 trip per week. The water truck filling station would increase 10 trips per week. Employee trips would decrease 10 trips per week. Daily operational service trips would stay the same. Chemical deliveries would increase once a month. Household hazardous waste trips would not change from existing conditions. Public pick-ups of compost at the WWTP would be discontinued (see Appendix B for more details). Table 3.2-7B shows the emissions increase from existing and compares it to SLOCAPCD standards. As seen in Table 3.2-7B operational emissions would not exceed SLOCAPCD thresholds and would therefore be less than significant. Minimal employee trips would be required for daily routine operations and inspection/maintenance; these trips are not anticipated to change from current operations. There would be an increase of up to 19 truck trips per week to and from the project site to dispose of additional sludge, screenings and grit, and to deliver the polymer. In addition, if future improvements are made to produce disinfected tertiary recycled water, then two to ten water trucks per week would fill up with recycled water at the utility water station. Overall, depending on the day and time of year, the proposed project would add no more than 30 truck trips per week, or no more than six trucks per day on average (assuming weekdays only) to local and regional roadways.

~~Given the number of operational vehicle trips and the existing low concentrations of CO in the area, the proposed project operations would not result in or contribute to CO concentrations that exceed the California 1 hour or 8 hour ambient air quality standards. Thus, mobile source emissions of CO would not be anticipated to result in or contribute substantially to an air quality violation.~~

~~San Luis Obispo County is currently in attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and data from the closest monitoring station in the City of San Luis Obispo suggest that concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> have not exceeded national or state standards in recent years (Table 3.2-1). An additional six truck trips per day due to operation of the proposed WWTP would not be expected to contribute to an air quality violation for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. San Luis Obispo County is currently in nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>; however data from the closest monitoring station in the City of Morro Bay suggest that concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> only exceeded state standards once between 2005 and 2007 (Table 3.2-1). An additional six truck trips per day would not be expected to contribute to an air quality violation for PM<sub>10</sub>. The proposed project would be compatible with SLOCAPCD air quality goals and policies.~~

Similarly, the project would result in no more than 16 additional truck trips per week to the San Joaquin Composting facility located in Kern County. This number of weekly trips would not contribute a significant amount of pollutants to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. As shown in Table 3.2-7C below, even assuming all emissions from these truck

trips occurred in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, operational emissions would not exceed the thresholds of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).

**TABLE 3.2-7B  
OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (VEHICLES)  
(pounds per day)<sup>a</sup>**

| Project Data                            | ROG + NOx | CO  | PM10 | PM2.5 | CO <sub>2</sub> |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----|------|-------|-----------------|
| Existing Emissions                      | 0.2       | 1.3 | 0.0  | 0.0   | 142             |
| Project Emissions                       | 1.0       | 6.6 | 0.1  | 0.1   | 385             |
| Difference between Project and Existing | 0.8       | 5.3 | 0.1  | 0.1   | 243             |
| SLOCAPCD Thresholds                     | 25        | 550 | 25   | NA    | NA              |
| Significant Unmitigated (Yes or No)?    | No        | No  | No   | No    | No              |

<sup>a</sup> See Appendix B Vehicle Emissions Spreadsheets for more Input details.  
NA = Not Available

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

**TABLE 3.2-7C  
OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (VEHICLES)  
(tons per year)<sup>a</sup>**

| Project Data                            | ROG | NOx | CO | PM10 | PM2.5 | CO <sub>2</sub> |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|------|-------|-----------------|
| Existing Emissions                      | <1  | 1   | <1 | <1   | <1    | 64              |
| Project Emissions                       | <1  | <1  | <1 | <1   | <1    | 24              |
| Difference between Project and Existing | <1  | 1   | <1 | <1   | <1    | 40              |
| SJVAPCD Thresholds                      | 10  | 10  | NA | 15   | NA    | NA              |
| Significant Unmitigated (Yes or No)?    | No  | No  | No | No   | No    | No              |

<sup>a</sup> See Appendix B Vehicle Emissions Spreadsheets for more Input details.  
NA = Not Available

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

Draft EIR, page 3.2-26:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in truck trips associated with hauling of dewatered sludge, screenings and grit, delivery of polymer, and delivery of recycled water (see Table 2-1). ~~Up to 30 additional truck trips per week (or six per day) would result due to WWTP operation...~~

Draft EIR, page 3.11-6:

Operation of the proposed project would affect operational vehicle trips as shown in Table 2-1 in the project description. Offsite sludge disposal would increase truck trips from 8 trips per year to between 10 and 16 trips per week. Offsite grit/screenings disposal

would increase 1 trip per week. The water truck filling station would increase 10 trips per week. Employee commuter trips would decrease 10 trips per week. Daily operational service trips would stay the same. Chemical deliveries would increase once a month. Household hazardous waste trips would not change from existing conditions. Public pickups of compost at the WWTP would be discontinued. ~~The proposed project would result in an increase of up to 18 truck trips per week to dispose of screenings, grit and sludge and one truck trip per month to deliver polymer to the WWTP. The proposed project would result in an increase in the production of sludge and additional truck trips are attributed to the larger volume of sludge to haul away. Dewatered solids would be approximately 15 to 18 percent solids versus 80 percent solids. In addition, the proposed project assumes two to ten water trucks per week would fill up with recycled water at the utility water station.~~ Overall, the impact to traffic and roadway capacity would affect primarily Atascadero Road, SR-1 and SR-41. Atascadero Road has an ADT of 8,800. SR-1 and SR-41 have ADTs of 24,000 and 8,400 and LOS of A-B and C, respectively. ~~Overall, depending on the day and time of year, the proposed project would add no more than 30 truck trips per week, or no more than 6 trucks per day on average (assuming weekdays only), to these roadways, which would be a minimal increase~~ Overall, impacts to these roadways due to project operation would be minimal relative to existing ADTs. This minimal increase would not cause any long-term traffic effects or affect LOS on local or regional roadways. ~~Once completed, the upgraded facility would not employ additional workers and would not need to expand its current parking facilities. Further, maintenance activities to service the project would be similar to those that occur under existing conditions.~~ Therefore, the potential significant impacts to traffic would be limited to the period of time needed to construct the project. Mitigation measures for traffic-related impacts identified in this EIR focus on reducing the short-term construction effects.

It should be noted that the greenhouse gas estimates have been modified due to these changes, (see revised Appendix B). The greenhouse gas impacts would remain less than significant. Please refer to **Response APCD-14**.

#### **Comment APCD-14**

The comment states that on page 3.2-28 under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Section, the total of metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e should be 416; however, this number should be modified to include any on-road hauling trips related to demolition. The comment requests a discussion of how the proposed project would address the methane released from the oxidation ditches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to include these emissions in the total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions.

#### **Response APCD-14**

The greenhouse gas calculations have been modified. The updated calculations are shown in the revised Air Quality Appendix B. The Draft EIR text in the greenhouse gas emissions section page 3.2-28 has been modified as follows:

With regard to Item B, project construction GHG emissions would be approximately 888 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Construction emissions amortized over 25 years according to the SLOCAPCD would be approximately 36 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The proposed project would require an incremental increase in electricity use of 1.0 million kWh per year. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kWh per year, and at build-out, operation of the upgraded WWTP would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year. Project operation would generate approximately 366 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e due to indirect emissions from the incremental increase in use of electricity. In addition, project operation would generate ~~up to 30 additional truck trips per week, or up to six truck trips per day,~~ up to 30 additional truck trips per week, associated with hauling of sludge, screenings, and grit, delivery of chemicals, and delivery of recycled water (see Table 2-1 in the Project Description). Approximately ~~44~~ 64 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e would be generated due to on-road vehicle exhaust. Combined with amortized construction-related GHG emissions as recommended by SLOCAPCD, project operation would generate approximately ~~415~~ 466 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The project would not be classified as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Operational emissions would be about 1.7 9percent of the lower reporting limit, which is 25,000 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

When compared to the overall State reduction goal of approximately 169 million metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e, the maximum GHG emissions for the project (401 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e or 0.0000253 percent of the State goal) would be quite small and should not conflict with the State's ability to meet the AB 32 goals.

With regard to Item C, the project would upgrade treatment facilities at the WWTP to produce full-secondary treated effluent with tertiary filtration. The requirement of the SWRCB to upgrade the WWTP to full-secondary treatment results in an increase in energy usage to provide the additional level of treatment. There would be an incremental increase in electricity use at the new WWTP, from 0.9 million (kWh) per year to up to approximately 1.9 million kWh per year at build-out. As described above, project operation would produce approximately 366 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with the generation of additional electricity required to power the project at build-out, plus ~~44~~ 64 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with operational truck trips. The proposed project would produce tertiary filtered effluent that meets Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water, which could be used for end uses such as municipal and agricultural irrigation (see Table 1-1 in Chapter 1). In general, the use of recycled water instead of potable water uses less energy in the long term, relative to alternative water sources such as imported water and desalinated water.

According to project engineers, the Oxidation Ditch is an aerobic process that does not produce methane. Methane is generally a byproduct of anaerobic conditions. Solids handling will be dewatering waste activated sludge directly from the Oxidation Ditches and Secondary Clarifiers, there would be no intermediate storage or detention time to create anaerobic conditions that could generate methane.

**Comment APCD-15**

The comment states that MBCSD will be required to secure a new Permit to Operate for the proposed emergency diesel generator that is located at the new WWTP, and that APCD is unsure of any additional types of equipment that may be present at the site. The comment lists several equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements.

**Response APCD-15**

Types of equipment that may be present during construction can be found in the Project Description, or Appendix B. The City would comply with all applicable air emissions permitting regulations. On page 3.2-22 of the Draft EIR, it is noted that a new Permit to Operate would be required for the proposed new emergency diesel generator. No additional new facilities that would require air emissions permits are expected. MBCSD will consult with SLOCAPCD regarding operational equipment that may need permitting:

**Comment APCD-16**

The comment states that APCD will require an update of the existing Odor Impact Minimization Plan for any new permitted work that shall be submitted to SLO County APCD for review and approval.

**Response APCD-16**

In response to the comment, Mitigation Measure 3.2-2 in the Draft EIR on page 3.2-27 has been modified to include the following:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-2:** MBCSD shall revise the Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) for the WWTP in accordance with Title 14 CCR Section 17863.4, to include the proposed new facilities. MBCSD shall identify new sources of objectionable odors and develop and implement new procedures to minimize odors. MBCSD shall comply with all requirements of the revised OIMP. Once the updated OIMP is completed it shall be submitted to the SLOCAPCD for review.

## Letter 6, Morro Bay National Estuary Program

**Comment MBNEP-1**

The comment states the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) supports Morro Bay and Cayucos in their efforts to upgrade wastewater treatment and improve the water quality of effluent released into the ocean through the full secondary treatment of all effluent discharged through the ocean outfall and tertiary filtration capacity equivalent to the peak season dry weather flow. The comment supports the use of disinfected secondary-23 recycled water as a way to address freshwater constraints and conserve freshwater as much as possible. The comment also states that Alternative 3 (Chorro Valley location) adequately demonstrates that this alternative is not environmentally superior due to impacts on aesthetics, air quality, odor, land use and noise.

**Response MBNEP-1**

The comment supports the proposed project and analysis presented in the Draft EIR. The comment is noted.

## Letter 7, Sierra Club

**Comment SIERRA-1**

The comment states that fundamental problems with the environmental analysis lie within the project description alternatives and that the DEIR does not evaluate that the proposed project constitutes new coastal development. The comment further states that citations from Coastal Land Use Policies and the General Plan are frequently irrelevant and do not apply to the project.

**Response SIERRA-1**

The proposed project would rebuild the WWTP at its current location at 160 Atascadero Road in Morro Bay. The City of Morro Bay considers the proposed project to be redevelopment rather than new development. The policies contained within the City's adopted General Plan and Local Coastal Plan that are relevant to the treatment plant and its location have been applied accordingly.

**Comment SIERRA-2**

The comment states that the alternatives analysis does not evaluate a separate facility as a project alternative and does not follow the CEQA requirements regarding another location that is capable of avoiding environmental impacts.

**Response SIERRA-2**

The Draft EIR presents an alternative treatment plant location in Chapter 6, Alternatives Analysis. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for additional discussion.

**Comment SIERRA-3**

The comment states that the DEIR fails to include analysis of water reclamation including potential beneficial uses for recycled water and additional infrastructure needed to utilize the recycled water. The comment states that the general deficiencies mentioned result in numerous inconsistencies with CEQA, Morro Bay's Local Coastal Plan, and the California Coastal Act.

**Response SIERRA-3**

The proposed project include a truck filling station to accommodate the beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale, as needed based on municipal demand and as would be permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The recycled water would be used for beneficial uses as listed in Table 1-1 in the Draft EIR in accordance with Title 22, which regulates the allowable applications for purposes of protecting public health. Given the scale of the proposed project, the Draft EIR concludes that there would

be no adverse environmental impacts associated with the use of recycled water. The proposed project does not include a recycled water distribution system. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Use of Recycled Water.

The City has prepared the Draft EIR for the proposed project in accordance with CEQA and has determined that the proposed project would be consistent with the City's Local Coastal Plan, which has been approved by the California Coastal Commission in compliance with the California Coastal Act.

**Comment SIERRA-4**

The comment states that the JPA failed to engage in early consultation with Coastal Commission Staff, and as a result delays are unavoidable. The comment states that the DEIR must correct its deficiencies and be recirculated before it is certified.

**Response SIERRA-4**

The comment has been noted. The City has prepared the Draft EIR for the proposed project in accordance with CEQA and has determined that the proposed project would be consistent with the City's Local Coastal Plan, which has been approved by the California Coastal Commission in compliance with the California Coastal Act. The City has determined that there is no new information that would require recirculation of the Draft EIR prior to certification.

## Letter 8, Natural Resource Defense Council

**Comment NRDC-1**

The comment commends the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos for upgrading the treatment plant to tertiary filtration.

**Response NRDC-1**

The comment is noted.

**Comment NRDC-2**

The comment states the Draft EIR fails to analyze the impacts from climate change on the treatment plant, most notably sea level rise. The comment states that flood protection and reduction recommendations in the Draft EIR fail to account for sea level rise. The comment states that at a minimum, the Draft EIR and the flood reduction and protection measures need to be revised to account for a future increase in flooding as a result of sea level rise.

**Response NRDC-2**

See Response **COASTAL-8**.

**Comment NRDC-3**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not analyze any other stand-alone alternative sites that would provide a decreased risk of flooding and better options for putting treated water to beneficial use.

**Response NRDC-3**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis, and **Response SLOCDPB-5**.

## Letter 9, The Otter Project

**Comment OTTER-1**

The comment summarizes The Otter Project's primary interest in the project, which is improved water quality. The comment states that although no conclusive link has been established between the WWTP and the sea otter mortality in Estero Bay, improved water quality is good for everyone and everything, including people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The comment acknowledges the efforts of the Morro Bay City Council and Cayucos Sanitary District toward resolving water quality issues.

**Response OTTER-1**

The comment is noted.

**Comment OTTER-2**

The comment states that despite what is stated on page 1-10 of the Draft EIR, the water would only be treated to secondary standards, which is a violation of the 2008 "Settlement Agreement for Issuance of Permits to Upgrade the Morro Bay-Cayucos Sewage Treatment Plant" between Morro Bay-Cayucos JPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Response OTTER-2**

The 2008 Settlement Agreement does acknowledge in the Recitals that in May 2007 both the CSD Board of Directors and Morro Bay City Council each approved an upgrade to the WWTP to achieve tertiary treatment standards. However, the Agreement Definitions state that the five-year NPDES Permit to be issued for the upgraded treatment facilities in March 2014 upon expiration of the final Modified Discharge Permit will include effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) and suspended solids that are at least as stringent as the CWA requirements for full secondary treatment (2008 Settlement Agreement, page 3). The Agreement Terms state that the RWQCB will issue an NPDES Permit for the upgraded treatment plant that includes effluent limits consistent with CWA full secondary treatment requirements (2008 Settlement Agreement, page 7). The Settlement Agreement clearly requires the WWTP to be upgraded to full secondary treatment standards. Accordingly, the proposed project would provide full secondary treatment to all effluent discharged from the WWTP, in compliance with the Settlement Agreement. The proposed project would provide tertiary filtration to most of the effluent discharged from the

WWTP, up to a PSDWF of 1.5 mgd. This level of treatment exceeds the requirements of the Settlement Agreement.

**Comment OTTER-3**

The comment cites the description of the tertiary filters on page 2-9 of the Draft EIR and asks how meeting a “secondary-23” standard meets any definition of a tertiary standard. The comment states that the Morro Bay-Cayucos JPA should fully embrace tertiary treatment and construct a facility producing disinfected tertiary recycled water. The comment states that water in California is too valuable to use only once.

**Response OTTER-3**

The tertiary filters that would be installed as part of the proposed project could be used to produce both disinfected secondary-23 recycled water and disinfected tertiary recycled water. The difference between the two effluent water qualities is more a function of disinfection time, or chlorine contact time, rather than the physical filtration process. The upgraded WWTP initially would produce disinfected secondary-23 recycled water and could produce disinfected tertiary recycled water with implementation of future improvements, which would include additional tertiary filters and additional disinfection facilities. This is why the Draft EIR states on page 2-9 that the filters would be suitable to produce reclaimed water (or disinfected tertiary recycled water) in the future.

The disinfected secondary-23 recycled water produced initially at the upgraded WWTP would receive tertiary filtration and could be used for a variety of beneficial uses as defined by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulation (see Table 1-1 in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR). The proposed project includes a truck filling station in order to facilitate the use of such recycled water. The recycled water produced at the upgraded WWTP does not have to meet Title 22 disinfected tertiary standards in order to be reused.

**Comment OTTER-4**

The comment notes that the quantity of treated water has changed from a PSDWF of 2.36 mgd to 1.5 mgd. The comment asks if the minimally filtered water will be blended with less treated water, and as a result, further diminish the quality of the final effluent. The comment states the flow capacity of the WWTP should be increased to at least 2.36 mgd.

**Response OTTER-4**

As part of Amendment No. 2 to the FMP for the WWTP Upgrade Project, the projected flow and loadings for the MBCSD build-out population were recalculated using a 15-year historical record of flows (MWH, 2010). The analysis resulted in the revised flow parameters, which form the basis for the current, ongoing design of the proposed project facilities (MWH, 2010). Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15** for additional discussion of WWTP capacity.

With regard to the level of treatment, the proposed project would use an EAAS process to provide full secondary treatment for all effluent discharged through the ocean outfall and would provide

tertiary filtration capacity equivalent to a PSDWF of 1.5 mgd (Draft EIR, page 1-1 and 2-1). The secondary treated effluent would not be blended with any other effluent to diminish the quality of the final effluent.

#### **Comment OTTER-5**

The comment states that Morro Bay and Cayucos citizens have contacted The Otter Project to ask that they comment on other issues such as site location, inundation by sea level rise, and 100-year storms. The Otter Project has encouraged members of the public to express their own concerns. The comment states that The Otter Project is open to adjustments to the agreed upon timeline for the project if needed to explore new site alternatives.

#### **Response OTTER-5**

The comment it noted. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for additional discussion about project site location alternatives.

## **Letter 10, Surfrider Foundation – San Luis Obispo Chapter**

#### **Comment SURF-1**

The comment states the Draft EIR implies the proposed project will upgrade to tertiary standards and that it would be more accurate to describe the proposed project plans would upgrade to secondary-23 standard. The comment states the EIR should clarify if the intent of the project is to upgrade the WWTP to advanced secondary treatment.

#### **Response SURF-1**

Please see **Response OTTER-2**.

#### **Comment SURF-2**

The comment states Table 1-1 in the Draft EIR shows that uses of recycled water treated to the secondary-23 recycled water standards are limited. The comment states that a cost-benefit analysis should be considered for the different levels of tertiary treatment and associated beneficial uses to compare cost effectiveness given the demand for water at various treatment levels.

#### **Response SURF-2**

Various beneficial uses of recycled water are determined by the level of treatment as defined by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, which is explained in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR. As shown in the footnotes of Table 1-1, the chart is only an informal summary of the uses allowed. The complete and final version of the adopted water recycling criteria is available for download at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Waterrecycling.aspx>.

The proposed project is not a Recycled Water Master Plan. The City may conduct a cost-benefit analysis on tertiary treatment levels and associated beneficial uses in the future. The proposed

project supports the development of a recycled water system in the community, but does not evaluate water demands, distribution systems, or costs of implementing a Recycled Water Master Plan. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment SURF-3**

The comment states that additional non-potable uses (i.e., toilet flushing) in project buildings could be an additional onsite cost-effective, beneficial use of recycled water.

**Response SURF-3**

The comment is noted. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment SURF-4**

The comment states that the Kern County air quality standards should be included in the Draft EIR and in the establishment of thresholds of significance for the impact discussion since the project proposes to truck haul sludge for disposal in Kern County.

**Response SURF-4**

As noted on page 3.2-23 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would require approximately 18 trucks per week to haul biosolids to Kern County. The Draft EIR concludes that emissions associated with these daily biosolids haul trips would not present a significant new source of air pollutants to either the San Luis Obispo Air Basin or the Southern San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. The Draft EIR concludes that emissions associated with truck trips would be less than significant. Please see **Response APCD-13** for additional information.

**Comment SURF-5**

The comment states that the current energy use should be considered in establishing the threshold of significance given that the Draft EIR states energy use will be more than twice the current use at build-out.

**Response SURF-5**

The baseline physical conditions by which a lead agency determines whether an impact is significant are established at the time the notice of preparation is published, as stated under *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15125(a). The threshold of significance and baseline conditions for energy use is based off the current energy consumption at the existing WWTP. The Draft EIR does describe in the Public Services and Utilities section of the Draft EIR, on page 3.10-10, that the current energy use for the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kWh per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. The proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWh per year at the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, and eventually up to 1.9 million kWh per year at build-out when the rated capacity of flow reaches 1.5 mgd. This increase in energy consumption is determined to be less than significant

since the proposed project would not require additional infrastructure to provide the additional energy.

**Comment SURF-6**

The comment states the rationale provided in the EIR for energy efficiency (page 3.2-27) is flawed specifically in relation to Item C and that there is no estimate of how much imported water or desalinated water will actually be offset, if any. The comment states the energy efficiency analysis should focus on the types of treatment processes proposed and overall plant operations, analyzing their efficiency relative to alternative treatment processes and plant operations.

**Response SURF-6**

As noted on page 3.2-27 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would require more energy than the current plant. The Draft EIR discusses efficiency of recycled water use. The City recognizes that this efficiency would only be realized with implementation of a recycled water program. Otherwise, the proposed project would install new equipment that would be as efficient as possible based on current available technologies. The installation of new treatment equipment would provide for the efficient use of the energy used in compliance with AB 32 objectives.

**Comment SURF-7**

The comment states the Draft EIR incorrectly states significance of impacts that result from increased trucking activity for project operations. The comment states that the increase of additional PM10 and PM2.5 would result in significant environmental impacts and that adequate mitigation should avoid or offset these additional pollutant increases.

**Response SURF-7**

Please see **Response APCD-13** for clarification regarding the changes in operational vehicle trips associated with the proposed project relative to existing conditions and clarification regarding mobile source emissions.

**Comment SURF-8**

The comment states there is lack of evidence used to arrive at the proposed treatment plant capacity (PSDWF of 1.5 mgd) and finds that there is no consideration of Peak Season Wet Weather Flows in determining plant capacity.

**Response SURF-8**

Please see **Response COASTAL-15**.

**Comment SURF-9**

The comment states the technical memo prepared for the Flood Hazard Analysis (Appendix D) declares that additional improvements need to be made to Atascadero Road for the project to avoid impacting neighboring properties. The comments states there would be an outstanding significant impact if such mitigation is not included in the project proposal.

**Response SURF-9**

Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 addresses storm water runoff impacts and would ensure storm water runoff would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The development of mitigation measures considers the suggestions presented in the Flood Hazard Technical Memo regarding flooding impacts, and Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 ensures that flooding hazards are reduced to a less than significant level and would not result in any changes to base flood elevations on neighboring properties during a 100-year flood. In accordance with Mitigation Measure 3.7-4, the proposed project would build the new treatment facilities at a higher elevation on the southern side of the existing WWTP, effectively removing the new WWTP from the 100-year flood hazard area. The improvements to Atascadero Road are not necessary in order to avoid 100-year flood impacts to neighboring properties. The City may implement the suggested roadway improvements at a later date if desired, but is not a requirement of the proposed project.

**Comment SURF-10**

The comment states Mitigation Measure 3.7-3 is vague and does not describe how the NPDES permit conditions will be met.

**Response SURF-10**

Mitigation Measure 3.7-3 requires MBCSD to comply with the requirements of the NPDES permits, including the preparation of a SWPPP and monitoring plan. In Section 3.7, Hydrology and Water Quality, on pages 3.7-12 and 3.7-13, the Draft EIR describes the conditions of the NPDES General Construction Permit for Stormwater Runoff and the NPDES General Industrial Permit for Stormwater Runoff that the proposed project would be subject to and required to comply pursuant to Mitigation Measure 3.7-3. The SWPPP will be developed by the construction contractor to be specific to construction methods and construction zones. The City will be responsible for ensuring that the SWPPP is prepared and implemented pursuant to NPDES requirements with RWQCB concurrence. See **Response CRWQCB-4** for revisions made to Mitigation Measure 3.7-3.

**Comment SURF-11**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not determine whether the historical practice of diverting storm water to the headworks at the WWTP will continue. If so, the treatment plant capacity must consider this additional influent.

**Response SURF-11**

The collection system will continue to experience inflows and infiltration of storm water to the system similar to the existing condition. The proposed facilities would be designed to handle a Peak Hourly Flow (PHF) of 8.0 mgd, as explained above in **Response COASTAL-15**. This PHF would be sufficient to provide treatment during wet weather events, including inflows and infiltration of storm water. The proposed project would accommodate storm flows similar to the existing condition to ensure compliance with future NPDES requirements. The proposed facilities would also be designed so that there would be no increase in onsite storm water being routed

through the treatment process. At the upgraded plant, there would be some process areas where storm water is collected and routed through the treatment system, as there are in the plant as it is currently configured. Through the design process these areas would be minimized to ensure no encroachment of storm water on plant capacity. See also Response **COASTAL-21**.

**Comment SURF-12**

The comment states the Draft EIR should provide an estimate of the volume of storm water to properly characterize the impact of storm water runoff that may discharge during construction.

**Response SURF-12**

The volume of storm water running off the site during construction will depend on rain fall events. On page 3.7-4 of the Draft EIR, an explanation of the collection and discharge of storm water onsite at the WWTP is provided. Conditions at the existing WWTP will not change during construction. During construction of the replacement facilities, a SWPPP will be prepared and implemented to ensure that any storm water runoff that is not collected on site will comply with storm water NPDES permit requirements.

**Comment SURF-13**

The comment states that it is uncertain whether the Draft EIR adequately contemplates the expected settling from unconsolidated materials in Mitigation Measure 3.7-4. The comment states the EIR should specifically require that the fill itself be substantial enough to raise the project sufficiently above the 100-year flood elevation so that the fill elevation after settling is at or above one foot above the 100-year flood elevation.

**Response SURF-13**

The project design as described on page 2-14 of the Draft EIR would result in the facilities being protected from the base flood elevation. Mitigation Measure 3.5-4 will ensure that the engineered fill supporting the new treatment facilities will be of sufficient strength to maintain the design elevation.

**Comment SURF-14**

The comment states the Draft EIR fails to describe impacts of below-grade infrastructure (e.g., pump stations, collection pipes, etc.) within the 100-year flood hazard area.

**Response SURF-14**

The new treatment facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain. Below grade infrastructure within the plant site would be protected from flooding.

**Comment SURF-15**

The comment states the Draft EIR should include a detailed analysis of future flood risk that includes the effects of sea level rise, storm surge, and a maximum wave runup.

**Response SURF-15**

The Draft EIR concludes on page 3.7-20 that the proposed project is adequately protected from sea level rise impacts and would improve the existing condition with risks of erosion and inundation from future storm surges. See **Response COASTAL-8** for additional discussion.

**Comment SURF-16**

The comment states project designers should plan a facility that will withstand at least a 500-year flood that may be experience over the lifetime of the proposed treatment facility.

**Response SURF-16**

As stated in Chapter 2 on page 2-2 of the Draft EIR, the Final WWTP Facility Master Plan (MWH, 2010) recommends the new proposed WWTP to be built immediately south of the existing facilities on engineered fill to raise the finished grade above the 100-year flood elevation. The design of the plant will conform to the FEMA Flood Rate Insurance Map program and reduce impacts from flooding to less than significant level when evaluated against the CEQA thresholds of significance.

**Comment SURF-17**

The comment states the Draft EIR applies an inappropriate threshold of significance and incorrectly characterizes the project as an update to an existing project, which dismisses the need to consider tsunami hazards. The comment states the Draft EIR has unidentified and unmitigated potentially significant impacts with regard to hazards, including tsunamis.

**Response SURF-17**

The proposed project site is within an existing tsunami hazard area. Development within a tsunami zone is not in itself a significant impact. The Morro Bay General Plan allows for development of certain kinds within the tsunami zone including the high school across the street. The proposed project would upgrade the facility to reduce its risk of inundation by flooding of Morro Creek. The Draft EIR acknowledges on page 3.7-20 that the plant would remain within the tsunami hazard zone. However, due to the coastal dependency of the facility and ocean outfall, and due to the improvements to the existing condition, the Draft EIR concludes that the proposed project's location within the tsunami zone would not result in a significant impact.

**Comment SURF-18**

The comment states the Draft EIR should consider the potential impact from sea level rise with regard to flooding given that the mean high tide line is expected to be significantly elevated by the end of the century.

**Response SURF-18**

The Draft EIR concludes on page 3.7-20 that the proposed project is adequately protected from sea level rise impacts and would improve the existing condition with risks of erosion and inundation from future storm surges. See **Response COASTAL-8** for additional discussion.

**Comment SURF-19**

The comment states that there are unmitigated significant impacts that exist in the absence of any feasible alternative that sufficiently mitigates flooding impacts.

**Response SURF-19**

The proposed project would build the new treatment facilities at a higher elevation in an area south of the existing WWTP, effectively removing the new WWTP from the 100-year flood hazard area (Appendix D, MB10 through MB12). The resulting development would not increase flood hazards to other development in the area. For this reason, the proposed project is seen as preferred to earlier project designs within the existing plant footprint. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment SURF-20**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not address how the proposed project will correct deficiencies in the current and remaining WWTP facilities and infrastructure (e.g., pumps, lift stations, collection pipes). The comment states that sizing may be an issue given that updates to the collection system are not considered in the Draft EIR.

**Response SURF-20**

The proposed project design capacity was determined in the Facility Master Plan as discussed on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR. The treatment system is designed to accommodate future flows that may occur due to population growth within the service area through the year 2030. Collection system improvements are not a part of the proposed project. Future updates (expansion, maintenance, and/or repair) to the collection system will not affect plant capacity.

**Comment SURF-21**

The comment states that the influent pump station should operate with redundant pumps that would be able to function if capacity is superseded or in case of pump failure in addition to a backup power generator.

**Response SURF-21**

As described on page 2-6 of the Draft EIR, the Influent Pump Station would be equipped with several variable speed pumps capable of meeting varying flow conditions. Backup pumping of adequate capacity would be provided with a stand by pump per standard engineering design.

**Comment SURF-22**

The comment states the EIR should require that a reserve amount of fuel be left in the fuel storage tanks in the event of a power failure in order to sufficiently operate the generator for a period of 48 hours.

**Response SURF-22**

Emergency generators will be installed as part of the project to power the plant for up to 48 hours. Similar to existing conditions, fuel for these generators would continue to be stored at all times per standard operating procedures. During the project design phase, the storage tank capacity would be determined based on expected frequency and duration of power outages, availability and response time for fuel deliveries, and shelf life considerations of stored fuel.

**Comment SURF-23**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not clearly address how the various geological issues (i.e., liquefaction and other seismic hazards) will be managed during the construction phase and to what extent excavation for the proposed project would impact the geologic stability of the existing project. The comment states the Draft EIR only describes post-construction related scenarios when discussing potential impacts to neighboring areas from building a floodwall or placing fill during construction.

**Response SURF-23**

As stated in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1, MBCSD shall ensure construction of the proposed project facilities adheres to the City's seismic standards and the California Building Code requirements to reduce risks of damage from potential seismic ground shaking. Furthermore, Mitigation Measure 3.5-2 addresses liquefaction impacts as a result of the proposed project by requiring a design-level geotechnical investigation to be conducted prior to acceptance of construction plans for the project by the JPA Board. Mitigation Measure 3.5-2 provides details of what the geotechnical evaluation identifies and states that recommendations made as a result of the evaluation shall become incorporated into the proposed project. For example, the geotechnical evaluations will determine the soil mitigation measures required to address the potential liquefaction caused by a seismic event during the first phase of construction. Construction of new facilities would not commence prior to this soil mitigation. All excavations would be required to maintain suitable side slopes or installation of temporary shoring to stabilize the surrounding soils and protect adjoining facilities and neighboring areas.

**Comment SURF-24**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not describe where the proposed temporary sludge dewatering equipment will be located, which may present significant impacts that are not mitigated.

**Response SURF-24**

As stated in the Project Description on page 2-2 of the Draft EIR, temporary solids handling facilities would be required during the construction phase of the proposed project. The exact location of this temporary facility has not currently been determined, but all project components would be within the existing footprint of the WWTP. Once the new treatment facilities are complete and constructed within the current property boundaries, the existing treatment facilities, electrical equipment and yard piping would be decommissioned and demolished.

**Comment SURF-25**

The comment states the threshold of significance for impacts to biological resource should mention California Coastal Commission wetlands delineation, which uses a 1 of 3 criteria standard as opposed to the Army Corps' 3 of 3 criteria.

**Response SURF-25**

No wetlands will be impacted by the project.

**Comment SURF-26**

The comment states that the volume of fill to be imported is unclear.

**Response SURF-26**

Approximately 35,000 cubic yards of soil would need to be imported to the site as noted on page 2-14 of the Draft EIR.

**Comment SURF-27**

The comment states there is no discussion about project area topography in the Geology analysis (3.5-1), including project area elevation and proximity to the high tide line. The comment states there is no discussion of coastal erosion rates and potential impacts on the project, including hazards, from coastal erosion.

**Response SURF-27**

The Draft EIR identifies the topography of the region on page 3.5-1. The site itself is generally flat with elevation increasing gradually to the south. See **Response COASTAL-8** for discussion on sea level rise and coastal erosion impacts.

**Comment SURF-28**

The comment states the EIR underestimates sea level rise.

**Response SURF-28**

See **Response COASTAL-8** for discussion on sea level rise and coastal erosion impacts.

**Comment SURF-29**

The comment states the Draft EIR fails to consider proximity to the ocean in the description of the Project Area and fails to include the ocean in its characterization of surface waters or other water features.

**Response SURF-29**

The Draft EIR discusses the local setting throughout Chapter 3 referencing the proximity of the ocean. Figure 2-1 shows the ocean near the treatment plant. Impact 3.7-1 evaluates impacts of the project to ocean water quality. See **Response COASTAL-8** for discussion on sea level rise and coastal erosion impacts.

**Comment SURF-30**

The comment states the Hydrology section in the Draft EIR should include the California Coastal Act (state law) and City of Morro Bay Local Coastal Plan (Policy 9.14), which establishes regulations related to siting of development in the coastal zone. The comment also states the thresholds need to be revised to include significance criteria for violation of the standards set forth in LCP Policy 9.14.

**Response SURF-30**

The project consistency with the LCP is evaluated in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR. As noted on page 3.8-11 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project is consistent with the overlying land use plans including the Local Coastal Plan (LCP). The proposed project is consistent with LCP Policy 9.14 (See **Response COASTAL-2**). The existing plant site is zoned for General Industrial uses and is currently a permitted use by the California Coastal Commission. The plant site connects to the ocean outfall which is a coastal dependent land use. The proposed project provides substantial benefit by allowing for the treatment plant to be elevated above flood waters. There is no indication in the CCC-approved LCP that the industrial parcels within the coastal zone should be converted eventually to non-industrial uses. If the City chooses to remove these land uses from the coast in the future, the City General Plan and LCP would need to be revised. Locating a new treatment plant inland would conflict with the CCC-approved LCP if agricultural, residential, or other non industrial land use designations were affected.

**Comment SURF-31**

The comment states Figure 3.7-2, which characterizes the FEMA flood zones, does not provide a description of what the FEMA zone designations mean in terms of flooding hazard.

**Response SURF-31**

Figure 3.7-2 in the Draft EIR has been revised to include a description of the FEMA flooding hazard designations that are characterized in the figure. The revised Figure 3.7-2 is included in Chapter 11 of this Final EIR.

According to FEMA, all Zone A flood areas are high risk areas that have a one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year flood). Numbered A Zones, such as A14, have a base floodplain where the FIRM shows a Base Flood Elevation. All Zone B flood areas have a moderate flood hazard, usually between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year flood.

**Comment SURF-32**

The comment states the Draft EIR only considers one alternative site location. Per *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.6(c), the other alternative locations investigated in the feasibility study prepared for a stand-alone WWTP should be considered and analyzed in a revised EIR.

**Response SURF-32**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternative Analysis.

## Letter 11, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

### Comment CHUMASH-1

The comment states NCTC is currently working with the lead agency and ESA to develop a plan to reach an acceptable mitigation for the proposed facility with regard to Native American Chumash Cultural Resources. The comment states that a study of the current site is underway to determine if the site can reach a reasonable mitigation level.

### Response CHUMASH-1

Consultation and collaboration is in progress to assess Native American Chumash Cultural Resources and any necessary mitigation for potential impacts to resources. The City of Morro Bay is currently in discussions with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) to develop a testing plan to determine the cultural sensitivity of the project area and the potential for Native American sacred sites to be present onsite. The City is working with the NCTC to identify acceptable mitigation for any potential Native American Chumash Cultural Resources. No further response is warranted.

## Letter 12, Barry F. Branin

### Comment BRANIN-1

The comment states the Alternatives Analysis only examined Chorro Valley as an alternate location. The Alternatives Analysis needs to look at sites within City Limits east of Highway 1, such as Hayashi Farm on Little Morro Creek Road.

### Response BRANIN-1

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis.

### Comment BRANIN-2

The comment states there is not enough discussion on reuse of wastewater.

### Response BRANIN-2

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### Comment BRANIN-3

The comment states there are no plans for reuse of the existing plant site and states that a visitor serving area requires public reuse.

### Response BRANIN-3

As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would be built on lands designated as General (Light) Industrial in the City's General Plan, and the corresponding zoning

designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). The project area is not designated as Visitor Serving Commercial.

**Comment BRANIN-4**

The comment states building of the plant on the site requires excavation of Indian burial sites and replacement with engineered back fill, which results in excessive costs and disturbance.

**Response BRANIN-4**

The Draft EIR acknowledges in Chapter 3.4 that the project area has a high level of archaeological sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic-era buried deposits. There are numerous known archaeological sites within 0.5 miles of the project area, including Native American sacred sites and human burial sites. The City of Morro Bay is currently in discussions with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) to develop a testing plan to determine the cultural sensitivity of the project area and the potential for Native American sacred sites to be present onsite. As stated in comment Letter 11 from the NCTC, the City is working with the NCTC to identify acceptable mitigation for any potential Native American Chumash Cultural Resources. Potential geologic hazards are evaluated in section 3.5 of the Draft EIR. Mitigation Measure 3.5-2 commits the City to ensuring that underlying soils are sufficiently strong to support the project facilities.

## Letter 13, Michael Lucas

**Comment LUCAS-1**

The comment asks what is the context and definition in the use of “adjacent” in the objectives statement, “...minimize flooding impacts onsite and adjoining properties”. The comment asks if the high school is considered adjacent and asks if Morro Bay-Cayucos Sanitary District (MBCSD) is possibly liable for damages due to change in natural drainage conditions.

**Response LUCAS-1**

When considering flooding impacts to adjoining properties, the adjacent land uses included those downstream of the WWTP or otherwise within an area of influence for flooding that would be affected by changes to the footprint of facilities at the WWTP. The Morro Bay High School was considered adjacent to the WWTP. The proposed project was designed to ensure that flood elevations at Morro Bay High School would not be adversely affected. The flood hazard analysis prepared for the project is included in Appendix D of the Draft EIR.

**Comment LUCAS-2**

The comment asks why there are two influent pumping stations despite the discussion in the Draft EIR where they are described as a “gravity feed” system.

**Response LUCAS-2**

The wastewater collection system connected to the WWTP is primarily a gravity feed system. Within the service area, there are three lift stations in the City and five lift stations in Cayucos necessary to lift wastewater from low lying areas to gravity sewers. In addition, the majority of the processes at the WWTP operate as a gravity-feed system with a few exceptions that require minimal lift with pump stations. As part of the proposed project, there will be one Influent Pump Station to lift the wastewater from the influent gravity sewer to the first stage of treatment facilities and a Secondary Pump Station to lift secondary effluent to the final stage of treatment facilities with sufficient height to provide gravity flow to the existing outfall. Please refer to the WWTP Facilities Master Plan (FMP) and Amendments for additional information.

**Comment LUCAS-3**

The comment asks if the project fits on the current property, if the cement plant is being compensated, and requests whether there are any contingency plans should the system require additional space during the design phase.

**Response LUCAS-3**

The proposed layout for the facilities is shown in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIR as designated in the FMP Amendment No.2. This layout is preliminary and subject to change during the design phase. The proposed project would be built on land owned by either the City of Morro Bay or jointly by the City and CSD. Once the final design is complete, the City and CSD will consolidate the lots to ensure the treatment plant facilities occupy one parcel that is jointly owned by the City and CSD. The subject of compensation for the cement plant is beyond the scope of the analysis in the Draft EIR.

**Comment LUCAS-4**

The comment asks whether water may be needed in the future for the power plant. The comment asks if future reclamation modifications may require additional land/rights-of-way or any kind of temporary shutdown or loss of capacity.

**Response LUCAS-4**

The proposed project is not a recycled water distribution project, but rather supports future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan, which could include industrial end uses such as power plant cooling water. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

**Comment LUCAS-5**

The comment asks if the 24-month schedule accounts for low or maximum soil remediation work.

**Response LUCAS-5**

The 24 month construction period takes into account the anticipated soil mitigation needed to address liquefaction during a seismic event. Soil mitigation activities are assumed to take

approximately three months. Comments regarding project costs are beyond the scope of the analysis of the Draft EIR.

**Comment LUCAS-6**

The comment asks whether soils need to be removed and if so would the excavation be below groundwater level. The comment asks whether vibration compaction methods used in the past will be sufficient.

**Response LUCAS-6**

The Draft EIR acknowledges on page 3.5-13 that underlying soils at the site may need to be removed or strengthened to comply with CBC requirements. The Draft EIR concludes that compliance with updated building code standards in the CBC will protect the facility to the greatest extent practicable, resulting in a less than significant impact. Mitigation Measure 3.5-4 requires the City to conduct additional geotechnical analysis that will provide important data to the final design.

A draft Geotechnical Report will be prepared as part of the project design phase to provide recommendations for soil mitigation. Vibro-compaction as used for prior construction is anticipated to be a viable and acceptable soil mitigation method for the new WWTP facilities. The draft Geotechnical Report will also identify anticipated depth of groundwater. Excavation for the new Influent Pump Station and the new Secondary Clarifiers are anticipated to be below groundwater. The construction contractor will be required to control groundwater to safely build these facilities.

**Comment LUCAS-7**

The comment asks why an additional alternative for a completely new plant on other vacant, underused, and/or traded land in Morro Bay or surrounding outskirts was not analyzed.

**Response LUCAS-7**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment LUCAS-8**

The comment asks to verify if the images used in the Aesthetics section of the Draft EIR included the input of the five foot raised flood plain. The comment states the images used in the Aesthetics section does not portray views at eye level and asks why particular areas (provided in the comment) were not studied for scenic vistas due to proximity to the higher walled portions of the project. The comment asks why no other techniques such as vegetative walls were investigated to mitigate building impacts.

**Response LUCAS-8**

The visual simulations provided in the Draft EIR accounted for the elevation of facilities to remove them from the 100-year flood plain. The images for the visual simulations were intended to generally represent the planned aesthetic nature of the proposed facilities and layout and to

generally represent their impact to scenic vistas from some designated view points, including Highway 1, which is a designated scenic highway and Morro Strand State Beach, where there are City-designated Scenic View Points (Draft EIR, page 3.1-6).

As explained in the Draft EIR on page 3.1-6, once built, the proposed project could introduce new contrasting elements into local scenic vistas in the form of new WWTP facilities. New treatment facilities would be designed in accordance with building and zoning code restrictions associated with industrial land use designations. Facilities would be designed with a consistent architectural theme that would be compatible with the project site and its surroundings. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.1-1 would ensure new buildings are painted with non-contrasting colors to blend in with the visual character of the site and surroundings. The project site and surroundings are not characterized by vegetation, and thus vegetative walls have not been investigated to mitigate visual impacts.

#### **Comment LUCAS-9**

The comment asks if it is anticipated that utilities will be underground. The comment also asks why the addition of a second floor to the industrial use building and raising of the project site five feet is not considered an impact that needs mitigation in a beach community.

#### **Response LUCAS-9**

The utilities in the street along Atascadero Road will not be adversely affected by the proposed project. Similar to the existing treatment facilities, the proposed new treatment facilities would require connection to existing utilities in the right-of-way of Atascadero Road for such items as potable water, natural gas, and electrical power. The WWTP is already connected to these utilities in Atascadero Road. These connections would be underground from the right-of-way to the new facilities. The City may require that overhead utilities along the frontage road be buried underground as a condition of the project permits.

As explained on page 3.1-10 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would not substantially alter the industrial visual quality of the project site or surrounding industrial sites. As stated in the Project Description in Chapter 2, the proposed project would be designed with a consistent architectural theme that would be compatible with the project site and its surroundings. The City of Morro Bay zoning code (17.48.200) requires projects in any industrial district to apply architectural treatments that are in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. All new facilities would be industrial buildings designed in accordance with building and zoning code restrictions associated with industrial land use designations, including building height limitations. No mitigation measures are required.

#### **Comment LUCAS-10**

The comment asks what is anticipated as the night impact of the south-facing open second floor. The comment asks if this will not get the same “industrial lighting” that will make this very visible despite having no glare fixtures.

**Response LUCAS-10**

The light and glare impacts associated with the proposed project are discussed on page 3.1-11 of the Draft EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.1-2 would ensure that all exterior lighting, including that on the south-facing open second floor of the residuals facility, is shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts to nighttime views and minimize visibility of the facility. Lighting would be task-oriented lighting, which would minimize night glare if utilized. Similar to current operating conditions, the WWTP would normally be unstaffed at night; there would be no need for task lighting at night, with the exception of emergency conditions.

**Comment LUCAS-11**

The comment asks how there is not an increase in pollutants from the increased truck traffic transporting composting materials to the central valley with the loss of on-site composting.

**Response LUCAS-11**

Please refer to **Response APCD-13**.

**Comment LUCAS-12**

The comment states that mitigation in the Draft EIR looks to new sources of odor. The comment asks if existing kinds of odors present, or periodically present, will be mitigated.

**Response LUCAS-12**

CEQA requires that an EIR establish baseline environmental conditions and evaluate impacts of a project relative to changes in baseline conditions. For the proposed project, existing odors characterize the baseline conditions. The Draft EIR evaluates impacts associated with changes to this baseline, such as new sources of odor associated with the proposed project; mitigation measures would only be recommended, if necessary, to mitigate impacts associated with new sources of odor to less than significant levels. The Draft EIR concludes on page 3.2-26 that the proposed project will likely reduce odor emissions from the plant compared to existing conditions due to the elimination of the open air sludge drying beds.

**Comment LUCAS-13**

The comment asks if there are examples where a site was so impacted by significant cultural resource or burials that it becomes nonviable. The comment asks how the schedule has reflected the possible delays in construction due to potential issues with cultural resources. The comment asks if these potential issues have been reflected in the budget.

**Response LUCAS-13**

The Draft EIR evaluates potential impacts to Native American resources in Chapter 3.4. Mitigation Measures 3.4-1a and 3.4-1b would ensure that any resources potentially present on site would be avoided or otherwise treated appropriately in coordination with Native American representatives and the State Historic Preservation Officer. As evidenced by Letter 11 from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC), the City is currently working with the NCTC to ensure protection of Native American resources. The City is currently in discussions with the

NCTC to develop a testing plan to further identify whether buried remains exist beneath project area.

**Comment LUCAS-14**

The comment asks questions regarding project design and site preparation details, including what subsoil techniques were anticipated in the budget process and Draft EIR. The comment asks why a tsunami and associated scouring actions were not identified as an issue and mitigated, given the project site is an oceanfront site and two known past dune breaching storms have occurred within the last 100 years.

**Response LUCAS-14**

On page 2-14 of the Draft EIR, vibro-compaction is described as one possible method of subsoil stabilization for the proposed project. Additional information regarding subsoil stabilization and the Preliminary Geotechnical Report for the project can be found in the FMP and Amendments. Comments related to the project budget and costs are beyond the scope of the analysis contained in the Draft EIR.

A discussion of the potential impacts associated with a tsunami can be found on page 3.7-20 of the Draft EIR. Please refer to **Response HENNIGH-2**.

**Comment LUCAS-15**

The comment asks if it is assumed the RV Park can remain open during the construction process given the construction activities and potential issues, including hazardous waste, etc.

**Response LUCAS-15**

The RV Park can remain open during project construction. The RV Park remained open during construction activities associated with previous upgrades to the WWTP, such as the expansion in the 1980s.

**Comment LUCAS-16**

The comment asks how the project location has a “no impact” level of significance if the Draft EIR states that the location will have the least adverse flood impacts on adjacent sites. The comment states that the statement suggests there will be some form of adverse impacts on adjacent sites.

**Response LUCAS-16**

In response to the comment, the Significance After Mitigation associated with Impact 3.7-3 and Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 has been changed in Table ES-1 to “Less than Significant” instead of “No Impact” in order to match the analysis as presented on page 3.7-19 of the Draft EIR. The project would not adversely impact the floodplain.

**Comment LUCAS-17**

The comment asks if there is a formula to determine the flood level that could reduce the height of the new plateau. The comment asks how sea level rise impacts from global warming are assessed. The comment asks how the plant would be accessed or operating in an emergency.

**Response LUCAS-17**

Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 recommends application for a Letter of Map Revision from FEMA to document the new hydrology and hydraulic analysis conducted by Wallace Group during the Flood Hazard Analysis for the proposed project. The flood analysis is included in Appendix D of the Draft EIR.

Please refer to **Response COASTAL-8** for discussion about potential impacts of sea level rise.

As explained on pages 3.6-5 and 3.6-6 of the Draft EIR, the WWTP currently has a Risk Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which are on file with the San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department and the Morro Bay Fire Department. All Plans would be updated accordingly to reflect the upgraded treatment facilities.

**Comment LUCAS-18**

The comment asks why there is no impact and no increased risk to the project site and infrastructure from tsunamis. The comment asks how the discussion of tsunamis and potential mitigation is different from the flood plain mitigation. The comment asks how this potential impact from tsunamis does not trigger mitigation and a need for emergency management.

**Response LUCAS-18**

The proposed project would improve flood protection at the facility compared to the existing condition. This is seen as a major benefit of the project. As explained on pages 3.6-5 and 3.6-6 of the Draft EIR, the WWTP currently has a Risk Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which are on file with the San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department and the Morro Bay Fire Department. All Plans would be updated accordingly to reflect the upgraded treatment facilities.

Please refer to **Response HENNIGH-2** regarding impacts associated with tsunamis.

**Comment LUCAS-19**

The comment asks questions regarding construction noise and vibration impacts, including if the RV Park could possibly survive years of construction noise and vibration given that there is no mitigation for vibration impacts to the park.

**Response LUCAS-19**

The discussion of construction noise impacts can be found on pages 3.9-3 and 3.9-10 of the Draft EIR. The City of Morro Bay Zoning Ordinance states that construction noise is exempt from

noise standards during daytime hours, as stipulated in Mitigation Measure 3.9-1. Nonetheless, Mitigation Measure 3.9-2 requires additional measures to be implemented during pile driving or other extreme noise-generating construction activities to further mitigate noise impacts.

The discussion of vibration impacts can be found on pages 3.9-11 and 3.9-12 of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR establishes a significance threshold for vibration impacts relative to building damage. Mitigation Measure 3.9-3 would mitigate for any building or architectural damage at the RV Park that results due to vibro-compaction activities during project construction. Mitigation Measure 3.9-2 for extreme noise-generating construction activities such as pile driving would also serve to mitigate vibration impacts during such construction phases.

Comments that pertain to economic impacts of construction are beyond the scope of the analysis of the Draft EIR.

#### **Comment LUCAS-20**

The comment states that by not including a recycled water component, the project places an economic burden on residents, requiring them to buy water from the State as well as placing burden on the energy needed to bring water to the City. The comment asks why this issue is not noted as an indirect utility impact.

#### **Response LUCAS-20**

The proposed project is a wastewater treatment upgrade, not a water supply project. Impacts associated with importing potable water to Morro Bay and Cayucos are not affected by the proposed project. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water for additional discussion.

#### **Comment LUCAS-21**

The comment states operational traffic seems to be overlooked in the Draft EIR. The comment asks if there is mitigation that assigns truck traffic to a time when large numbers of student vehicles are not exiting/entering the adjacent school grounds.

#### **Response LUCAS-21**

As described on page 3.11-6 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project affects operational vehicle trips on Atascadero Road. (Please refer to **Response APCD-13** for revisions made to text on page 3.11-6.) This would be considered a minimal increase relative to the existing Average Daily Trips on this roadway of 8,800, and would be considered a less-than-significant impact that would not require mitigation. The Draft EIR concludes that the minimal additional trips associated with the project would not result in adverse level of service impacts on Atascadero Road.

#### **Comment LUCAS-22**

The comment states questions regarding the State Water Quality Board's project deadline and whether the deadline is firm given the potential process delays if project components issues arise (e.g., removal of ocean outfall, recharging of city aquifer).

**Response LUCAS-22**

The primary goal of the proposed project as noted on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is to upgrade treatment facilities to meet discharge water quality permit requirements. The project objectives do not include removal of the ocean outfall or groundwater recharge.

**Comment LUCAS-23**

The comment asks if the proposed plant capacity is based on future demographic assumptions or past use records. The comment asks whether there is any place for plant expansion on the proposed site if the demographic scenario indicates a future rise in capacity. The comment asks why the proposed new system is reviewed only in terms of averages, what the outfall quality of effluent will be if influent exceeds capacity at peak events, and if the proposed system is taking account aspects of an aging collection system.

**Response LUCAS-23**

Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15** for discussion of WWTP capacity. The proposed project does not include improvements to the wastewater collection system.

**Comment LUCAS-24**

The comment asks how the NPDES changes as a regulator if there was a different effluent target, such as 100 percent recycled water, wetlands or industrial use, with no ocean outfall component.

**Response LUCAS-24**

Regardless of the type or location of the discharge from the WWTP, a discharge permit from the CCRWQCB would be required, either in the form of an NPDES permit or Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)/Water Recycling Requirements (WRRs). As stated above, the primary goal of the proposed project as noted on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR is to upgrade treatment facilities to meet discharge water quality permit requirements. The project objectives do not include removal of the ocean outfall or groundwater recharge.

**Comment LUCAS-25**

The comment states the figure of the proposed residuals facility appears to show exposed work areas on the upper floor that will require lighting. The comment asks what the anticipated impact of industrial lighting on the upper level will be on the night beachscape from Morro Rock or other view sheds. The comment asks what the anticipated materials of the shed-like devices are on the upper level of the residuals facility.

**Response LUCAS-25**

See **Response LUCAS-10** regarding nighttime lighting. Although the project design phase is not complete, preliminary plans suggest the materials for the shed-like devices shown in Figure 2-5 could be stainless steel, which is preferable to minimize corrosion. Similar to current operating conditions, the WWTP would normally be unstaffed at night, and as such, there would be no need for nighttime lighting. Thus there would be no impact to the night beachscape.

**Comment LUCAS-26**

The comment states that Figure 2-3 depicts the proposed project site as flat. The comment asks if this visual simulation is an older array before the new plateau/berm was incorporated.

**Response LUCAS-26**

Figure 2-3 shows an idealized visual simulation of the preliminary layout of facilities for a portion of the WWTP site. The intent of the conceptual design shown in Figure 2-3 is to provide an estimate of the proposed facility height. The change in topography at the site is relatively small and is not apparent in Figure 2-3 given the extent and viewing angle of the exhibit.

**Comment LUCAS-27**

The comment asks why sustainable principles and design features were not incorporated into the preliminary sketch of the operations building image. The comment asks for more explanation and details regarding the operations building, including the proposed location of the building at the west edge of the development property, the proposed “campus” layout of the property versus a smaller footprint with fewer perimeter walls, the lack of incorporation of elements to make it more of a public facility (i.e., public roof deck), and the re-use of the ‘ruins’ of the existing plant to act as the foundations of the operations building.

**Response LUCAS-27**

Figure 2-5 on page 2-11 of the Draft EIR is a preliminary representation of the possible location and general architectural theme for the operations building. All features such as windows, stairways, roofs, and exterior building materials are subject to change during the project design phase, as is the actual location of the building relative to other facilities. Facility designs will be subject to City architectural design guidelines and requirements. Proposed facilities also would be designed to comply with the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11, June 2010) in addition to the CBC. CALGreen includes mandatory measures for non-residential development, including light pollution reduction, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, pollutant control and VOC limits, indoor air quality, etc. Such measures would be elucidated during the design phase of the project and are not necessary for purposes of the analysis in the Draft EIR. Energy, maintenance, and operating costs are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

The northwest corner of the WWTP site was selected for the Operations Building to provide a focal point for visitors as they enter the site from the public access road from Atascadero Road. This access would also be used for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility adjacent to the new WWTP.

A campus style arrangement for the proposed project was selected to optimize the operation and maintenance of the new facilities. Sufficient clearance around the multiple treatment functions and processes is needed for safe personnel access for inspection, service, and repair of equipment items and for vehicle traffic for deliveries of chemicals, fuel, and parts plus transportation of

treatment residuals (screenings, grit, and dewatered sludge). Mobile crane access would be needed for removal of major equipment items.

The decision to demolish the existing plant rather than using any “ruins” was dictated by the Flood Hazard Analysis and the recommendation to remove all facilities from the flood flow pathway in order to minimize flooding impacts both onsite and offsite.

Although the WWTP is a public utility, in general the treatment plant facilities are not considered to be facilities that are open to the public, for purposes of protecting public health and safety. Tours would be routinely conducted by plant staff for public visitors, but would likely be restricted to the Operations Building. Plant tours would start at the Operations Building (focal point) and would include a trip to the Control Room on the second floor that overlooks the new WWTP. Visitors would be able to see graphical representations of the WWTP treatment processes on work station screens in the Control Room and view the associated treatment processes from the Control Room windows.

**Comment LUCAS-28**

The comment states that the proposed project design is narrow focused on ‘industry’ instead of ‘green industry’ or adjacent sensitive, natural zones that would suggest more of a ‘park’ theme, and therefore, more compatible with the surrounding area.

**Response LUCAS-28**

The proposed project would construct replacement treatment facilities on a site that currently is used for industrial purposes and zoned for industrial land uses. The City of Morro Bay zoning code (17.48.200) requires projects in any industrial district to apply architectural treatments that are in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. All new facilities would be industrial buildings designed in accordance with building and zoning code restrictions associated with industrial land use designations, including building height limitations.

**Comment LUCAS-29**

The comment asks why areas of the project site are considered for paving if these areas do not necessarily need to be paved.

**Response LUCAS-29**

The final design for the flood flow pathway has not been determined, and may include more than one treatment. Pavement would be used for the access roadways for ingress/egress from the plant.

**Comment LUCAS-30**

The comment asks if the ‘vibro-compaction’ method is mainly for ground and fill, or for the foundation of the ditches and holding tanks. The comment states that it would be inadequate for heavy civil infrastructure buildings at 80 percent compaction.

**Response LUCAS-30**

Vibro-compaction is anticipated to be a viable and acceptable method of soil mitigation for liquefaction due to seismic events. The soil mitigation method utilized, whether vibro-compaction or otherwise, would be designed to protect the treatment facilities including the large water bearing structures such as the Oxidation Ditches and Secondary Clarifiers. The soil layers subject to seismic settlement are located at various elevations as deep as 30 feet or more below existing grade. Soil mitigation would be applied to the deep soils. The upper portion of the existing grade would be re-compacted after removal of unsuitable materials and the fill would be placed on top the re-compacted upper portion in layers and compacted. This upper portion and engineered fill would not be subject to liquefaction and would not require any soil mitigation such as vibro-compaction. Soil mitigation is required for the underlying soil layers below the upper portion and engineered fill.

**Comment LUCAS-31**

The comment asks if off-site set up areas for construction described in the project description were anticipated and included in the traffic or pollution sections of the Draft EIR.

**Response LUCAS-31**

Potential offsite staging areas along Atascadero Road are shown in Figure 2-1 in the Draft EIR. The use of construction equipment and materials to be staged in these areas are part of the construction air emissions analysis provided in Chapter 3.2. The movement of construction equipment between the project site and offsite staging areas is part of the analysis for Impact 3.11-1 on page 3.11-7. Mitigation Measure 3.11-1 requires development and implementation of a Traffic Control/Traffic Management Plan to minimize traffic impacts during project construction, including coordination of construction activities with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and Morro Bay High School.

**Comment LUCAS-32**

The comment asks if a smaller footprint arrangement was considered for the proposed site given that the site plateau is built up based on the “campus” footprint layout. The comment asks if the “campus” footprint layout was a result of future maintenance concerns with space need for equipment trade-outs, etc.

**Response LUCAS-32**

During the development of the FMP and subsequent Amendments, various facilities layouts have been considered. The layout depicted in the Draft EIR is preliminary and subject to change within the designated site boundaries. Criteria for the arrangement and locations of the facilities can be found in the FMP and subsequent Amendments.

A campus style arrangement for the proposed project was selected to optimize the operation and maintenance of the new facilities. Sufficient clearance around the multiple treatment functions and processes is needed for safe personnel access for inspection, service, and repair of equipment items and for vehicle traffic for deliveries of chemicals, fuel, and parts plus transportation of

treatment residuals (screenings, grit, and dewatered sludge). Mobile crane access would be needed for removal of major equipment items.

**Comment LUCAS-33**

The comment asks how the remaining excavation fill material will be used as backfill to create the earth platform given that 35,000 cubic yards of fill is proposed to create the earth platform and 31,290 cubic yards is proposed for excavation for the buildings.

**Response LUCAS-33**

The site of the proposed new facilities would initially be cleared of unsuitable material that would be hauled offsite for disposal. The remaining soil would be re-compacted. Facilities such as the Oxidation Ditches and Secondary Clarifiers would require excavation for below-grade construction. Upon completion of the below-grade construction, the new structures would be backfilled with the excavated material. Excess excavated material plus new soil that would be imported from other sources, would be placed as engineered fill to raise the grade of the new facilities above the flood elevation.

**Comment LUCAS-34**

The comment refers to a previously stated comment (LUCAS-23), which asks if the proposed plant capacity is based on future demographic assumptions or past use records. The comment asks whether there is any place for plant expansion on the proposed site if the demographic scenario indicates a future rise in capacity. The comment asks why the proposed new system is reviewed only in terms of averages, what the outfall quality of effluent will be if influent exceeds capacity at peak events, and if the proposed system is taking account aspects of an aging treatment system.

**Response LUCAS-34**

Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15**.

**Comment LUCAS-35**

The comment states that the increased 10 truck trip/week (500+/year) versus the current 3-8 truck trips/year means that truck traffic would increase 100 fold.

**Response LUCAS-35**

The comment is correct. The answer to the question is yes.

**Comment LUCAS-36**

The comment asks why there is no corresponding drop of hazardous materials capacity if the proposed plant capacity is 64 percent of the current capacity.

**Response LUCAS-36**

The proposed project would eliminate the need for one of the three chemicals currently used at the WWTP, ferrous chloride. Operation of the proposed treatment facilities would require continued use of the other two chemicals, sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite, at a similar rate and volume as under existing operational conditions, even though the chemicals would be applied to a different treatment process. At start up, the existing flow rate at the plant would not change from existing conditions. The existing flow rate at the WWTP is anticipated to continue with slight increases as development occurs as projected in the FMP and Amendments.

**Comment LUCAS-37**

The comment asks where the rise in energy for the plant is coming from and what the energy burden of the dewatering mechanism will be given how the plant size constrains the process. The comment asks if there were any sustainable building practices or design aspects considered to reduce ongoing energy consumption.

**Response LUCAS-37**

The new WWTP provides a higher level of wastewater treatment and a corresponding higher energy consumption. Approximately 50 percent of the predicted energy consumption would be for the aeration of the Oxidation Ditches that provide the biological treatment; approximately 15 percent of the predicted energy consumption would be for the Influent Pump Station and Secondary Pump Station to convey the water through the new treatment facilities; and approximately six percent of the predicted energy consumption would be for sludge dewatering. The energy consumption associated with occupied buildings, such as the Operations Building and Maintenance Building, is a small portion of the overall project energy consumption. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-27** regarding sustainable building practices and energy efficient design practices.

**Comment LUCAS-38**

The comment asks why Alternative 3 was not a complete stand alone facility that would free up the current site for other forms of development. The comment asks why the ocean outfall element of the existing site retained.

**Response LUCAS-38**

Alternative 3 provides analysis of impacts associated with relocating the treatment plant to another site. For any alternative location, there would still need to be some facilities at the existing WWTP site, including a pump station and force main to pump sewage from the WWTP site (where the collection system is designed to flow via gravity) to the alternative site and then back to the existing WWTP site for ocean outfall discharge. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for additional discussion. The proposed project objectives do not include relocation of the plant or elimination of the ocean outfall. The primary goal of the proposed project is to upgrade the level of treatment provided to the effluent discharged through the outfall to full secondary treatment.

**Comment LUCAS-39**

The comment agrees with the statement made in the Population and Housing section of the Draft EIR, "...no potential for the project to induce population growth." The comment asks if the project caps growth due to the mechanism for measuring flow. The comment states the reduction of plant capacity by 64 percent precludes the 'fullest' build out.

**Response LUCAS-39**

Please refer to Response **COASTAL-15**.

**Comment LUCAS-40**

The comment states the EIR process should enhance rather than maintain environmental aesthetics of the project site. The comment asks why the Draft EIR continually discounts the beach and RV Park as a core visitor and resident resource for the City of Morro Bay.

**Response LUCAS-40**

In accordance with CEQA, the purpose of the analysis provided in the Draft EIR is to identify impacts relative to baseline conditions. When necessary, mitigation measures strive to maintain baseline conditions; CEQA does not provide a mandate to enhance environmental conditions, such as aesthetics, relative to the baseline. Such enhancement would be at the discretion of the Lead Agency or subsequently could be required as a condition of permits associated with the project, but would not be required by CEQA. The environmental baseline for determining potential impacts is the date the Notice of Preparation for the proposed project is published (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15125(a)). The revised NOP for the proposed project was published in October 2009. For each resource area assessed in the Draft EIR, the environmental setting describes existing conditions as of October 2009, unless otherwise indicated. In accordance with CEQA, all impact analyses are based on changes to existing conditions that result due to implementation of the proposed project.

**Comment LUCAS-41**

The comment states that the project aesthetics seem to only relate to the concrete factory adjacent to the project site. The comment asks how the proposed structures contribute aesthetically to the beach environment, visitor serving uses, or adjacent High School.

**Response LUCAS-41**

The land use and zoning designations for the project site are industrial. Accordingly, the project would build industrial facilities in a manner that is compatible with neighboring industrial facilities. The City of Morro Bay zoning code (17.48.200) requires projects in any industrial district to apply architectural treatments that are in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. All new facilities would be industrial buildings designed in accordance with building and zoning code restrictions associated with industrial land use designations, including building height limitations. The proposed project does not serve any recreational uses, visitor serving uses or educational uses.

**Comment LUCAS-42**

The comment asks why the vista from Morro Rock parking lot to the north/northeast along the beach was not considered in the map of scenic resources.

**Response LUCAS-42**

The visual simulations depicted a reasonable range of scenic viewsheds from varying public vantage points around the project site. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-8**.

**Comment LUCAS-43**

The comment asks how elevating the sewer plant five feet on the fill plateau and adding a second story to several structures is not a significant land alteration.

**Response LUCAS-43**

Program VR-3.4 states that industrial development shall be sited in areas designated in the Land Use Plan in order to protect views and minimize land alteration (Draft EIR, page 3.1-5). The proposed project is maintaining industrial development in an area designated as such in the City's Land Use Plan and thus is consistent with this program in the Visual Resources and Scenic Highway Element of the City's General Plan.

**Comment LUCAS-44**

The comment asks how the impact assessment was made when impacts from the beach and rock have not been assessed.

**Response LUCAS-44**

The Draft EIR states on page 3.1-5 that the significance determination for impacts to aesthetics is based on several criteria, including the extent of project visibility from sensitive public view areas such as designated state routes and public open space. The Draft EIR has evaluated project visibility from Highway 1, which is a state designated scenic highway, and the sand dunes along the beach at Morro Dunes State Park, which is designated as a scenic resource in the City's General Plan (Draft EIR, page 3.1-3).

**Comment LUCAS-45**

The comment asks why colored concrete or vegetative screening was not considered versus proposing to repaint the concrete buildings, which is also a maintenance issue as ocean air abrades the paint.

**Response LUCAS-45**

Mitigation Measure 3.1-1 requires non-glare exterior coatings that are colored to blend in with the surrounding structures and landscape. Paint is not explicitly required; MBCSD may choose alternatives such as colored concrete or vegetative screening.

**Comment LUCAS-46**

The comment states the aerial view from the ocean is irrelevant for visual simulation and aesthetic impacts because it is unavailable to the public due to its height above grade.

**Response LUCAS-46**

The images for the visual simulations were intended to generally represent the planned aesthetic nature of the proposed facilities and layout, in addition to generally representing their impact to scenic vistas from some designated view points.

**Comment LUCAS-47**

The comment asks if the view in Figure 3.1-3 is above the five foot eye-level and if the view includes the impact of the five foot plateau. The comment states the new proposed project is farther south behind the RV structures, which places it closer to the southwest beach and south creek areas. The comment states that either or both of those elements would be more critical to an accurate assessment.

**Response LUCAS-47**

Figure 3.1-3 represents the view from the sand dunes at eye level. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-8** for additional discussion.

**Comment LUCAS-48**

The comment asks why the project does not enhance the aesthetic quality of the site. The comment asks if the six foot security fence will be at the top or bottom of the five foot knoll.

**Response LUCAS-48**

Regarding the question of maintaining versus enhancing visual character, please refer to **Response LUCAS-40**. Perimeter fencing would be installed around the new treatment facilities and the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility. In addition, fencing may also be installed along the boundary of the property on Atascadero Road, subject to the final determination of the surfacing and future use of the vacant area once existing treatment facilities are demolished.

**Comment LUCAS-49**

The comment asks if any light simulation was done to assess the night visual quality and impacts from the upper level open portion of the maintenance structure.

**Response LUCAS-49**

No nighttime light simulations were conducted. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.1-2 would ensure impacts to nighttime views due to exterior lighting would be less than significant, similar to existing conditions.

**Comment LUCAS-50**

The comment asks why the Draft EIR can dismiss beach and tourist context in the visual character of the project site. The comment states there is a need to restore degraded or industrial impacts on the beach and visitor serving commercial areas.

**Response LUCAS-50**

The proposed project would build industrial facilities on property designated for such uses by the City's General Plan, Local Coastal Plan, and Zoning Ordinance. These planning documents intentionally locate industrial land uses directly adjacent to visitor serving uses and the beach. The project site is not considered degraded, and there is no requirement to restore impacts associated with construction of industrial facilities.

**Comment LUCAS-51**

The comment asks why there is not an operational impact on air quality assuming the 100 fold increase in truck traffic that is anticipated with the proposed project.

**Response LUCAS-51**

Please refer to **Response APCD-13**.

**Comment LUCAS-52**

The comment asks why the beach and visitor/resident use of the beach is left off the list of sensitive land uses. The comment states Morro Bay's income and future depend on a productive beach image and positive beach experience.

**Response LUCAS-52**

The beach is located beyond the sensitive land uses described in the Draft EIR. Nonetheless, in response to the comment, the following revision has been made:

Draft EIR, page 3.2-5:

The nearest sensitive receptor to the proposed project site is the Morro Dunes RV Park. An RV could potentially park approximately as close as 15 feet from the proposed new facilities. Morro Bay High School is located north of Atascadero Road, approximately 500 feet from the proposed facilities. The Morro Strand RV Park is located to the east approximately 600 feet from the proposed facilities, on the other side of the Hanson-Heidelberg Cement Plant. The beach at Morro Bay State Park is located to the west approximately 600 feet from the proposed facilities.

**Comment LUCAS-53**

The comment asks why the project is not availing itself to any of the list of green and energy saving techniques listed in Table 3.2-4 of the Draft EIR with regard to the architectural components.

**Response LUCAS-53**

The proposed project is designed to comply with City building requirements. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-27**.

**Comment LUCAS-54**

The comment asks if the odor discussion under Impact 3.2-4 and Mitigation Measure 3.2-2 is a “wait and see” approach to issues and mitigation. The comment asks why there no documentation for the proposed technology at a similar plant as to the number of complaints and viability of odor controlling techniques.

**Response LUCAS-54**

As discussed on page 3.2-26 of the Draft EIR under Impact 3.2-4, the proposed project would retire and demolish facilities associated with odor and replace them with facilities that inherently produce fewer odors and are designed to contain odor. Existing sources of odors, particularly the sludge drying beds, trickling filters and primary clarifiers, would be demolished. The proposed project would construct new oxidation ditches and a Residuals Facility building that would contain the solids handling facilities. The Residual Facility would be a partially-enclosed two-story building with three full-height exterior walls (west, north, and east) to provide protection from prevailing winds and to mitigate odors on neighboring parcels. The Draft EIR concludes that the project would reduce odor emissions.

**Comment LUCAS-55**

The comment asks if there should be monitoring of the effluent to confirm potential impacts on sea otters from influent/effluent of cat feces. The comment asks if there are any existing plants that have experienced the same problem that could scientifically document the efficacy of the technology proposed for this issue.

**Response LUCAS-55**

The USEPA and USFWS have concluded that current discharge from the WWTP is not adversely affecting the southern sea otter (Draft EIR, page 3.3-8). Thus the proposed upgrade to full secondary treatment would not adversely affect the southern sea otter. Potential benefits associated with the upgrade have not been quantified.

**Comment LUCAS-56**

The comment refers to a previously stated comment (**LUCAS-13**), which asks if there are examples where a site was so impacted by significant cultural resource or burials that it becomes nonviable. The comment asks how the schedule has reflected the possible delays in construction due to potential issues with cultural resources. The comment asks if these potential issues have been reflected in the budget.

**Response LUCAS-56**

Please refer to **Response LUCAS-13**. The City is coordinating with local Native American groups to initiate testing at the site pursuant to Mitigation Measure 3.4-1a in order to mitigate

potential effects before construction begins. This proactive approach will reduce potential for delays.

**Comment LUCAS-57**

The comment suggests that a stand-alone alternative on another site should be explored given the high potential for hazards due to seismic events, shaking, and liquefaction.

**Response LUCAS-57**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment LUCAS-58**

The comment asks why there is no acknowledgement in the Geology section of the Draft EIR that the project site is susceptible to erosion from flood and tsunamis. The comment states that a stand-alone alternative on another site should also be explored.

**Response LUCAS-58**

Impacts associated with flooding and tsunamis are found in Chapter 3.7, Hydrology and Water Quality. Please refer to **Response HENNIGH-2** for additional information regarding impacts associated with tsunamis. Please refer to **Response COASTAL-8** for additional information regarding coastal erosion. Also, please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment LUCAS-59**

The comment states that the Draft EIR correctly noted that building codes deal with human life safety and set standards for building structure to address seismic risk. The comment asks what the seismic impacts are on operational activity. The comment asks what the special impacts of the project site and setting from an operational failure are relative to the proximity to the ocean.

**Response LUCAS-59**

The purpose of the CBC is to establish minimum standards to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, and general stability by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all building and structures within its jurisdiction (Draft EIR, page 3.5-8. The CBC is thus intended to minimize risk to operational activity in addition to risk to human life and public safety. The proposed project does not introduce any new impacts associated with operational failure relative to its proximity to the ocean. The proposed project would continue the operation of the treatment facilities at the current WWTP location.

**Comment LUCAS-60**

The comment states the geological report produces findings that can be technically met by a competent engineering design that mitigates the impact. However, the comment asks if the geotechnical report will contain recommendations about subsoils that require a complete

excavation of the building footprints to below sea level based on previous borings. The comment asks if the lower end of the subsoil capability was used as an assumption or was a higher soils capacity used.

**Response LUCAS-60**

Please refer to **Response LUCAS-6** and **Response LUCAS-30**.

**Comment LUCAS-61**

The comment asks if a chemical/hazardous materials accident can create a need for protocols for coordination with the High School or RV Park. The comment asks if the increased truckloads of materials from the site create a hazardous waste issue in the event of an accident.

**Response LUCAS-61**

As explained on pages 3.6-5 and 3.6-6 of the Draft EIR, the WWTP currently has a Risk Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which are on file with the San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department and the Morro Bay Fire Department. All Plans would be updated accordingly to reflect the upgraded treatment facilities.

The proposed project would result in increase truck trips associated with hauling of sludge offsite for composting or disposal. Sludge is not considered a hazardous material, and thus such sludge hauling does not create a hazardous waste issue.

**Comment LUCAS-62**

The comment asks if the 3 to 4.5 foot rise is contingent on the Wallace Group letter that discusses the revision of the flood map elevations. The comment asks for the current flood plain height versus the scenario presented by Wallace Group.

**Response LUCAS-62**

The discrepancies in flood depth and delineation of flood hazard zones is explained on page 3 of the Flood Hazard Analysis (Wallace Group, 2009) included in the Draft EIR as Appendix D. The FEMA flood maps and reports show flood depths approximately 2.5 feet higher at the WWTP site than those determined by site-specific modeling conducted for the Flood Hazard Analysis. The FEMA maps also shows about one-third of the WWTP site as free from 100-year flooding. However, based on the site-specific modeling for the Flood Hazard Analysis, the entire WWTP site is below the 100-year flood elevation.

**Comment LUCAS-63**

The comment states there is no explanatory key in the FEMA Flood Zone figure (Figure 3.7-2 of the Draft EIR). The comment asks what the meanings are behind the project site's designated A-14 and B FEMA Flood Zones.

**Response LUCAS-63**

According to FEMA, all Zone A flood areas are high risk areas that have a one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year flood). Numbered A Zones, such as A14, have a base floodplain where the FIRM shows a Base Flood Elevation. All Zone B flood areas have a moderate flood hazard, usually between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year flood.

**Comment LUCAS-64**

The comment asks for the source of stormwater anticipated to occur on the WWTP, such as the roof or paved surfaces. The comment states that grey water uses should be implemented given the extended life cycle and the potential for pretreatment of stormwater.

**Response LUCAS-64**

All storm water runoff from surface within the boundaries of the proposed treatment facilities, including roofs and paved ground surfaces, would be subject to regulation by the NPDES General Industrial Permit mentioned on page 3.7-17 of the Draft EIR. The purpose of the permit is to identify sources of pollutants and manage sources to reduce storm water pollution. The WWTP would be subject to BMPs in the City's Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), which include Low Impact Development (LID) Standards. Please refer to **Response CRWQCB-4** for additional information about LID Standards and SWMP requirements.

**Comment LUCAS-65**

The comment asks for explanation of the Tsunami Emergency Response Plan and how it keeps catastrophic failures from happening.

**Response LUCAS-65**

The Tsunami Emergency Response Plan does not prevent catastrophic failure from happening. Please refer to **Response HENNIGH -2** for additional discussion.

**Comment LUCAS-66**

The comment asks why the beach was not mentioned as part of the regional setting when the site is virtually on the beach and the City's policies require direct care for waterfronts. The comment asks why there is no mention of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas of the Morro Creek watershed.

**Response LUCAS-66**

The regional setting states that all of Morro Bay is located in the coastal zone and that land use patterns are largely defined by Morro Harbor, which is a working waterfront (Draft EIR, page 3.8-1).

The City's Coastal Land Use Plan identifies Morro Creek as an environmentally sensitive habitat area itself, rather than identifying sensitive habitat areas within the Creek (Chapter XII. Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, page 182). Impacts to riparian habitat within Morro Creek are evaluated in Chapter 3.3 of the Draft EIR (Impact 3.3-5, page 3.3-9).

**Comment LUCAS-67**

The comment states that Atascadero Road is a unique roadway that is the only major access to the beach that does not cross through residential areas or the possible congestion of the Embarcadero. The comment states the area has gathered several RV parks, motels and visitors that have a large economic upside if industrial uses were relocated. The comment asks why the visitor serving aspect of the area was not more overtly acknowledged.

**Response LUCAS-67**

As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would be built in lands designated as General (Light) Industrial in the City's General Plan, and the corresponding zoning designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). The project area is not designated as Visitor Serving Commercial. The City's General Plan and Coastal Land Use Plan intentionally locate industrial land uses directly adjacent to visitor serving uses and the beach. Future planning or policy decisions to change locations of industrial land use are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

**Comment LUCAS-68**

The comment states that if an alternative process and/or alternative site made ocean outfall unnecessary, then the higher use of the site would be coastal land use.

**Response LUCAS-68**

The WWTP and outfall are integrated facilities and not necessarily components to be separated. Together these facilities are considered coastal dependent, as cited, in Program LU-39.3 (Draft EIR, page 3.8-8). The project site has land use and zoning designations for industrial uses. Any decisions regarding a "higher use" of the site related to coastal land use is beyond the scope of this Draft EIR.

**Comment LUCAS-69**

The comment asks what the possibilities are of a peak event producing a low quality effluent that may result in a beach closure. The comment asks what the record of beach closures are, if any, for the current plant and where in the Draft EIR does the impact of the continued use on the beach or visitors in the surrounding area are discussed. The comment asks how the project impacts future recreational opportunities given that there have been proposals for bike trails/walking paths over a pedestrian/emergency vehicle bridge from the extension of the Embarcadero across Morro Creek.

**Response LUCAS-69**

The proposed facilities are designed to provide full secondary treatment during peak events, and thus low quality effluent would not be discharged during such events and would not result in beach closures or result in the deterioration of recreational opportunities at the beach. The baseline conditions for the proposed project include the existing WWTP, ocean outfall, and ocean discharge. The proposed project would continue to discharge effluent through the ocean outfall and would not introduce any new impacts to recreational beach facilities due to impacts to ocean water quality. The proposed project would upgrade the level of treatment provided to effluent

discharged to the ocean, and thus would have no adverse effects to ocean water quality or recreational opportunities associated with the Morro Bay State Park and beach. The proposed project does not affect directly any existing recreational facilities and does not impact continued use of the beach or other visitor serving uses along the coast. The proposed project does not preclude the development of planned future recreational projects, including bike trails, walking paths, or the extension of the Embarcadero across Morro Creek.

**Comment LUCAS-70**

The comment suggests that the impact discussion should state the project "...would not further divide a community" given that the extent of industrial uses and pedestrian restrictions from Route 1 to the beach in the project area already "divides" the City. The comment states the project is a 50+ year commitment to that divide.

**Response LUCAS-70**

As stated on page 3.8-11 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project is not a linear project or new construction that would separate surrounding land uses. The new treatment facilities would be built on land currently utilized for industrial purposes and zoned for industrial purposes. The proposed project would not introduce a new feature that would change the land use composition in the project vicinity and as such would not divide, or further divide, an established community.

**Comment LUCAS-71**

The comment refers to a previously stated comment (LUCAS-19), which asks questions regarding construction noise and vibration impacts, including if the RV Park could possibly survive years of construction noise and vibration given that there is no mitigation for vibration impacts to the park.

**Response LUCAS-71**

Please see **Responses LUCAS-17, LUCAS-18, and LUCAS-19.**

**Comment LUCAS-72**

The comment states the Draft EIR suggests that ambient noise from operations is masked by ambient noise generated from other sources in the surrounding area and therefore mitigates the noise from the plant. The comment asks if ambient noise from the proposed plant will be louder than the current facility from the RV Park.

**Response LUCAS-72**

On page 3.9-6, the Draft EIR cites the noise limitations applicable to operation of the proposed project as required by the Morro Bay Zoning Ordinance. In response to the comment, the text of the Draft EIR has been revised as follows for clarification:

Draft EIR, page 3.9-12:

The proposed project would construct new stationary noise sources in replacement of existing stationary noise sources at the WWTP. The proposed changes to ambient noise levels would be indistinguishable from current ambient conditions in the project vicinity, including noise sources from the WWTP, the ocean, the Hanson-Heidelberg Cement plant, and traffic noise from Atascadero Road and SR-1. In addition, similar to the existing WWTP, the proposed facilities would be designed in compliance with the Morro Bay Zoning Ordinance which restricts noise levels at neighboring property lines to 70 dB Ldn. Therefore, operation of the upgraded WWTP would not increase ambient noise levels from stationary noise sources in the project vicinity and be less than significant without mitigation.

**Comment LUCAS-73**

The comment asks if there was any consideration given to discussing with the power plant owners whether the treated water could serve as a source for the modified wet-cooling alternate study of the replacement power plant, considering that the bay water intake of the adjacent power plant is in jeopardy. The comment states that 1.5 mgd can be stored up for power plant use, for example in wetlands that would remove ocean and bay issues stemming from the power plant and WWTP. The comment speculates and asks if the plant cooling process would raise the temperature of the water to act like a cleaner.

**Response LUCAS-73**

The issues related to ocean intake and sources of cooling water at the power plant are beyond the scope of the analysis of the Draft EIR. The project objectives do not include finding alternatives to the ocean outfall discharge.

**Comment LUCAS-74**

The comment asks if the loss of on-site composting is due to the site versus another possible alternate site. The comment asks what the loss is a factor of (e.g., plant size, hazards to mitigate, cost).

**Response LUCAS-74**

The project objectives do not include maintenance of the onsite composting program, but rather upgrade of facilities to meet discharge permit requirements and to produce disinfected tertiary recycled water in the future, while avoiding impacts associated with flooding. In order meet all objectives, the onsite composting program could not be maintained. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for discussion about project alternatives.

**Comment LUCAS-75**

The comment states that there is an impact on continued dependence on the State Water Project and energy demand by not treating the wastewater at a high tertiary level. The comment states the

ocean outfall process is an impact on the dependence for outside water needs and reflects the need for an alternative process.

**Response LUCAS-75**

The proposed project does not affect existing conditions of dependence on imported water. Operation of the proposed facilities and continued use of the ocean outfall does not create new dependence on imported water. The proposed project would produce recycled water that could be used to offset potable water use, imported or otherwise, in the future if a Recycled Water Master Plan is developed for the region (see master response to Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water). Under current regulatory conditions, recycled water would not provide a complete replacement for potable water, and thus dependence on imported water would not be completely eliminated.

**Comment LUCAS-76**

The comment refers to a previously stated comment (**LUCAS-37**), which asks where the rise in energy for the plant is coming from and what the energy burden of the dewatering mechanism will be given how the plant size constrains the process. The comment asks if there were any sustainable building practices or design aspects considered to reduce ongoing energy consumption.

**Response LUCAS-76**

Please see **Response LUCAS-37** and **LUCAS-38**.

**Comment LUCAS-77**

The comment asks if the offsite trucking of waste satisfies the integrated waste management State goal of 50% composting and if another site could provide composting capacity.

**Response LUCAS-77**

The proposed project would continue the practice of composting all of the solids produced at the WWTP, although under the proposed project all composting would occur offsite as the onsite program would be eliminated. The impacts associated with composting at an alternative site would need to be considered together with a suite of other potential impacts associated with an alternative site. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment LUCAS-78**

The comment asks why the doubling of power use, the continued dependence on the State Water Project, and the increased dependence with the Morro Bay build out does not result in a significant impact.

**Response LUCAS-78**

The significance threshold for energy use is provided on page 3.10-7 of the Draft EIR: “The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would affect local and regional energy

supplies such that additional electrical capacity is required.” Impact 3.10-5 on page 3.10-10 concludes that electricity would be provided by PG&E, and no offsite improvements would be necessary to provide the additional energy to operate the proposed facilities at full capacity.

Regarding dependence on SWP water, please refer to **Response LUCAS-75**.

#### **Comment LUCAS-79**

The comment states the Draft EIR uses the term “future water quality standards” in a way that implies the requirements will become stricter. The comment asks why it is a significant impact to upgrade the treatment beyond the wastewater treatment requirements, especially if another water issue (e.g., aquifer recharge, industrial water, potable water) is an outcome.

#### **Response LUCAS-79**

The significance threshold referenced on page 3.10-6 of the Draft EIR is as follows: “The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.” In the context of this significance threshold, “exceed” means “violate” any treatment requirements. References throughout the Draft EIR regarding the fact that upgrades to tertiary filtration would “exceed” treatment requirements are intended to mean “go beyond” treatment requirements or “in excess” of treatment requirements. Per the significance threshold, the proposed project would not violate any treatment requirements, but rather provide treatment that is in excess of that being required by the CCRWQCB to meet the NPDES discharge permit standards.

In response to the comment the text of the Draft EIR has been revised as follows:

Draft EIR, page 3.10-7:

#### ***Water and Wastewater Treatment***

The proposed project would not ~~exceed~~ violate the receiving water limitations of the Central Coast RWQCB. The proposed project would upgrade the treatment facilities at the WWTP ~~to exceed in excess of~~ the secondary treatment standards contained in 40CFR Part 133 by providing full secondary treatment with tertiary filtration. The project would also phase out the need for a modified 301(h) discharge permit to meet the Central Coast RWQCB’s effluent discharge requirements. The impacts of the proposed upgrade are evaluated in this EIR.

#### **Comment LUCAS-80**

The comment states that the cited significance threshold steers readers away from impact trade-offs/off-sets. The comment states examples such as, enhancing the site for tourist-serving, recreational or commercial use as suggested by city planning documents. The comment states a scenario where an alternative, new plant produces significant impacts may be mitigated by providing the positive trade-offs mentioned.

**Response LUCAS-80**

The significance threshold referenced on page 3.10-6 of the Draft EIR is as follows: “The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would 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 impacts.” The proposed would result in the expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities. As stated on page 3.10-7 of the Draft EIR, the impacts of this proposed expansion, or upgrade, are evaluated as the subject of this EIR. The proposed project would expand industrial facilities in a location that current contains industrial facilities, in compliance with the designated land use and zoning. Any other uses for the site would need to comply with these land use and zoning designations and be compatible with the neighboring industrial land uses. For further discussion regarding trade-offs in impacts associated with alternative locations, please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment LUCAS-81**

The comment refers to a previously stated comment (**LUCAS-75**) for the discussion on State Water Project dependence. Comment **LUCAS-75** states that there is an impact on continued dependence on the State Water Project and energy demand by not treating the wastewater at a high tertiary level. The comment states the ocean outfall process is an impact on the dependence for outside water needs and reflects the need for an alternative process.

**Response LUCAS-81**

Regarding dependence on SWP water, please refer to **Response LUCAS-75**.

**Comment LUCAS-82**

The comment refers to previously stated comments (**LUCAS-75** and **LUCAS-78**) for the discussion on increased power consumption, lack of onsite power generation, and indirect impacts of continued State Water Project power use.

**Response LUCAS-82**

Please see **Responses LUCAS-75** and **LUCAS-78**.

## Letter 14, Anne Sidaris-Reeves

**Comment REEVES-1**

The comment states the EIR fails to include reclamation of the effluent as an immediate element of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. The comment also states that it is a necessity for the plant to provide full treated tertiary water.

**Response REEVES-1**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water and Response Otter-2.

## Letter 15, Dorothy Cutter

### Comment CUTTER-1

The comment states the EIR did not take a look at alternatives and therefore did not satisfy the requirements of an EIR. The comment also states the EIR is a very shallow report and a waste of approximately \$375, 000.

### Response CUTTER-1

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis. Comments about the cost of the EIR do not pertain to the scope or content of the Draft EIR.

## Letter 16, Steve Hennigh

### Comment HENNIGH-1

The comment states the “Chorro Creek” alternative location should not be the only other site considered and states that three alternative sites should be considered to be sure of a correct location. The comment states that the current site should be considered for another use other than sewage treatment to generate money to build a plant somewhere else, other than a flood plain.

### Response HENNIGH -1

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis.

As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the land use designation in the City’s General Plan for the WWTP site is General (Light) Industrial, and the corresponding zoning designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). Any other uses for the site would need to comply with these land use and zoning designations and be compatible with the neighboring industrial land uses. The proposed project would remove the WWTP from the 100-year flood zone.

### Comment HENNIGH-2

The comment states the storm water runoff flood flow plan does not include plans for spillage and what to do during a flood event, especially floods induced by a tsunami.

### Response HENNIGH -2

The Draft EIR provides an analysis of potential impacts of all construction and operational actions reasonably foreseeable with implementation of the proposed project. The environmental baseline for determining potential impacts is the date the Notice of Preparation for the proposed project is published (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15125(a)). The revised NOP for the proposed project was published in October 2009. For each resource area assessed in the Draft EIR, including hydrology and flooding, the environmental setting describes existing conditions as of October 2009, unless otherwise indicated. In accordance with CEQA, all impact analyses are based on changes to existing conditions that result due to implementation of the proposed project. As explained in Chapter 3.7 of the Draft EIR, the existing WWTP is located in the coastal zone

and is already at risk of inundation by tsunami (page 3.7-20). The proposed project would not affect or change this existing condition.

Also, as mentioned on page 3.7-20 of the Draft EIR, the City of Morro Bay has an adopted Tsunami Emergency Response Plan. The Plan states the following with respect to the potential damage that could be inflicted on the City due to a tsunami:

“Every few seconds an earthquake occurs somewhere in the Pacific rim. The vast majority of these quakes cause little or no damage and do not generate tsunamis. The last tsunami to strike Morro Bay was in 1964. This tsunami killed 12 people in Crescent City. When it hit Morro Bay, the bay drained and filled four times in one hour and caused damage to docks and vessels but there were not injuries or fatalities. The true range of damage will depend on the speed, height, length, and distance the wave has traveled. It will also depend on the topography of the continental shelf. A small wave at one beach may be a giant several miles away.” (page 2 to 3)

Thus, there is no way to predict the exact impact of a tsunami on the WWTP site. The Emergency Response Plan acknowledges that in the case of a heavy-damage tsunami, normal utility systems may be damaged or disrupted, including sewage collection systems and treatment sites. With respect to the evaluation of project impacts in accordance with CEQA, this is the existing baseline condition for tsunami impacts. The proposed project would not generally affect or change this existing condition. However, the proposed project would raise all WWTP facilities to an elevation of 23 feet above mean sea level (amsl) from the current elevation of 16 feet amsl. This would provide incremental protection of treatment facilities from a tsunami relative to existing conditions. In addition the proposed project would eliminate the open sludge drying beds which are currently within the tsunami impact zone. See **Response COASTAL-8**.

## Letter 17, Richard L. Rutherford

### Comment RUTHERFORD-1

The comment asks if Kern County has been notified about the increased sludge being delivered from the proposed project. The comment asks what will happen to the proposed project if the current litigation with Los Angeles County would result in the discontinuation of exporting sludge to Kern County.

### Response RUTHERFORD-1

In 2006, Kern County voters passed Measure E, or the Keep Kern Clean Ordinance of 2006, which banned the land application of biosolids in unincorporated areas of the County. Measure E excluded biosolid products that are bagged and sold in limited quantities at retail stores for small-scale residential applications. Measure E does not pertain to incorporated cities within Kern County, such as Bakersfield, which can and do continue with land application of biosolids.

The City of Morro Bay is proposing to continue to contract with San Joaquin Composting (now Liberty Composting, Inc.) to haul treated sludge from the proposed new treatment facilities to

composting facilities in Lost Hills, which is located in Kern County. Liberty Composting is permitted to accept up to 786,000 tons of organic waste annually (Liberty Composting, Inc., 2010). Sludge would be composted to high quality, Class A compost and then land applied in Kings County. The ban associated with Kern County's Measure E would not affect the ability of Liberty Composting to continue with its composting operations and would not affect land application of composted biosolids in Kings County.

The existing facility currently dries and composts sludge on site, resulting in few sludge hauling truck trips. The proposed project would remove the sludge drying beds from the property, requiring additional drying off site. The proposed disposal method analyzed in the Draft EIR would continue trucking biosolids to Liberty Composting in Kern County as described above. However, as regulations change in the future, other biosolids disposal options may become available.

Liberty Composting is currently proposing to build a gasification project, known as the Liberty Energy Center, at its composting facility, which would be a waste-to-energy project that would produce up to 19.5 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity, 13.5 mw of which could be exported back to the power grid (Kern County, 2010). Liberty Energy Center is expected to be operational in 2012 and will replace composting capacity at Liberty Composting with renewable energy production using the same feedstocks. This project was recently approved by the Kern County Planning Commission on November 11, 2010. The project would reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds from its composting operations, reduce the amount of organic biomass that is produced at the site, and result in a net reduction in GHG emissions over current practices (Kern County, 2010). The treated sludge produced at the proposed project potentially would provide some of the feedstock for this project.

## Letter 18, Nicole & Brian Dorfman

### **Comment DORFMAN-1**

The comment states their greatest concern is for the beneficial reuse of treated effluent and that it would be very short sighted not to plan for future use of the water. The comment states the Draft EIR should have included this as an alternative.

### **Response DORFMAN-1**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### **Comment DORFMAN-2**

The comment states the Draft EIR did not offer an appropriate range of project location alternatives for a completely new and rebuilt WWTP. The comment provides alternative locations that the Draft EIR did not include analysis of, including a stand-alone treatment plant at another location, between Morro Bay and Cayucos, and possible site use of abandoned facilities at the Chevron property along Toro Creek.

**Response DORFMAN-2**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis.

**Comment DORFMAN-3**

The comment states the proposed new WWTP site would remain within the FEMA identified Flood Zone even after mitigation measures are implemented.

**Response DORFMAN-3**

As explained in the Draft EIR on page 3.7-19, the proposed project would build the new treatment facilities at a higher elevation, effectively removing the new WWTP from the 100-year flood hazard area. The new treatment facilities would be built at an elevation that is at least one foot above the base flood elevation, in accordance with the City of Morro Bay Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (Chapter 14.72). Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 ensures the new facilities would be protected from inundation from a 100-year flood.

**Comment DORFMAN-4**

The comment states concern that the new WWTP site will continue to be in conflict with numerous coastal act policies, including Morro Bay's, and could potentially result in more costs for the community to incur.

**Response DORFMAN-4**

The City has prepared the Draft EIR for the proposed project in accordance with CEQA and has determined that the proposed project would be consistent with the City's Local Coastal Plan, which has been approved by the California Coastal Commission in compliance with the California Coastal Act.

**Comment DORFMAN-5**

The comment asks why current leaders of the City of Morro Bay would continue to support a WWTP location in a key tourism area, considering that the current plant will be demolished. The comment states the greatest asset of the City is their coastal location and should be appropriately developed.

**Response DORFMAN-5**

The City considered the proposed project as a redevelopment project, not a new development project. In order to maintain treatment capabilities during construction and avoid service disruptions, new facilities must be built next to old facilities. The existing facilities would be demolished only once the new facilities are connected and operational. As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the land use designation for the project site in the City's General Plan and certified Local Coastal Plan is General (Light) Industrial, and the corresponding zoning designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). The proposed project complies with current City policies to maintain industrial land uses at the project site. Future planning decisions that govern economic vitality and the growth of Morro Bay's coastal areas are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

## Letter 19, Lee & Christine Johnson

### **Comment JOHNSON-1**

The comment states the Draft EIR did not offer an appropriate range of project location alternatives for a completely new and rebuilt WWTP. The comment provides alternative locations that the Draft EIR did not include analysis of, including a stand-alone treatment plant at another location, between Morro Bay and Cayucos, and possible site use of abandoned facilities at the Chevron property along Toro Creek.

### **Response JOHNSON-1**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis

### **Comment JOHNSON-2**

The comment states the proposed new WWTP site would remain within the FEMA identified Flood Zone even after mitigation measures are implemented. The comment further states concern that the new WWTP site will continue to be in conflict with numerous coastal act policies, including Morro Bay's, and could potentially result in more costs for the community to incur.

### **Response JOHNSON-2**

As explained in the Draft EIR on page 3.7-19, the proposed project would build the new treatment facilities at a higher elevation, effectively removing the new WWTP from the 100-year flood hazard area. The new treatment facilities would be built at an elevation that is at least one foot above the base flood elevation, in accordance with the City of Morro Bay Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (Chapter 14.72). Mitigation Measure 3.7-4 ensures the new facilities would be protected from inundation from a 100-year flood. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis regarding flood protection issues.

The City has prepared the Draft EIR for the proposed project in accordance with CEQA and has determined that the proposed project would be consistent with the City's Local Coastal Plan, which has been approved by the California Coastal Commission in compliance with the California Coastal Act.

### **Comment JOHNSON-3**

The comment states that Lee and Christine Johnson are willing to pay fair share of the additional costs, if any, for the proper location of a WWTP.

### **Response JOHNSON-3**

The comment has been noted. Comments related to project cost are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

**Comment JOHNSON-4**

The comment asks why current leaders of the City of Morro Bay would continue to support a WWTP location in a key tourism area, considering that the current plant will be demolished. The comment states the greatest asset of the City is their coastal location and should be appropriately developed.

**Response JOHNSON-4**

As explained in Chapter 3.8 of the Draft EIR, the land use designation for the project site in the City's General Plan and certified Local Coastal Plan is General (Light) Industrial, and the corresponding zoning designation is Light Industrial (page 3.8-1). The proposed project complies with current City policies to maintain industrial land uses at the project site. Future planning decisions that govern economic vitality and the growth of Morro Bay's coastal areas are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

**Comment JOHNSON-5**

The comment states their concern for the beneficial reuse of treated effluent and that they would support paying fair share to bring water to agricultural and urban users. The comment states the Draft EIR should have included this as an alternative.

**Response JOHNSON-5**

Comments related to project cost are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

## Letter 20, Jamie Irons

**Comment IRONS-1**

The comment asks how the flood analysis addresses future upstream projects that increase flows to the creek.

**Response IRONS-1**

The Flood Hazard Analysis conducted by Wallace Group evaluates existing flood hazard conditions. The effects of future projects are beyond the scope of that analysis. Future projects that are to be constructed upstream will be subject to the City's Stormwater Management Program, which requires an evaluation of how new and re-development projects maintain pre-development hydrologic characteristics, such as flow patterns, surface retention, and recharge rates in order to minimize post development runoff and associated flooding.

Storm water BMPs or LID practices will be incorporated into these future projects in order control stormwater runoff where it is generated. LID would serve to preserve the hydrologic and environmental functions of the creek as well as control the release of stormwater into adjacent waterways.

**Comment IRONS-2**

The comment asks why the old WWTP area was not considered as a drainage basin with the ability to drain or be pumped to the dune outfall zone.

**Response IRONS-2**

The proposed project maintains the existing location of the WWTP facilities as a vacant flood flow pathway to avoid any increase in flood elevations on neighboring properties, which is the requirement of the proposed project in accordance with CEQA. The City may consider future projects at this location to improve flooding and drainage, including a drainage basin as suggested. Such a project would be beyond the scope or requirements for the proposed project.

**Comment IRONS-3**

The comment recommends that a sealed door or an extra foot of elevation should be considered for the electrical switchgear facility to address potential flood or minor water intrusion.

**Response IRONS-3**

As explained in the Draft EIR on page 3.7-19, the proposed project would build the new treatment facilities at a higher elevation, effectively removing the new WWTP from the 100-year flood hazard area. As required by Mitigation Measure 3.7-4, the new treatment facilities would be built at an elevation that is at least one foot above the base flood elevation, in accordance with the City of Morro Bay Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (Chapter 14.72), to ensure the new facilities would be protected from inundation from a 100-year flood.

**Comment IRONS-4**

The comment recommends adding to Mitigation Measure 3.1-2, “Minimize the use of light poles - use light bollards.”

**Response IRONS-4**

In response to the comment, the mitigation measure has been revised as follows:

Draft EIR, page 3.1-11:

**Mitigation Measure 3.1-2:** MBCSD shall ensure that all exterior lighting is shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts to nighttime views. MBCSD shall minimize the use of light poles and consider using light bollards. In addition, highly reflective finishes shall not be used in the design for proposed structures.

**Comment IRONS-5**

The comment asks why a landscape plan was not considered or included in relation to impacts on the visual character of the project site and surroundings that require no mitigation.

**Response IRONS-5**

The discussion regarding potential impacts to visual character on page 3.1-10 of the Draft EIR conclude that impacts would be less than significance without mitigation. The City of Morro Bay zoning code will require architectural treatments that are in keeping with the character of the site and surroundings. The project description includes perimeter landscaping. The project description has been revised in response to the comment to include a landscape plan for the entire project site:

Draft EIR, page 2-5:

In addition, two new paved access roads would be installed from Atascadero Road, one to provide access to the WWTP for staff, maintenance vehicles, and deliveries, and one to provide separate public access to the Operations Building. New security fencing and landscaping would be installed around the perimeter of the project area. During project design, a landscape plan would be developed for the project site and approved by the City. The configuration of facilities shown in Figure 2-2 is preliminary and subject to change during the design engineering process for the proposed project.

**Comment IRONS-6**

The comment asks if the project will include the reclaimed water delivery header to the street or future infrastructure.

**Response IRONS-6**

At this time, the proposed project includes only a truck filling station to facilitate future recycled water use. The proposed project does not preclude future implementation of recycled water infrastructure, including a water delivery header to the street.

**Letter 21, Richard E.T. Sadowski****Comment SADOWSKI-1**

The comment states flow studies conducted between March 2003 and November 2004 for the Cayucos Sanitary District and in North Morro Bay for the City of Morro Bay revealed that the Peak Dry Weather Flow parameter is severely underestimated. The comment states the Peak Dry Weather Flows are much greater than 1.5 mgd.

**Response SADOWSKI-1**

As part of Amendment No. 2 to the FMP for the WWTP Upgrade Project, the projected flow and loadings for the MBCSD build-out population were recalculated using a 15-year historical record of flows (MWH, 2010). The analysis resulted in the revised flow parameters, which form the basis for the current, ongoing design of the proposed project facilities (MWH, 2010). Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15** for additional discussion of WWTP capacity.

## Letter 22, Jack McCurdy

### **Comment MCCURDY-1**

The comment states the community of Morro Bay and Cayucos were not adequately made aware of the review of the Draft EIR and that presiding agencies did not make any additional effort to involve the public.

### **Response MCCURDY-1**

As stated in the *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15087, Public Review of Draft EIR, notices shall be mailed to organizations and individuals who have previously requested such notice in writing and shall also be given notice by at least one of the following procedures: publication at least one time by the agency in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected; posting of notices on and off the site where the proposed project would be located; or, direct mailing to the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the parcel or parcels. The initial notice of availability of the Draft EIR, which included details of the project, the public review period, and information about the first two public meeting opportunities, was mailed to state and local agencies as well as interested parties. In addition to these direct mailings, public notices were placed in *The Tribune* and *The Bay News* that announced the release of the Draft EIR, the dates and locations for all three public meetings, and the locations where the Draft EIR could be viewed. The City provided notices that satisfy the requirements under CEQA.

### **Comment MCCURDY-2**

The comment states that the EIR makes no mention of other alternatives considered by the lead agency that was ultimately rejected as infeasible during the scoping process. The comment states that had such alternatives been considered, the report does not adequately report them in the EIR.

### **Response MCCURDY-2**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis.

### **Comment MCCURDY-3**

The comment states the EIR fails to consider alternatives to the proposed project and does not consider any stand-alone alternative sites.

### **Response MCCURDY-3**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis.

## Letter 23, Robert Staller

### Comment STALLER-1

The comment states that there is lack of proper identification and evaluation of likely alternative locations out of the existing floodplain on Dynergy Power Plant's higher elevation. The comment suggests alternative project sites and factors to consider with these proposed locations.

### Response STALLER-1

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1, Alternatives Analysis and Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water.

### Comment STALLER-2

The comment asks what the economic advantage is for the citizens of Morro Bay and Cayucos to incur the costs for a project that involves higher water rates that still discharges to the ocean. The comment states the City should spend approximately 10% more than the currently proposed costs for the proposed project to bring the reclaimed water to a level of purity that would a valuable, sell-able resource.

### Response STALLER-2

The purpose of the proposed project, as stated on page 2-1 of the Draft EIR, is to comply with full-secondary treatment requirements for the WWTP's NPDES discharge permit in accordance with the agreement with the SWRCB. The proposed project is not a recycled water distribution project, but rather supports future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water for additional information.

### Comment STALLER-3

The comment asks if there are any bodies of fresh, clean water in California without anxious customers ready and able to purchase the resource for domestic, industrial or agricultural purposes.

### Response STALLER-3

The proposed project is not a recycled water distribution project, but rather supports future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water for additional information.

### Comment STALLER-4

The comment suggests that reclaimed water from the proposed new treatment plant could be pumped to the 58-62 acre parcel located at 625 foot elevation approximately three or more miles northeast from the Dynergy Power Plant and gravity distributed to the Toro Creek Valley, Morro Creek Valley, Little Morro Creek Valley, Chorro Creek Valley and San Bernardo Creek Valley. The comment states this pumping would bring several thousand agricultural acres into high value.

**Response STALLER-4**

The proposed project is not a recycled water distribution project, but rather supports future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 2: Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water for additional information. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1: Alternatives Analysis for additional discussion about treatment plant site locations.

## 10.6 Verbal Comments and Responses

### Morro Bay Planning Commission Meeting (October 4, 2010)

**Comment PLANNING-1**

The comment suggests that the proposed treatment plant location is not suitable due to the possibility of flooding and that the footprint is too large resulting in greater construction impacts. Also, the comment suggests that the proposed treatment plant would create offensive odors that would affect the citizens of Morro Bay, especially populations near the site such as schools and hospitals. The comment further states that the proposed treatment plant would cause respiratory sensitivity and distress to certain populations in Morro Bay. Lastly, the comment suggests the construction near the RV Park would be in close proximity to the school and motel which could potentially cause air quality and health issues.

**Response PLANNING-1**

The proposed project would elevate the WWTP out of the 100-year flood plain. The layout for the proposed facilities as shown in Figure 2-2 of the draft EIR is preliminary and subject to change within the delineated project site boundary. As explained on page 3.2-26 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would retire and demolish existing facilities that generate odor and replace them with facilities that produce fewer odors and are designed to contain odor, resulting in less potential for nuisance odors than under existing conditions. The proposed project would not result in hazardous or toxic air emissions that would cause respiratory distress to sensitive receptors. Any potential impacts to neighboring land uses, including Morro Bay High School and the RV Park, associated with air emissions or hazardous materials are addressed in Chapters 3.2 and 3.6 of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR concludes that the proposed project would lessen air emissions from existing conditions.

**Comment PLANNING-2**

The comment expresses concern with the lack of alternative sites presented in the EIR. Specifically, the comment is concerned with the reasoning why the Chorro Valley site was chosen as an alternative site since it is more expensive and located further away as opposed to Morro Valley which is located a half a mile away from the site. The comment also stated the EIR did not address an alternative design and that the proposed project is near an Archaeological site.

**Response PLANNING-2**

The EIR evaluates an off-site alternative in Chapter 6. The site was identified as a potential site that could accommodate a new industrial facility. However, the Draft EIR concludes that off-site alternatives would result in several adverse impacts. Sites within Morro Valley would result in similar adverse impacts. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment PLANNING-3**

The comment was concerned with the lack of a compost site provided by the proposed project.

**Response PLANNING-3**

As stated in the project description in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would eliminate the existing onsite composting program at the WWTP. The proposed project would remove the sludge drying beds from the 100-year flood plain and in the process eliminate the on-site composting capability.

**Comment PLANNING-4**

The comment suggests that the Draft EIR is a complex technical document. The comment suggests that workshops should be held in the community to inform residents about the proposed project.

**Response PLANNING-4**

A public workshop meeting was held on October 28, 2010 in response to this suggestion to encourage discussion between the City, CSD, and the community about the technical aspects of the project and its impacts.

**Comment PLANNING-5**

The comment suggests there is lack of alternative site locations for the proposed project and the Chorro Valley location is only a partial relocation. The comment further states that there is no emergency management preparedness for the site since it is located in a flood zone, and hence it could create an island during a flood. The comment also states that the EIR has little concern for sensitive receptors and treats the beach as just “empty space” with little concern for the beach and tourists. Beach goers and tourists are considered sensitive receptors. Furthermore, the comment suggests that the architectural design of the proposed project is not based on sustainable design principles.

**Response PLANNING-5**

See **Response PLANNING-1**. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

The proposed project would improve flood protection at the facility compared to the existing condition. This is seen as a major benefit of the project. As explained on pages 3.6-5 and 3.6-6 of the Draft EIR, the WWTP currently has a Risk Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan,

and a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which are on file with the San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department and the Morro Bay Fire Department. All Plans would be updated accordingly to reflect the upgraded treatment facilities.

The project is consistent with the local General Plan and Local Coastal Plan. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-52** regarding sensitive receptors at the beach. Please refer to **Response LUCAS-27** regarding sustainable design principles.

**Comment PLANNING-6**

The comment states that the proposed treatment plant site is not a reasonable alternative under CEQA. Furthermore, other viable sites should be examined such as Cayucos, between Morro Bay and Cayucos, east of Highway 1, Morro Valley. These sites should be scoped out to create a viable alternative for the project. The comment further states that the EIR lacks a true site analysis.

**Response PLANNING-6**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment PLANNING-7**

The comment states that there are no true alternatives to the proposed project. The proposed site presents a flood hazard to the region that could be avoided if the proposed project were built on an alternative site. The comment further states that the energy usage would double and there are no energy alternatives to lessen energy consumption such as using methane recapturing or solar installations.

**Response PLANNING-7**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

The proposed project would remove the treatment plant from the 100-year flood plain. This is considered a major benefit of the project.

Please refer to **Responses LUCAS-27** and **LUCAS-37** regarding sustainable design principles.

## **WWTP JPA Meeting (October 14, 2010)**

**Comment JPA-1**

The comment states that it would be beneficial if there was a glossary of acronyms explaining terms in order for the EIR to have more clarity for the citizens of Morro Bay to understand.

**Response JPA-1**

The Draft EIR is written for the general public and avoids technical jargon to the extent feasible. Throughout the document, abbreviations are defined when they are first used, and all acronyms are listed at the end of the Table of Contents. The Draft EIR provides technical information at a level of detail that is sufficient to allow for project impacts to be evaluated. All technical concepts are explained in the text to the degree necessary to understand the impact analysis.

**Comment JPA-2**

The comment states that the proposed project is being built on sensitive, sacred Chumash tribe's village and burial grounds. The comment was concerned with the lack of Chumash perspective and participation of the proposed project.

**Response JPA-2**

The Draft EIR evaluates potential impacts to Native American resources in Chapter 3.4. Mitigation Measures 3.4-1a and 3.4-1b would ensure that any resources potentially present on site would be avoided or otherwise treated appropriately in coordination with Native American representatives and the State Historic Preservation Officer. As evidenced by Letter 11 from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC), the City is currently working with the NCTC to ensure protection of Native American resources. The City is currently in discussions with the NCTC to develop a testing plan to further identify whether buried remains exist beneath project area.

**Comment JPA- 3**

The comment is concerned with the EIR's scoping in that it does not include a viable alternative site. The comment further explains that there is a site within city limits of Morro Bay that is 2,000 feet from the pumping station; it is away from the flood plain, and away from the Indian burial ground.

**Response JPA-3**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis. See **Response JPA-2**.

**Comment JPA-4**

The comment states the concern for the EIR's lack of explanation of why the Chorro Valley was chosen as an alternative since it is the most expensive site; furthermore, the comment is concerned with why weren't there other viable sites listed in the EIR.

**Response JPA-4**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment JPA-5**

This comment is concerned with the smell and odor impacts of the proposed project and what methods are being considered to reduce odor impacts.

**Response JPA-5**

As explained on page 3.2-26 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would retire and demolish existing facilities associated with odor and replace them with facilities that inherently produce fewer odors and are designed to contain odor. In addition, Mitigation Measure 3.2-2 requires MBCSD to revise the Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) for the WWTP to include the new facilities and to identify new sources of odors and develop and implement new procedures to minimize odors. In **Response APCD-16**, Mitigation Measure 3.2-2 has been revised to require MBCSD to submit the revised OIMP to the SLOCAPCD for approval.

**Comment JPA-6**

The comment states that the proposed project is on archaeological valuable land. Furthermore, the comment asks about the flood issues during a tsunami and what measures would be taken, specifically what emergency preparedness would happen. In addition, the comment asks why the El Chorro location was the best alternative location selected. The comment further asks if the land of the proposed site was economically analyzed since it is an equitable piece of land in the community and could generate money if other facilities were built on the land as opposed to the proposed project.

**Response JPA-6**

Please refer to **Response JPA-2** regarding archaeological resources at the project site. Please refer to **Response HENNIGH-2** regarding tsunami impacts. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis. Comments that pertain to economic considerations and project costs are beyond the scope of the analysis in the Draft EIR.

**Comment JPA-7**

The comment states that the proposed project would be visible from the south end of the of the RV park; therefore, there would be unavoidable odor and aesthetic issues that the EIR did not address by stating it is less than significant.

**Response JPA-7**

The Draft EIR evaluates aesthetic impacts and impact to scenic vistas from locations surrounding the WWTP on page 3.1-6, including visual simulations depicted in Figures 3.1-2, 3.1-3, and 3.1-4. As explained on page 3.2-26 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would retire and demolish existing facilities associated with odor and replace them with facilities that inherently produce fewer odors and are designed to contain odor.

**Comment JPA-8**

The comment states the concern with the trucking impacts of the hauling of 18 loads biosolids; the EIR does not breakdown the long-term effects of the haul trips to Kern County.

**Response JPA-8**

The impacts to traffic associated with hauling of biosolids to Kern County are discussed on page 3.11-6 of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR concludes that emissions associated with the weekly truck trips would not result in air quality violations or exceed significance thresholds. Please see **Response APCD-13** for additional discussion regarding revisions made to the text of the Draft EIR on this page.

**Public Meeting Workshop (October 28, 2010)****Comment WORKSHOP-1**

The comment asks to explain the three levels of treatment: secondary with tertiary filtration, secondary-23 recycled water, and disinfected tertiary recycled water.

**Response WORKSHOP-1**

Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR defines Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and describes the levels of treatment required for the use of recycled water. Title 22 establishes four categories of recycled water: disinfected tertiary, disinfected secondary-2.2, disinfected secondary-23, and undisinfected secondary (see Draft EIR, page 1-9 to 1-10). In response to the comment, disinfected tertiary treatment is required for use involving direct public contact and defined as a filtered and subsequently disinfected wastewater. The proposed project would produce full secondary treated water with tertiary filtration; however the amount of disinfection and filtration provided would not meet the Title 22 criteria for disinfected tertiary recycled water. Instead, the effluent would meet the Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water, which is defined as having been oxidized and disinfected so that the median concentration of total coliform bacteria in the disinfected effluent does not exceed a mean probable number (mpn) of 23 per milliliters of sample. The proposed project includes future improvements that would increase the disinfection time and level of filtration such that the WWTP could produce 0.4 mgd of disinfected tertiary recycled water.

**Comment WORKSHOP-2**

The comment asks what level of treatment will apply to the proposed project.

**Response WORKSHOP-2**

Initially, the proposed project would produce effluent that meets the Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water. The proposed project includes future improvements that would increase the disinfection time and level of filtration such that the WWTP could produce 0.4 mgd of disinfected tertiary recycled water.

**Comment WORKSHOP-3**

The comment asks how long it will take to upgrade to disinfected tertiary treatment.

**Response WORKSHOP-3**

The Draft EIR does not propose a time frame for upgrading the WWTP to disinfected tertiary treatment.

**Comment WORKSHOP-4**

The comment states many concerns regarding the proposed project, including the quality of water and level of treatment planned. The comment states the site of the project should be placed inland in areas where no one would notice it; for example, the plant in Monterey is located inland. The comment states that the community is primarily an eco-tourism area and would benefit from other oceanfront uses. The comment states that ocean outfalls are a large issue and affects the environment. The comment states water should be treated to tertiary levels where it can be used inland and not discharged. The comment states there are many other ways to collect excrement, treat the effluent, and have beneficial end uses. The comment suggests an example of an alternative, natural treatment process of biosolids. The comment states that trucking the compost offsite to Kern County is a potential hazard and an option that is not necessarily guaranteed or accepted by those in the Central Valley area. The comment states that raw sewage has the potential to enter the drinking water supply if an earthquake occurs and damages the current plant and gravity-driven pipeline layout. The entire project needs to be revisited and reconsidered for more sustainable options. The comment states the project proponents should reconsider working with Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) and using MWH's proposed system design.

**Response WORKSHOP-4**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

Regarding oceanfront land uses, the project area is not designated as Visitor Serving Commercial, but rather Light Industrial. The City's General Plan and Coastal Land Use Plan designate this area for industrial land uses. The site is the terminus of the ocean outfall system. Future planning or policy decisions to change locations of industrial land use are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR.

Regarding the discharge of effluent inland, the proposed project is not a recycled water distribution project, but rather accommodates beneficial reuse of recycled water at a small scale. However, the proposed project would support the future development of a Recycled Water Master Plan and includes future improvements that would produce disinfected tertiary recycled water.

Regarding the trucking of biosolids to Kern County, please refer to **Response RUTHERFORD-1**.

Regarding impacts to drinking water supplies and earthquake hazards, the proposed project would be designed in accordance with all City and state seismic building standards, as discussed in the Draft EIR on page 3.5-11. The wastewater collection system is not part of the proposed project. However, the wastewater collection system and potable water distribution system are separate systems; any damage to the wastewater collection or treatment system would not result in cross-

contamination of potable water systems. Furthermore, the potential for spills would be greater for inland site locations due to the additional pump station and forcemain required.

**Comment WORKSHOP-5**

The comment asks if the Draft EIR discusses a past incident that occurred during the late-80's when the Morro Bay wellfield, located by the sewer plant, experienced salt water intrusion with respect to recharge in the basins. The comment also suggests alternative project locations in the Morro Valley, such as Little Morro Creek Road that is located within city limits.

**Response WORKSHOP-5**

The Draft EIR presents information about existing environmental conditions that are relevant to the proposed project. The proposed project would not affect groundwater recharge or salt water intrusion; as such, no discussion is provided in the Draft EIR. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment WORKSHOP-6**

The comment states that the Chumash Community is currently collaborating and has made meaningful progress so far with the Lead Agency (City of Morro Bay), ESA, plant owners and engineers on mitigating potential cultural resource issues.

**Response WORKSHOP-6**

The comment is noted.

**Comment WORKSHOP-7**

The comment states that the Draft EIR discusses "peak handling capacity" and how the existing system currently processes, however the proposed project's plant capacity is discussed only under "average" conditions.

**Response WORKSHOP-7**

As currently proposed, the new treatment facilities would be able to provide full secondary treatment to peak flows. Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15** for additional discussion about future plant capacity.

**Comment WORKSHOP-8**

The comment asks why "Alternatives" was not included in the bulleted list of resource areas under the "Analysis & Methodology" slide of the PowerPoint presentation.

**Response WORKSHOP-8**

The resource areas displayed in the bulleted list in the PowerPoint presentation are the categories of environmental resources for which project impacts are evaluated. These environmental resources provide the basis of comparison for impacts related to the project relative to the

alternatives considered as well. It would not be appropriate to include “Alternatives” in the list of resource areas.

**Comment WORKSHOP-9**

The comment asks how much of the treatment plant’s property area is within the City of Morro Bay versus the property owned jointly by Morro Bay and the CSD.

**Response WORKSHOP-9**

Currently the City is surveying the project site, which includes areas owned both by the City of Morro Bay and the CSD, both individually and jointly. Once the survey is approved, the property/parcel lines will be defined under one jointly-owned property. There will be some form of negotiation with the trading of property parcels, but the result of the boundary survey will provide a clearer distinction of divisions.

**Comment WORKSHOP-10**

The comment asks if there was any significant damage to the current operations of the existing plant from an earthquake that occurred 3 to 4 years ago. The comment asks if something can be done to the proposed plant to offset or prepare for future, potential earthquakes.

**Response WORKSHOP-10**

The existing treatment plant experienced minor and superficial damage (e.g., minor cracks to the building). The plant was back in operation the same afternoon of the day of the earthquake event. Potential impacts related to seismic shaking will be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-1 and construction of proposed facilities would adhere to the City’s seismic standards and the California Building Code requirements.

**Comment WORKSHOP-11**

The comment asks what the depth of bedrock is at the proposed project site.

**Response WORKSHOP-11**

The depth of bedrock at the proposed project site is approximately 30 feet.

**Comment WORKSHOP-12**

The comment suggests that the treatment plant should settle and naturally process inland rather than flow out to the ocean and surrounding areas. The comment states that the treatment plant’s proposed location on the existing plant property could potentially leak and spill into surrounding areas in the event of an earthquake that comprises the liquefaction zone.

**Response WORKSHOP-12**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment WORKSHOP-13**

The comment asks if the Estero Area Plan was considered when writing the Draft EIR.

**Response WORKSHOP-13**

The proposed project is located within the incorporated area of the City of Morro Bay. Although the WWTP serves the community of Cayucos, which is subject to the policies of San Luis Obispo County's Estero Area Plan, the construction and operation of the proposed facilities would be subject to the City of Morro Bay's General Plan and LCP. The Estero Area Plan's policies that pertain to wastewater treatment capacity and growth projections are relevant to the proposed project and have been considered in the WWTP FMP and Amendments for calculations of flow and loadings and plant sizing. Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15** for discussion about the WWTP design capacity and sizing.

**Comment WORKSHOP-14**

The comment asks if costs were considered when deciding to build the proposed project on a flood plain versus having it built on an alternative location inland.

**Response WORKSHOP-14**

Comments related to project costs are beyond the scope of the Draft EIR. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment WORKSHOP-15**

The comment states that the Alternatives section of the Draft EIR did not analyze a "self-contained" reasonable option.

**Response WORKSHOP-15**

Alternative 3 provides analysis of impacts associated with relocating the treatment plant to another site. For any alternative location, there would still need to be some facilities at the existing WWTP site, including a pump station and force main to pump sewage from the WWTP site (where the collection system is designed to flow via gravity) to the alternative site and then back to the existing WWTP site for ocean outfall discharge. Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis for additional discussion..

**Comment WORKSHOP-16**

The comment states that the proposed technology for the new plant will produce more biosolids that will cause more greenhouse gas emissions from the increased truck trips to the Central Valley area for offsite composting.

**Response WORKSHOP-16**

There are tradeoffs associated with the proposed treatment plant upgrade. The comment correctly states that the increased level of treatment results in the production of a greater volume of biosolids, which in turn result in an increase in truck trips to Kern County for biosolids disposal.

The greenhouse gas emissions associated with this project impact are discussed in the Draft EIR on page 3.2-28. Please refer to **Response APCD-13** for discussion and revisions made to the analysis of operational vehicle trips.

**Comment WORKSHOP-17**

The comment states that all initial review of alternatives should have been included in the EIR.

**Response WORKSHOP-17**

Please refer to the master response for Summary Issue 1 regarding the Alternative Analysis.

**Comment WORKSHOP-18**

The comment expresses concern that Montgomery Watson Harza is in charge of the project design.

**Response WORKSHOP-18**

The comment is not related to the scope and content of the Draft EIR.

**Comment WORKSHOP-19**

The comment asks if the Draft EIR will address Policy 5.03 that states the treatment facility is protected at the existing location because it is within a coastal dependent area. The comment states that the justification for this protection of the treatment plant at its existing location is not valid since the proposed project will result in the demolishing of the existing facility and, in turn, the construction of a new facility in a new location.

**Response WORKSHOP-19**

Please refer to **Response COASTAL-4**.

**Comment WORKSHOP-20**

The comment asks how the new plant capacity value (1.4 mgd) is sufficient versus the current capacity (2.35 mgd). The comment requests for more rationale this new capacity.

**Response WORKSHOP-20**

Please refer to **Response COASTAL-15**.

**Comment WORKSHOP-21**

The comment states the Draft EIR does not state if there is capacity on the proposed site for possible future expansion.

**Response WORKSHOP-21**

The proposed project would be designed to accommodate projected population within the WWTP service area by the year 2030. (See **Response COASTAL-15** for additional discussion.) The proposed design would accommodate future improvements to produce 0.4 mgd of disinfected

tertiary recycled water. The proposed project does not include any other future improvements. However, surrounding properties owned by the City of Morro Bay and CSD would provide sufficient land area (with appropriate zoning) for additional future expansion of the WWTP facilities.

**Comment WORKSHOP-22**

The comment asks if water supplies have to be secured before increasing the treatment plant “mgd” capacity.

**Response WORKSHOP-22**

The proposed project is a wastewater treatment plant upgrade. It is not necessary to secure future water supplies in order to implement the proposed project. Future water supplies are discussed on pages 5-3 and 5-4 of the Draft EIR.

**Comment WORKSHOP-23**

The comment asks if truck traffic impacts were considered with regard to the transportation of hazardous waste material for offsite composting, specifically the waste hauling.

**Response WORKSHOP-23**

With implementation of the proposed project, all of the dewatered sludge would be hauled away for offsite composting or disposal. The dewatered sludge is not identified as hazardous waste material. Traffic impacts due to hauling sludge for offsite composting are discussed in the Transportation and Traffic section of the Draft EIR on page 3.11-6. The increase in daily truck traffic relative to the existing Average Daily Trips on the local roadways (Atascadero Road, SR-1 and SR-41) would have no long-term traffic effects on regional roadways. Please refer to **Response APCD-13** for revisions made to the Draft EIR regarding operational vehicle trips and associated impacts.

**Comment WORKSHOP-24**

The comment asks to explain the process of the Draft EIR review comment period and specifically when it will end.

**Response WORKSHOP-24**

The Draft EIR is circulated and available for public review for 45-days. Comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted in writing and officially recorded at public meetings during the 45-day period. The comment period for the Morro Bay-Cayucos WWTP Upgrade Draft EIR started September 20, 2010 and ends November 4, 2010. All comments will be compiled and responses to the comments will be prepared by the City of Morro Bay. The comments and responses to comments, together with the Draft EIR, are considered to be the Final EIR.

**Comment WORKSHOP-25**

The comment asks if the JPA Board certifies the EIR.

## Response WORKSHOP-25

The City of Morro Bay is the Lead Agency for the project in accordance with CEQA. The Lead Agency's decision-making body, the City Council, will certify the Final EIR. As a Responsible Agency and implementing agency, the JPA subsequently shall adopt the Final EIR prior to implementation of the project.

## 10.7 Lead Agency Initiated Changes to the Draft EIR

The following changes have been made to the Draft EIR text to clarify impact analyses and conclusions.

### Draft EIR, page 3.7-20:

Governor Schwarzenegger of California issued Executive Order S-13-08 regarding climate change in November 2008. The Order states that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that global sea levels will rise between 7 to 23 inches this century. It is currently unknown how high sea levels will rise in California. The IPCC's global prediction is the best available estimate at this time. The WWTP currently has an elevation of approximately 16 feet above mean sea level (amsl). As the new WWTP is located higher than 23 inches amsl, the maximum estimated rise in sea level, the effects of global warming are not expected to increase the risk of inundation by a ~~tsunami~~ sea level rise.

### Draft EIR, page 6-8:

Under Alternative 3, the parcel considered for location of the new treatment plant is currently undeveloped and adjacent to Seashell Communities and open space lands. Construction of the new treatment plant could introduce a negative aesthetic element into the visual landscape, visible from a scenic highway (SR-1), and would alter the visual character of the new plant site. In addition, a new treatment plant could introduce new sources of light or glare due to the introduction of nighttime security lighting. ~~The proposed project would construction replacement treatment facilities and would not create additional aesthetic impacts or introduce new sources of light or glare.~~

## References

Kern County Planning and Community Development Department, Draft Environmental Impact Report, Liberty Energy Center, June 2010, SCH# 200810109.

Liberty Composting Inc., <http://libertyrecyc.com/composting.html>, Accessed November 12, 2010.

# CHAPTER 11

## Corrections and Additions to the Draft EIR

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This chapter contains a compilation of revisions made to the text of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), either in response to the comments received during the 45-day public review period or initiated otherwise by the Lead Agency. All revisions are previously introduced in Chapter 10 of this Final EIR but are summarized here for convenience of the reader.

The revisions appear as indented text. Where the responses indicate additions or deletions to the text of the Draft EIR, additions are indicated in underline and deletions in ~~strikeout~~.

### Page 2-5:

In addition, two new paved access roads would be installed from Atascadero Road, one to provide access to the WWTP for staff, maintenance vehicles, and deliveries, and one to provide separate public access to the Operations Building. New security fencing and landscaping would be installed around the perimeter of the project area. During project design, a landscape plan would be developed for the project site and approved by the City. The configuration of facilities shown in Figure 2-2 is preliminary and subject to change during the design engineering process for the proposed project.

### Page 2-17:

... In the year 2030, the ~~The~~ proposed project would generate between 2,800 and 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) per year ~~at build-out~~. Dewatered sludge would be hauled offsite for composting or otherwise processed and disposed in accordance with federal and state regulations...

...Between 2004 and 2007, annual truck trips required to haul biosolids offsite ranged from three to eight. Assuming truck capacity is 10 metric tons, under the proposed project in the year 2030 ~~at build-out~~, up to 10 truck trips per week would be anticipated for hauling sludge from the WWTP under average conditions and up to 16 truck trips per week would be anticipated for hauling sludge from the WWTP during PSDW conditions (July – August).

Page 2-17:

A summary of the relative increase in operational vehicle trips associated with the proposed project relative to operational trips associated with the existing WWTP is provided in **Table 2-1** below.

**TABLE 2-1  
OPERATIONAL VEHICLE TRIPS**

| Operations Associated with Vehicle Trips | Existing WWTP      | Proposed Project   |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Offsite Biosolids Disposal (sludge)      | 8 per year         | 10 to 16 per week  |
| Offsite Grit/Screenings Disposal         | 1 per week         | 2 per week         |
| Public Pick-up of Compost at WWTP        | 200 per year       | ---                |
| Employee Commuter Trips                  | 40 per week        | 30 per week        |
| Daily Operational Service Trips          | 20 per week        | 20 per week        |
| Chemical Deliveries                      | 1 to 2 per week    | 1 to 2 per week    |
| Water Trucks/Truck Filling Station       | ---                | 10 per week        |
| <b>TOTAL (maximum per week)</b>          | <b>67 per week</b> | <b>80 per week</b> |

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

Page 2-18:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in energy consumption at the WWTP. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kilowatt hours (kWH) per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWH per year. In the year 2030, At build-out, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWH per year.

Page 3.1-11 and page ES-9:

**Mitigation Measure 3.1-2:** MBCSD shall ensure that all exterior lighting is shielded and directed downward to minimize impacts to nighttime views. MBCSD shall minimize the use of light poles and consider using light bollards. In addition, highly reflective finishes shall not be used in the design for proposed structures.

Page 3.2-5:

The nearest sensitive receptor to the proposed project site is the Morro Dunes RV Park. An RV could potentially park approximately as close as 15 feet from the proposed new facilities. Morro Bay High School is located north of Atascadero Road, approximately 500 feet from the proposed facilities. The Morro Strand RV Park is located to the east

approximately 600 feet from the proposed facilities, on the other side of the Hanson-Heidelberg Cement Plant. The beach at Morro Bay State Park is located to the west approximately 600 feet from the proposed facilities.

Page 3.2-19:

~~At this time, few, if any, local governments statewide have adopted anything beyond a case by case significance criterion for evaluating a project's contribution to climate change. The OPR has asked the CARB to "recommend a method for setting thresholds of significance to encourage consistency and uniformity in the CEQA analysis of GHG emissions" throughout the state because OPR has recognized that "the global nature of climate change warrants investigation of a statewide threshold for GHG emissions" (OPR, 2008). CARB began the public process of addressing significance thresholds in October 2008, but many decisions need to be made to have final criteria (CARB, 2008b).~~

~~The informal guidelines in OPR's technical advisory and CARB's proposed thresholds provide a general basis for determining a proposed project's contribution of GHG emissions and the project's contribution to global climate change. In the absence of adopted statewide thresholds, OPR recommends the following approach for analyzing GHG emissions:~~

- ~~1) Identify and quantify the project's GHG emissions;~~
- ~~2) Assess the significance of the impact on climate change; and~~
- ~~3) If the impact is found to be significant, identify alternatives and/or mitigation measures that would reduce the impact to less than significant levels.~~

~~OPR's technical advisory states that "the most common GHG that results from human activity is carbon dioxide, followed by methane and nitrous oxide." State law defines GHGs to also include HFCs, PFCs and SFG. These latter GHG compounds are usually emitted in industrial processes, and therefore not applicable to the proposed project; however, the GHG calculation should include emissions from CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and CH<sub>4</sub>, as recommended by OPR. The informal guidelines also advise that lead agencies should calculate, or estimate, emissions from vehicular traffic, energy consumption, water usage and construction activities.~~

~~As discussed above, at this time there are no statewide guidelines for greenhouse gas emission impacts, but this will be addressed through the provisions of Senate Bill 97 (SB 97). OPR has until July 1, 2009 to draft the new GHG guidelines, and the State Resources Agency will thereafter have until January 1, 2010 to certify and adopt the regulations. In the interim, local agencies must analyze the impact of GHGs. As discussed above, at this time there are no statewide guidelines for greenhouse gas emission impacts, but this will be addressed through the provisions of Senate Bill 97 (SB 97). OPR has until July 1, 2009 to draft the new GHG guidelines, and the State Resources Agency will thereafter have until January 1, 2010 to certify and adopt the regulations. In the interim, local~~

~~agencies must analyze the impact of GHGs.~~ For this analysis, the project would be considered to have a significant impact if the project would be in conflict with the AB 32 State goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The assumption is that AB 32 will be successful in reducing GHG emissions and reducing the cumulative GHG emissions statewide by 2020. It is important that the state has taken these measures, because no project individually could have a major impact (either positively or negatively) on the global concentration of GHGs.

Page 3.2-21:

NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub> construction emissions were estimated based on URBEMIS default employee maximum crew trips, truck trip, and equipment URBEMIS default equipment plus additional equipment provided by applicant, and truck trips including demolition hauling truck trips based on 80,000 sf of building debris, 43,000 cy of import, and 6,200 cy of export (see Appendix B for details). Emissions are based on criteria pollutant emission factors from URBEMIS 2007. The results of this analysis are summarized in **Table 3.2-7**.

Page 3.2-22:

Operational emissions for the proposed project would be generated primarily from on-road vehicular traffic (see Table 2-1 in the Project Description). Offsite biosolids disposal (sludge) would increase from 8 trips per year to between 10 and 16 trips per week. Offsite grit/screenings disposal would increase 1 trip per week. The water truck filling station would increase 10 trips per week. Employee trips would decrease 10 trips per week. Daily operational service trips would stay the same. Chemical deliveries would increase once a month. Household hazardous waste trips would not change from existing conditions. Public pick-ups of compost at the WWTP would be discontinued (see Appendix B for more details). **Table 3.2-7B** shows the emissions increase from existing and compares it to SLOCAPCD standards. As seen in **Table 3.2-7B** operational emissions would not exceed SLOCAPCD thresholds and would therefore be less than significant. ~~Minimal employee trips would be required for daily routine operations and inspection/maintenance; these trips are not anticipated to change from current operations. There would be an increase of up to 19 truck trips per week to and from the project site to dispose of additional sludge, screenings and grit, and to deliver the polymer. In addition, if future improvements are made to produce disinfected tertiary recycled water, then two to ten water trucks per week would fill up with recycled water at the utility water station. Overall, depending on the day and time of year, the proposed project would add no more than 30 truck trips per week, or no more than six trucks per day on average (assuming weekdays only) to local and regional roadways.~~

~~Given the number of operational vehicle trips and the existing low concentrations of CO in the area, the proposed project operations would not result in or contribute to CO concentrations that exceed the California 1 hour or 8 hour ambient air quality standards.~~

~~Thus, mobile source emissions of CO would not be anticipated to result in or contribute substantially to an air quality violation.~~

~~San Luis Obispo County is currently in attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and data from the closest monitoring station in the City of San Luis Obispo suggest that concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> have not exceeded national or state standards in recent years (Table 3.2-1). An additional six truck trips per day due to operation of the proposed WWTP would not be expected to contribute to an air quality violation for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. San Luis Obispo County is currently in nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>; however data from the closest monitoring station in the City of Morro Bay suggest that concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> only exceeded state standards once between 2005 and 2007 (Table 3.2-1). An additional six truck trips per day would not be expected to contribute to an air quality violation for PM<sub>10</sub>. The proposed project would be compatible with SLOCAPCD air quality goals and policies.~~

Similarly, the project would result in no more than 16 additional truck trips per week to the San Joaquin Composting facility located in Kern County. This number of weekly trips would not contribute a significant amount of pollutants to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. As shown in **Table 3.2-7C** below, even assuming all emissions from these truck trips occurred in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, operational emissions would not exceed the thresholds of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).

**TABLE 3.2-7B  
OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (VEHICLES)  
(pounds per day)<sup>a</sup>**

| <b>Project Data</b>                     | <b>ROG + NOx</b> | <b>CO</b> | <b>PM10</b> | <b>PM2.5</b> | <b>CO 2</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Existing Emissions                      | 0.2              | 1.3       | 0.0         | 0.0          | 142         |
| Project Emissions                       | 1.0              | 6.6       | 0.1         | 0.1          | 385         |
| Difference between Project and Existing | 0.8              | 5.3       | 0.1         | 0.1          | 243         |
| SLOCAPCD Thresholds                     | 25               | 550       | 25          | NA           | NA          |
| Significant Unmitigated (Yes or No)?    | No               | No        | No          | No           | No          |

<sup>a</sup> See Appendix B Vehicle Emissions Spreadsheets for more Input details.  
NA = Not Available

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

**TABLE 3.2-7C  
OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (VEHICLES)  
(tons per year)<sup>a</sup>**

| Project Data                            | ROG | NOx | CO | PM10 | PM2.5 | CO2 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|------|-------|-----|
| Existing Emissions                      | <1  | 1   | <1 | <1   | <1    | 64  |
| Project Emissions                       | <1  | <1  | <1 | <1   | <1    | 24  |
| Difference between Project and Existing | <1  | 1   | <1 | <1   | <1    | 40  |
| SJVAPCD Thresholds                      | 10  | 10  | NA | 15   | NA    | NA  |
| Significant Unmitigated (Yes or No)?    | No  | No  | No | No   | No    | No  |

<sup>a</sup> See Appendix B Vehicle Emissions Spreadsheets for more Input details.  
NA = Not Available

SOURCE: ESA, 2010.

Page 3.2-23 and ES-10:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1b:** To further reduce the impact of fugitive dust, MBCSD shall require the construction contractor to comply with the SLOCAPCD's Rule 402. The construction contractor shall prepare a CAMP that includes dust control mitigation measures to be implemented during construction, particularly demolition and site grading phases. Mitigation measures may include, but not be limited to, the following recommendations from the CAMP Guidelines:

- a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible.
- b. Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever possible.
- c. All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed.
- d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities.
- e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with fast germinating native grass seed and watered until vegetation is established.
- f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD.
- g. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- h. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site.

- i. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- j. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site.
- k. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible.

All PM<sub>10</sub> mitigation measures required should be shown on grading and building plans. In addition, the contractor or builder should designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to land use clearance for map recordation and finished grading of the area.

Page 3.2-24 and page ES-11:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1d:** Prior to demolition activities, MBCSD shall retain a licensed asbestos inspector to determine the presence of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (ACM) within buildings to be re-used and/or demolished. If asbestos is discovered, the City would comply with asbestos abatement regulations to safely remove all ACM from the site.

Page 3.2-24 and page ES-11:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1e:** Should hydrocarbon contaminated soil be encountered during construction activities, the SLOCAPCD shall be notified as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after affected material is discovered to determine if an SLOCAPCD Permit will be required. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered;

- a. Covers on storage piles shall be maintained in place at all times in areas not actively involved in soil addition or removal;
- b. Contaminated soil shall be covered with at least six inches of packed uncontaminated soil or other TPH non-permeable barrier such as plastic tarp. No headspace shall be allowed where vapors could accumulate;
- c. Covered piles shall be designed in such a way to eliminate erosion due to wind or water. No openings in the covers are permitted;
- d. The air quality impacts from the excavation and haul trips associated with removing the contaminated soil shall be evaluated and mitigated if total emissions exceed the APCD's construction phase thresholds;
- e. During the soil excavation, odors shall not be evident to such a degree as to cause a public nuisance; and,

- f. Clean soil shall be segregated from contaminated soil.

Page 3.2-24 and page ES-11:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1f:** Prior to the start of the project, MBCSD shall contact the SLOCAPCD for specific information regarding construction permitting requirements.

Page 3.2-26:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in truck trips associated with hauling of dewatered sludge, screenings and grit, delivery of polymer, and delivery of recycled water (see Table 2-1). ~~Up to 30 additional truck trips per week (or six per day) would result due to WWTP operation...~~

Page 3.2-27 and page ES-11:

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-2:** MBCSD shall revise the Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP) for the WWTP in accordance with Title 14 CCR Section 17863.4, to include the proposed new facilities. MBCSD shall identify new sources of objectionable odors and develop and implement new procedures to minimize odors. MBCSD shall comply with all requirements of the revised OIMP. Once the updated OIMP is completed it shall be submitted to the SLOCAPCD for review.

Page 3.2-28:

With regard to Item B, project construction GHG emissions would be approximately 888 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Construction emissions amortized over 25 years according to the SLOCAPCD would be approximately 36 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The proposed project would require an incremental increase in electricity use of 1.0 million kWh per year. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kWh per year, and at build-out, operation of the upgraded WWTP would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year. Project operation would generate approximately 366 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e due to indirect emissions from the incremental increase in use of electricity. In addition, project operation would generate ~~up to 30 additional truck trips per week, or up to six truck trips per day,~~ associated with hauling of sludge, screenings, and grit, delivery of chemicals, and delivery of recycled water (see Table 2-1 in the Project Description). Approximately ~~14~~ 64 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e would be generated due to on-road vehicle exhaust. Combined with amortized construction-related GHG emissions as recommended by SLOCAPCD, project operation would generate approximately ~~415~~ 466 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The project would not be classified as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Operational emissions would be about 1.7 9percent of the lower reporting limit, which is 25,000 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

When compared to the overall State reduction goal of approximately 169 million metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e, the maximum GHG emissions for the project (401 metric tons/year of

CO<sub>2</sub>e or 0.00000253 percent of the State goal) would be quite small and should not conflict with the State's ability to meet the AB 32 goals.

With regard to Item C, the project would upgrade treatment facilities at the WWTP to produce full-secondary treated effluent with tertiary filtration. The requirement of the SWRCB to upgrade the WWTP to full-secondary treatment results in an increase in energy usage to provide the additional level of treatment. There would be an incremental increase in electricity use at the new WWTP, from 0.9 million (kWH) per year to up to approximately 1.9 million kWh per year at build-out. As described above, project operation would produce approximately 366 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with the generation of additional electricity required to power the project at build-out, plus 1464 metric tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with operational truck trips. The proposed project would produce tertiary filtered effluent that meets Title 22 standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water, which could be used for end uses such as municipal and agricultural irrigation (see Table 1-1 in Chapter 1). In general, the use of recycled water instead of potable water uses less energy in the long term, relative to alternative water sources such as imported water and desalinated water.

Page 3.7-8, Figure 3.7-2:

The Draft EIR Figure 3.7-2 has been revised to include a key that clarifies the FEMA flood hazard zones. See attached Figure 3.7-2 at the end of this chapter.

Page 3.7-13:

***SWRCB WDRs for Construction Dewatering***

Construction of the proposed project would require dewatering during excavation for new facilities. Discharge of the removed waters requires WDRs from the SWRCB. Dewatering discharges are considered a low-threat discharge if the groundwater does not contain significant quantities of pollutants that would violate the provisions of the Basin Plan. The dewatering discharges for the proposed project would be considered low-threat discharges and would be covered under one of two Low Threat Permits. Discharges to land would be covered under the SWRCB General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality (Water Quality Order No. 2003-003-DWQ). MBCSD would be required to develop and submit a discharge monitoring plan (DMP) along with the application for coverage of dewatering activities. The DMP must include, at a minimum, a list of pollutants believed to be present in the discharge, approximate concentrations of the pollutants in the discharge, monitoring locations, monitoring frequencies, and a reporting schedule. Alternatively, ~~or discharged~~ discharges to surface waters would be covered under in accordance with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality (Water Quality Order No. R3-2006-0063). Under General WDR No. R3-2006-0063, MBCSD would be required to analyze the proposed water for pollutants prior to gaining coverage under this permit that would allow

discharge to surface waters. The quality of water proposed for discharge must comply with water quality criteria listed in Attachment D of the General WDR No. 43-2006-0063. Coverage is not eligible if any water quality criterion is not met, and MBCSD must look to other methods or alternative plans to address dewatering activities and excess water. The City would be required to adhere to the discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and monitoring and reporting requirements contained in the General WDR No. R3-2006-0063.

Coverage under the General WDRs requires MBCSD to file a Notice of Intent to comply with the general order ~~and a discharge monitoring plan (DMP) with SWRCB~~. MBCSD would be required to comply with the terms and conditions of the General WDRs ~~and DMP issued by SWRCB~~ to avoid impacts to surface and groundwater quality.

The proposed project may also be eligible for the General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges (General Waiver Order No. R3-2008-0010). To apply for this waiver of discharge requirements, MBCSD would need to demonstrate that dewatering discharges to groundwater or surface waters would not degrade water quality. MBCSD's application and enrollment would be contingent upon the review and approval of CCRWQCB.

Page 3.7-13:

### ***City of Morro Bay Storm Water Management Plan***

The Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) was prepared by the City of Morro Bay to comply with mandatory requirements of the USEPA NPDES Phase II Final Rule and the SWRCB General Construction Permit. The SWMP, last updated in February 2009, provides an integral approach for the prevention of pollution from storm water runoff in Morro Bay. The program is managed by the City of Morro Bay Public Services Department and implemented by the Harbor Department, Recreation and Parks, and staff from the Public Services Department. The SWMP includes an array of BMPs that meet the six minimum control measures listed in the NPDES Phase II General Stormwater Permit in order to achieve ~~meets~~ the four additional conditions required by the CCRWQCB: (1) maximize infiltration of clean storm water; and minimize runoff volume and rates; (2) protect riparian areas, wetlands, and their buffer zones; (3) minimize pollutant loading; and (4) provide long-term watershed protection.

The SWMP is required to address how new and redevelopment projects maintain pre-development hydrologic characteristics (e.g., flow patterns, surface retention, recharge rates) in order to minimize post-development runoff impacts and prevent or minimize water quality impacts to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP). The City is currently participating in the regional Joint Effort to develop hydromodification control criteria and applicability thresholds for new and redevelopment projects. In the meantime, the CCRWQCB has recommended interim requirements for hydromodification that would apply to the proposed project. With regard to first condition mentioned above, the

following interim hydromodification standards would apply to the proposed project to maximize infiltration of clean storm water and minimize runoff volume and rates:

- For new and redevelopment projects, Effective Impervious Area shall be maintained at less than five percent of total project area
- For new and redevelopment projects that create and/or replace 5000 square feet or more of impervious surface, the post-construction hydrographs shall match within one percent the pre-construction runoff hydrographs, for a range of events with return periods from 1-year to 10-years
- For projects whose disturbed project area exceeds two acres, preserve the pre-construction drainage density for all drainage areas serving a first order stream or larger, and ensure that post-project time of concentration is equal or greater than pre-project time of concentration.

The CCRWQCB recommends implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) practices where possible as an alternative to conventional BMPs to control storm water runoff where it is generated, using natural and engineered infiltration and storage techniques. Eight common LID practices include:

1. Reduced and disconnected impervious surfaces
2. Native vegetation preservation
3. Bioretention
4. Tree boxes to capture and infiltrate street runoff
5. Vegetated swales, buffers, and strips
6. Roof leader flows directed to planter boxes and other vegetated areas
7. Permeable pavement
8. Soil amendments to increase infiltration rates

Projects covered under the General Stormwater Permit must incorporate LID methodology into new and redevelopment ordinances and design standards unless permittees can demonstrate that conventional BMPs are equally effective or would result in substantial cost savings that will still adequately protect water quality and reduce runoff volume. Justification based on cost must show that the cost of LID practices would be prohibitive and would exceed any benefit otherwise per SWRCB Order No. WQ 2000-11.

Page 3.7-17:

Storm water discharge from the proposed WWTP would be subject to regulation by an NPDES General Industrial Permit, which requires implementation of BAT and BCT to control the quality of storm water runoff from industrial land uses. The General Industrial Permit also requires the preparation of a SWPPP and a monitoring plan. The SWPPP must identify the sources of pollutants and the means to manage the sources to reduce

storm water pollution. Due to the size of the proposed WWTP, a pretreatment program for storm water also may be required. MBCSD would be required to submit a new NOI to comply with the General Industrial Permit for the proposed new WWTP following completion of the proposed project. The WWTP is also subject to the BMPs included in the City of Morro Bay's SWMP, including any relevant post-construction BMPs and LID practices to control runoff and protect water quality. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.7-3 would ensure that project operation does not impact water quality standards or violate waste discharge requirements.

Page 3.7-18 and page ES-18:

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-2:** MBCSD shall require the construction contractor to file a Notice of Intent to comply with the SWRCB or CCRWQCB Low-Threat General WDRs prior to initiating excavation and dewatering activities and to comply with all requirements and conditions of the General WDRs, including preparation of a discharge monitoring plan (DMP). If applicable, MBCSD may apply for the General Waiver of waste discharge requirements. MBCSD shall submit an application to the CCRWQCB for approval that demonstrates that the discharge from dewatering activities would not degrade water quality of groundwater or surface waters.

Page 3.7-18 and page ES-18:

**Mitigation Measure 3.7-3:** MBCSD shall file a Notice of Intent to comply with the NPDES General Industrial Permit requirements upon completion of the proposed project. MBCSD also shall prepare a SWPPP and monitoring plan, as required by the General Industrial Permit, that identify sources of pollutants and the measures to be implemented to manage the sources and reduce storm water pollution and storm water runoff volume. The SWPPP shall include relevant BMPs from the City of Morro Bay's SWMP or LID practices in compliance with the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. MBCSD shall demonstrate that the BMPs or LID practices meet the hydromodification criteria for redevelopment projects as defined in the City's SWMP and required by the CCRWQCB.

Page 3.7-20:

Governor Schwarzenegger of California issued Executive Order S-13-08 regarding climate change in November 2008. The Order states that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that global sea levels will rise between 7 to 23 inches this century. It is currently unknown how high sea levels will rise in California. The IPCC's global prediction is the best available estimate at this time. The WWTP currently has an elevation of approximately 16 feet above mean sea level (amsl). As the new WWTP is located higher than 23 inches amsl, the maximum estimated rise in sea level, the effects of global warming are not expected to increase the risk of inundation by a ~~tsunami~~ sea level rise.

Page 3.9-12:

The proposed project would construct new stationary noise sources in replacement of existing stationary noise sources at the WWTP. The proposed changes to ambient noise levels would be indistinguishable from current ambient conditions in the project vicinity, including noise sources from the WWTP, the ocean, the Hanson-Heidelberg Cement plant, and traffic noise from Atascadero Road and SR-1. In addition, similar to the existing WWTP, the proposed facilities would be designed in compliance with the Morro Bay Zoning Ordinance which restricts noise levels at neighboring property lines to 70 dB Ldn. Therefore, operation of the upgraded WWTP would not increase ambient noise levels from stationary noise sources in the project vicinity and be less than significant without mitigation.

Page 3-10-3:

... Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kilowatt hours (kWH) per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWH per year. In the year 2030, At build-out, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWH per year...

Page 3.10-7:***Water and Wastewater Treatment***

The proposed project would not ~~exceed~~ violate the receiving water limitations of the Central Coast RWQCB. The proposed project would upgrade the treatment facilities at the WWTP ~~to exceed in excess of~~ the secondary treatment standards contained in 40CFR Part 133 by providing full secondary treatment with tertiary filtration. The project would also phase out the need for a modified 301(h) discharge permit to meet the Central Coast RWQCB's effluent discharge requirements. The impacts of the proposed upgrade are evaluated in this EIR.

Page 3-10-8:

Between 2004 and 2007, the WWTP produced between approximately 165 and 226 dry metric tons of USEPA Class B biosolids (80 percent solids). Operation of the new treatment facilities would generate approximately 2,800 to 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) of unclassified sludge per year ~~at build-out~~. With the discontinuation of the onsite composting program, 100 percent of sludge produced at the new facility would be hauled offsite for composting or disposal otherwise in accordance with 40 CFR Part 503.

Page 3-10-10:

Operation of the proposed project would result in an increase in energy consumption at the WWTP. Energy consumption at the existing WWTP is approximately 0.9 million kWh per year for the current annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd. At the same annual average measured daily flow of 1.25 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.6 million kWh per year. In the year 2030, At build-out, when operation of the upgraded WWTP would reach rated capacity of 1.5 mgd, the proposed project would require approximately 1.9 million kWh per year.

Page 3.11-6:

Operation of the proposed project would affect operational vehicle trips as shown in Table 2-1 in the project description. Offsite sludge disposal would increase truck trips from 8 trips per year to between 10 and 16 trips per week. Offsite grit/screenings disposal would increase 1 trip per week. The water truck filling station would increase 10 trips per week. Employee commuter trips would decrease 10 trips per week. Daily operational service trips would stay the same. Chemical deliveries would increase once a month. Household hazardous waste trips would not change from existing conditions. Public pick-ups of compost at the WWTP would be discontinued. The proposed project would result in an increase of up to 18 truck trips per week to dispose of screenings, grit and sludge and one truck trip per month to deliver polymer to the WWTP. The proposed project would result in an increase in the production of sludge and additional truck trips are attributed to the larger volume of sludge to haul away. Dewatered solids would be approximately 15 to 18 percent solids versus 80 percent solids. In addition, the proposed project assumes two to ten water trucks per week would fill up with recycled water at the utility water station. Overall, the impact to traffic and roadway capacity would affect primarily Atascadero Road, SR-1 and SR-41. Atascadero Road has an ADT of 8,800. SR-1 and SR-41 have ADTs of 24,000 and 8,400 and LOS of A-B and C, respectively. Overall, depending on the day and time of year, the proposed project would add no more than 30 truck trips per week, or no more than 6 trucks per day on average (assuming weekdays only), to these roadways, which would be a minimal increase. Overall, impacts to these roadways due to project operation would be minimal relative to existing ADTs. This minimal increase would not cause any long-term traffic effects or affect LOS on local or regional roadways. Once completed, the upgraded facility would not employ additional workers and would not need to expand its current parking facilities. Further, maintenance activities to service the project would be similar to those that occur under existing conditions. Therefore, the potential significant impacts to traffic would be limited to the period of time needed to construct the project. Mitigation measures for traffic-related impacts identified in this EIR focus on reducing the short-term construction effects.

Page 4-9:

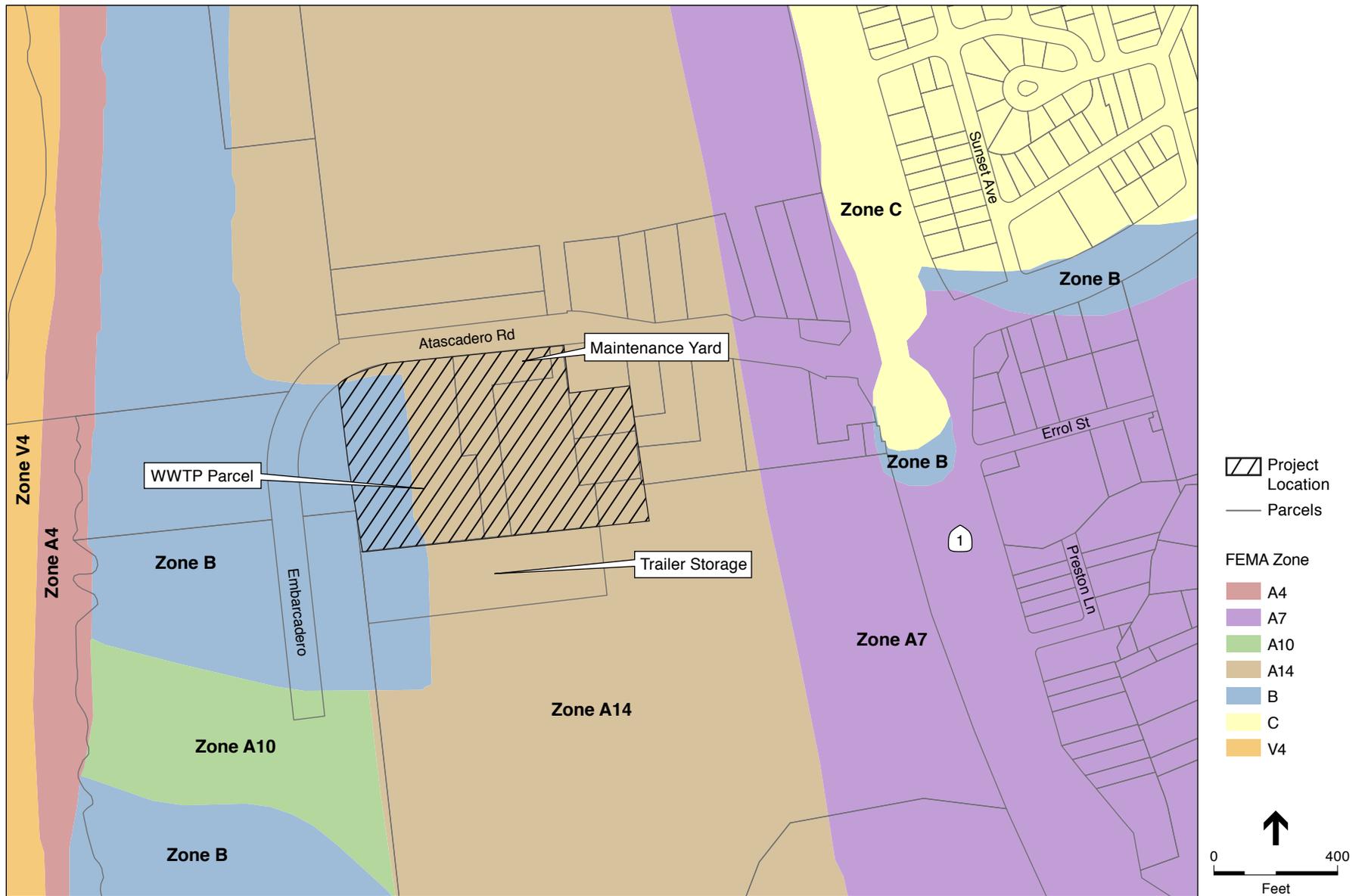
All sludge produced at the new WWTP would be mechanically dewatered to 15 to 18 percent solids rather than solar dried to 80 percent solids. As a result the volume of sludge produced at the new WWTP would be greater than the existing WWTP. The proposed project would generate between 2,800 and 3,500 wet tons (18 percent solids) of sludge per year ~~at build-out~~. Up to 18 truck trips per week would be required for offsite disposal of all screenings, grit and sludge produced at the new WWTP.

Page 6-8:

Under Alternative 3, the parcel considered for location of the new treatment plant is currently undeveloped and adjacent to Seashell Communities and open space lands. Construction of the new treatment plant could introduce a negative aesthetic element into the visual landscape, visible from a scenic highway (SR-1), and would alter the visual character of the new plant site. In addition, a new treatment plant could introduce new sources of light or glare due to the introduction of nighttime security lighting. ~~The proposed project would construction replacement treatment facilities and would not create additional aesthetic impacts or introduce new sources of light or glare.~~

Appendix B:

The Air Quality Appendix B has been revised to include additional detail about model assumptions, including construction phases and equipment; provides additional equations showing calculations of quarterly emissions from annual emissions; and provides detailed calculations of operations mobile source emissions. There has been no change in the calculation of construction emissions. See attached Air Quality Appendix B at the end of this chapter.



SOURCE: Carollo, 2008

Morro Bay Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant EIR . 208013

**Figure 3.7-2**  
FEMA Flood Zones

Zone A: High risk flood areas that have a one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year flood).  
 Zone B: Moderate flood hazard areas, usually between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year flood.  
 Zone C: Area of minimal flood hazard, usually depicted on FIRMs as above the 500-year flood level.  
 Zone V: Coastal areas with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves.

# **Appendix B**

## **Air Quality Calculations**

### **Appendix B Contents**

Summary Report for Annual Emissions (Tons/Year) – 1 page

Detail Report for Annual Construction Unmitigated Emissions (Tons/Year) – 3 pages

Summary Annual Emissions Tons Per Year and Tons Per Quarter – 1 page

Morro Operational Emissions Direct and Indirect Electricity – 2 pages

Air Quality Analysis for Existing Mobile Emissions – 2 pages

Air Quality Analysis for Project Mobile Emissions – 2 pages

Urbemis 2007 Version 9.2.4

Summary Report for Annual Emissions (Tons/Year)

File Name: C:\Documents and Settings\dsa\Application Data\Urbemis\Version9a\Projects\morro bay.urb924

Project Name: morro bay wastewater

Project Location: San Luis Obispo County APCD

On-Road Vehicle Emissions Based on: Version : Emfac2007 V2.3 Nov 1 2006

Off-Road Vehicle Emissions Based on: OFFROAD2007

CONSTRUCTION EMISSION ESTIMATES

|                                     | <u>ROG</u> | <u>NOx</u> | <u>CO</u> | <u>SO2</u> | <u>PM10 Dust</u> | <u>PM10 Exhaust</u> | <u>PM10</u> | <u>PM2.5 Dust</u> | <u>PM2.5 Exhaust</u> | <u>PM2.5</u> | <u>CO2</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| 2011 TOTALS (tons/year unmitigated) | 1.08       | 9.25       | 4.93      | 0.00       | 1.59             | 0.45                | 2.04        | 0.33              | 0.41                 | 0.75         | 978.55     |
| 2012 TOTALS (tons/year unmitigated) | 0.29       | 1.92       | 1.85      | 0.00       | 0.00             | 0.14                | 0.14        | 0.00              | 0.13                 | 0.13         | 262.70     |
| 2013 TOTALS (tons/year unmitigated) | 0.87       | 1.78       | 1.79      | 0.00       | 0.00             | 0.12                | 0.12        | 0.00              | 0.11                 | 0.11         | 263.48     |
| 2014 TOTALS (tons/year unmitigated) | 0.02       | 0.13       | 0.12      | 0.00       | 0.01             | 0.01                | 0.02        | 0.00              | 0.01                 | 0.01         | 18.64      |



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|                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |        |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| 2013                             | 0.87 | 1.78 | 1.79 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 263.48 |
| Building 01/01/2012-12/31/2013   | 0.26 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 262.70 |
| Building Off Road Diesel         | 0.24 | 1.71 | 1.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 202.05 |
| Building Vendor Trips            | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.94   |
| Building Worker Trips            | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 52.70  |
| Coating 09/01/2013-12/31/2013    | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.78   |
| Architectural Coating            | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00   |
| Coating Worker Trips             | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.78   |
| 2014                             | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 18.64  |
| Demolition 01/01/2014-03/01/2014 | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 18.64  |
| Fugitive Dust                    | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00   |
| Demo Off Road Diesel             | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 15.06  |
| Demo On Road Diesel              | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.20   |
| Demo Worker Trips                | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.38   |

Phase Assumptions

Phase: Demolition 1/1/2014 - 3/1/2014 - Demolition

Building Volume Total (cubic feet): 80000

Building Volume Daily (cubic feet): 1000

On Road Truck Travel (VMT): 13.89

Off-Road Equipment:

1 Concrete/Industrial Saws (10 hp) operating at a 0.73 load factor for 8 hours per day

1 Rubber Tired Dozers (357 hp) operating at a 0.59 load factor for 1 hours per day

2 Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (108 hp) operating at a 0.55 load factor for 6 hours per day

Phase: Fine Grading 1/1/2011 - 3/1/2011 - Fine Site Grading

Total Acres Disturbed: 4

Maximum Daily Acreage Disturbed: 0.34

Fugitive Dust Level of Detail: Default

20 lbs per acre-day

Page: 3

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On Road Truck Travel (VMT): 0

Off-Road Equipment:

- 1 Graders (174 hp) operating at a 0.61 load factor for 6 hours per day
- 1 Other Equipment (190 hp) operating at a 0.62 load factor for 8 hours per day
- 1 Rubber Tired Dozers (357 hp) operating at a 0.59 load factor for 6 hours per day
- 1 Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (108 hp) operating at a 0.55 load factor for 7 hours per day
- 1 Water Trucks (189 hp) operating at a 0.5 load factor for 8 hours per day

Phase: Mass Grading 3/2/2011 - 12/31/2011 - Mass Site Grading

Total Acres Disturbed: 7.6

Maximum Daily Acreage Disturbed: 0.66

Fugitive Dust Level of Detail: Default

20 lbs per acre-day

On Road Truck Travel (VMT): 225.69

Off-Road Equipment:

- 2 Excavators (168 hp) operating at a 0.57 load factor for 8 hours per day
- 1 Graders (174 hp) operating at a 0.61 load factor for 6 hours per day
- 2 Rollers (95 hp) operating at a 0.56 load factor for 8 hours per day
- 1 Rubber Tired Dozers (357 hp) operating at a 0.59 load factor for 6 hours per day
- 2 Scrapers (313 hp) operating at a 0.72 load factor for 8 hours per day
- 1 Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (108 hp) operating at a 0.55 load factor for 7 hours per day
- 1 Water Trucks (189 hp) operating at a 0.5 load factor for 8 hours per day

Phase: Building Construction 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013 - Building Construction

Off-Road Equipment:

- 1 Cranes (399 hp) operating at a 0.43 load factor for 4 hours per day
- 2 Forklifts (145 hp) operating at a 0.3 load factor for 6 hours per day
- 3 Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (108 hp) operating at a 0.55 load factor for 8 hours per day

Phase: Architectural Coating 9/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 - Architectural Coating

Rule: Residential Interior Coatings begins 1/1/2005 ends 12/31/2040 specifies a VOC of 150

Rule: Residential Exterior Coatings begins 1/1/2005 ends 12/31/2040 specifies a VOC of 150

Rule: Nonresidential Interior Coatings begins 1/1/2005 ends 12/31/2040 specifies a VOC of 250

Rule: Nonresidential Exterior Coatings begins 1/1/2005 ends 12/31/2040 specifies a VOC of 250

Summary Annual Emissions  
 Tons Per Year and Tons Per  
 Quarter  
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Urbemis 2007 Version 9.2.4

Summary Report for Annual Emissions (Tons/Year)

File Name: C:\Documents and Settings\dsa\Application  
 Data\Urbemis\Version 9.2\Projects\morro bay\urb004  
 Project Name: morro bay wastewater

Project Location: San Luis Obispo County APCD

On-Road Vehicle Emissions Based on: Version : Emfac2007 V2.3 Nov 1 2006

Off-Road Vehicle Emissions Based on: OFFROAD2007

CONSTRUCTION EMISSION ESTIMATES

|                            | <u>ROG</u> | <u>NOx</u> | <u>ROG +<br/>NOx</u> | <u>CO</u> | <u>PM10</u> | <u>PM2.5</u> | <u>CO2</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 2011 TOTALS (tons/year)    | 1.08       | 9.25       | 10.34                | 4.93      | 2.04        | 0.75         | 978.55     |
| 2011 TOTALS (tons/quarter) | 0.3        | 2.3        | 2.6                  | 1.2       | 0.5         | 0.2          | 244.6      |
| 2012 TOTALS (tons/year)    | 0.29       | 1.92       | 2.21                 | 1.85      | 0.14        | 0.13         | 262.70     |
| 2012 TOTALS (tons/quarter) | 0.1        | 0.5        | 0.6                  | 0.5       | 0.0         | 0.0          | 65.7       |
| 2013 TOTALS (tons/year)    | 0.87       | 1.78       | 2.65                 | 1.79      | 0.12        | 0.11         | 263.48     |
| 2013 TOTALS (tons/quarter) | 0.2        | 0.4        | 0.7                  | 0.4       | 0.0         | 0.0          | 65.87      |
| 2014 TOTALS (tons/year)    | 0.02       | 0.13       | 0.15                 | 0.12      | 0.02        | 0.01         | 18.64      |
| 2014 TOTALS (tons/quarter) | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0                  | 0.0       | 0.0         | 0.0          | 4.7        |

tons/year from URBEMIS annual  
 emissions summary

# Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Calculations

## Indirect Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Project use of Electricity (Power Plant Emissions)

Estimated Project Annual Electrical Use: 1,000,000 kWh (kilowatt hours)/year  
1,000 mWh (megawatt hours)/year

| Indirect GHG gases                                                | Emission Factor<br>lb/mWh | Annual                     |                     | CO2<br>Equivalent<br>Factor | Annual                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                                                   |                           | Project<br>Electricity mWh | GHGs<br>metric tons |                             | CO2 Equivalent<br>Emissions (metric to |
| Carbon Dioxide (CO2)                                              | 804.54                    | 1,000                      | 365                 | 1                           | 365                                    |
| Nitrous Oxide (N2O)                                               | 0.0037                    | 1,000                      | 0.0                 | 296                         | 0                                      |
| Methane (CH4)                                                     | 0.0067                    | 1,000                      | 0.0                 | 23                          | 0                                      |
| <b>Total Indirect GHG Emissions from Project Electricity Use=</b> |                           |                            |                     |                             | <b>366</b>                             |

## Total Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission from Project Operations -- All Sources (CO2 equivalent Metric Tons)

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Vehicles       | 64         |
| Electrical Use | 366        |
| <b>Total=</b>  | <b>430</b> |

### Notes and References:

Total Emissions from Indirect Electricity Use  
Formula and Emission Factor from The California Climate Action Registry Report Protocol 2006

Pg. 32 (CCARRP) gives Equations

Pg. 35 (CCARRP) gives CO2 output emission rate (lbs/mWh)  
804.54 (lbs/mWh)

Pg. 85 (CCARRP) gives CO2 equivalency factors

Pg. 87 (CCARRP) gives Methane and Nitrous Oxide electricity emission factors (lbs/mWh)  
Methane - 0.0067 (lbs/mWh)  
Nitrous Oxide - 0.0037 (lbs/mWh)

lbs/metric ton = 2204.62

Percentage of 25,000 1.9%  
Percentage of 169 Milli 0.0003%

|              |                                         |                    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Construction | Tons from URBEMIS<br>979                | Metric Tons<br>888 |
|              | Amoritized over 25 Years<br>Metric Tons | plus operations    |
|              | 36                                      | 465                |

# Annual kWh Calculations for Project

Project Name: Morro Bay wastewater treatment

ESA Proj. Number:

Forecast Actual Annual Electrical Use: 1,000,000

---

1,900,000 Kwh per month - provided by applicant

1,000,000 existing

old 900, 000 Kwh = 329 metric tons

old 1,400, 000 Kwh = 512 metric tons

**Air Quality Analysis for Mobile Emissions**

grams/mile

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Paved Road | Paved Road |
| lbs/VMT    | lbs/VMT    |
| Entrained  | Entrained  |
| PM10       | PM2.5      |
| 0.003112   | 0.00018    |

| YEAR | ROG   | CO    | NOx   | CO2     | PM10 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|
| 2011 | 0.105 | 2.934 | 0.336 | 312.137 | 0.03 |

Assumed average speed of vehicles type to be 35 mph

**EMISSIONS CALCULATION FOR ON-ROAD VEHICLES DURING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Emissions = Vehicle Type x Emission Factor x Miles/Trip x Trips/Day

**offsite biosolids disposal (sludge)**

8 trips per year 176 miles round trip 0.021918

|                              |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day  | lbs/day  |          |
| 176                          | 0.02      | 3.52             | 0.00                              | 0.02     | 0.00     | 2.42     | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |

**Offsite grit/screenings disposal**

1 trip per week 40 miles round trip 52 0.1424658

|                              |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day  | lbs/day  |          |
| 40                           | 0.14      | 5.6              | 0.00                              | 0.04     | 0.00     | 3.85     | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |

**public pick-up of compost @ WWTP**

200 trips per year 15 miles round trip 0.547945

|                              |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day  | lbs/day  |          |
| 15                           | 0.55      | 8.25             | 0.00                              | 0.05     | 0.01     | 5.68     | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |

**employee commuter trips**

40 trips per week 30 miles round trip 2080 5.6986301

|                              |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day  | lbs/day  |          |
| 30                           | 5.7       | 171              | 0.04                              | 1.11     | 0.13     | 117.67   | 0.01     | 0.03     |          |

**daily operational service trips**

20 trips per week 5 miles round trip 1040 2.8493151

|                              |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day  | lbs/day  |          |
| 5                            | 2.85      | 14.25            | 0.00                              | 0.09     | 0.01     | 9.81     | 0.00     | 0.00     |          |

**chemical deliveries**

|                                        |           |                  |                                   |          |          |          |         |               |               |  |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 1 a week, 1 every six weeks, 1 every 2 |           | 52               | 8.667                             | 6        | 0.183    |          |         |               |               |  |
|                                        |           | Emission Factors |                                   |          |          |          |         |               |               |  |
|                                        |           | ROG              | CO                                | Nox      | CO2      | PM10     |         | lbs/mile dust | lbs/mile dust |  |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)            |           | 0.105            | 2.934                             | 0.336    | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |               |               |  |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile)           |           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03                          | 7.41E-04 | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03      | 1.77E-04      |  |
| Miles/Trip                             | Trips/day | Miles/day        | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day       |               |  |
| 20                                     | 0.18      | 3.6              | 0.00                              | 0.02     | 0.00     | 2.48     | 0.00    | 0.01          | 0.00          |  |

Household Haz waste facility conditions not known, future to have no change from existing condition

**TOTALS**

|           | 2011 - On-road Vehicle Exhaust per day |       |       |      |             |        |      | Fugitive PM10   | Dust PM2.5 |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------------|--------|------|-----------------|------------|
|           | ROG                                    | CO    | Nox   | CO2  | PM10        | PM2.5  |      |                 |            |
| lbs/day   | 0.05                                   | 1.33  | 0.15  | 142  | 0.014       | 0.014  | 0.01 | 0.00 lbs/day    |            |
| tons/year | 0.009                                  | 0.243 | 0.028 | 23   | 0.0025      | 0.0025 | 0.00 | 0.000 tons/year |            |
|           | ROG+Nox                                |       |       | 0.20 | metric tons |        |      |                 |            |

**Air Quality Analysis for Mobile Emissions**

grams/mile

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Paved Road | Paved Road |
| lbs/VMT    | lbs/VMT    |
| Entrained  | Entrained  |
| PM10       | PM2.5      |
| 0.003112   | 0.00018    |

| YEAR | ROG   | CO    | NOx   | CO2     | PM10 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|
| 2011 | 0.105 | 2.934 | 0.336 | 312.137 | 0.03 |

Assumed average speed of vehicles type to be 35 mph

**EMISSIONS CALCULATION FOR ON-ROAD VEHICLES DURING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Emissions = Vehicle Type x Emission Factor x Miles/Trip x Trips/Day

**offsite biosolids disposal (sludge)**

16 trips per week 176 miles round trip 832 2.2794521

|                              |           |           | Emission Factors                  |          |          |         |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              | ROG       | CO        | NOx                               | CO2      | PM10     |         | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  | 0.105     | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) | 2.31E-04  | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day  |          |          |
| 176                          | 2.28      | 401.28    | 0.09                              | 2.60     | 0.30     | 276.14  | 0.03     | 1.25     | 0.07     |

**Offsite grit/screenings disposal**

2 trip per week 40 miles round trip 104 0.2849315

|                              |           |           | Emission Factors                  |          |          |         |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              | ROG       | CO        | NOx                               | CO2      | PM10     |         | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  | 0.105     | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) | 2.31E-04  | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day  |          |          |
| 40                           | 0.28      | 11.2      | 0.00                              | 0.07     | 0.01     | 7.71    | 0.00     | 0.03     | 0.00     |

**public pick-up of compost @ WWTP**

0 no more compost on site

|                              |           |           | Emission Factors                  |          |          |         |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              | ROG       | CO        | NOx                               | CO2      | PM10     |         | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  | 0.105     | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) | 2.31E-04  | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day  |          |          |
| 0                            | 0         | 0         | 0.00                              | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |

**employee commuter trips**

30 trips per week 30 miles round trip 1560 4.2739726

|                              |           |           | Emission Factors                  |          |          |         |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              | ROG       | CO        | NOx                               | CO2      | PM10     |         | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  | 0.105     | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) | 2.31E-04  | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day  |          |          |
| 30                           | 4.27      | 128.1     | 0.03                              | 0.83     | 0.09     | 88.15   | 0.01     | 0.40     | 0.02     |

**daily operational service trips**

20 trips per week 5 miles round trip 1040 2.8493151

|                              |           |           | Emission Factors                  |          |          |         |          | lbs/mile | lbs/mile |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|                              | ROG       | CO        | NOx                               | CO2      | PM10     |         | dust     | dust     |          |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)  | 0.105     | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |         |          |          |          |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile) | 2.31E-04  | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 |         | 3.11E-03 | 1.77E-04 |          |
| Miles/Trip                   | Trips/day | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day | lbs/day  |          |          |
| 5                            | 2.85      | 14.25     | 0.00                              | 0.09     | 0.01     | 9.81    | 0.00     | 0.04     | 0.00     |

**chemical deliveries**

|                                        |                  |           |                                   |          |          |               |               |      |      |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|------|------|
| 1 a week, 1 every six weeks, 1 a month | 52               | 8.667     | 12                                | 0.199    |          |               |               |      |      |
|                                        | Emission Factors |           |                                   |          |          |               |               |      |      |
|                                        | ROG              | CO        | Nox                               | CO2      | PM10     | lbs/mile dust | lbs/mile dust |      |      |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)            | 0.105            | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |               |               |      |      |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile)           | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03      | 1.77E-04      |      |      |
| Miles/Trip                             | Trips/day        | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day       | lbs/day       |      |      |
| 20                                     | 0.2              | 4         | 0.00                              | 0.03     | 0.00     | 2.75          | 0.00          | 0.01 | 0.00 |

**Water trucks/truck filling station**

|                                      |                  |           |                                   |          |          |               |               |      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|------|------|
| 10 trips per week 5 miles round trip | 520              | 1.4246575 |                                   |          |          |               |               |      |      |
|                                      | Emission Factors |           |                                   |          |          |               |               |      |      |
|                                      | ROG              | CO        | Nox                               | CO2      | PM10     | lbs/mile dust | lbs/mile dust |      |      |
| 2011 emissions (grams/mile)          | 0.105            | 2.934     | 0.336                             | 312.137  | 0.03     |               |               |      |      |
| 2011 emissions (pounds/mile)         | 2.31E-04         | 6.47E-03  | 7.41E-04                          | 6.88E-01 | 6.61E-05 | 3.11E-03      | 1.77E-04      |      |      |
| Miles/Trip                           | Trips/day        | Miles/day | Mobile Source Emissions (lbs/day) |          |          | lbs/day       | lbs/day       |      |      |
| 5                                    | 1.4              | 7         | 0.00                              | 0.05     | 0.01     | 4.82          | 0.00          | 0.02 | 0.00 |

Household Haz waste facility conditions not known, future to have no change from existing condition

**TOTALS**

|           |                                        |       |       |             |        |        |      |                 |      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|--------|------|-----------------|------|
|           | 2011 - On-road Vehicle Exhaust per day |       |       |             |        |        |      | Fugitive        | Dust |
|           | ROG                                    | CO    | Nox   | CO2         | PM10   | PM2.5  | PM10 | PM2.5           |      |
| lbs/day   | 0.23                                   | 6.55  | 0.75  | 385         | 0.067  | 0.066  | 1.25 | 0.07 lbs/day    |      |
| tons/year | 0.043                                  | 1.195 | 0.137 | 64          | 0.0122 | 0.0121 | 0.23 | 0.013 tons/year |      |
|           | ROG+Nox                                |       | 1.0   | metric tons |        |        |      |                 |      |