

Notice of Preparation

Date: August 29, 2014

To: California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Project: Enhanced Watershed Management Programs

Lead Agency: Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Review Period: August 29, 2014 through September 29, 2014

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the project identified in this notice. We need to know the views of you or your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the LACFCD is beginning preparation of a PEIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for its proposed Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs, or "program").

The Los Angeles County Flood Control Act was adopted by the State Legislature in 1915 and established the LACFCD and empowered it to provide flood risk management, water conservation, and recreation and aesthetic enhancement within its boundaries. The LACFCD is governed as a separate entity by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and is operated by the County's Department of Public Works. The LACFCD encompasses more than 3,000 square miles, 85 cities, and approximately 2.1 million land parcels. The LACFCD, the County of Los Angeles, and 84 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County (collectively referred to as Permittees) are covered under a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Permit No. CAS004001) for the discharge of urban runoff to waters of the United States. The purpose of the MS4 Permit is to ensure Permittees are not causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives or impairments of beneficial uses in the receiving waters of the Los Angeles region.

The 2012 MS4 Permit for Los Angeles County gives Permittees the option of implementing an innovative approach to Permit compliance through development of EWMPs. The LACFCD and participating Permittees have opted to exercise this option and have submitted 12 separate Notices of Intent (NOIs) for the development of 12 EWMPs in their respective watershed groups to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). The LARWQCB is responsible for approval of the EWMPs in compliance with the MS4 Permit. Implementation of the EWMPs would occur following approval by the LARWQCB. The preparation of the 12 separate EWMPs will be a collective effort among the LACFCD and the applicable agencies in each respective EWMP. The 12 EWMPs will vary for each watershed group, but will generally provide the opportunity for Permittees to customize their stormwater programs to achieve compliance with applicable receiving water limitations (RWLs) and water-quality-based effluent limits (WQBELs) in accordance with the MS4 Permit through implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) or watershed control measures. BMPs vary in function and type, with each BMP providing unique design characteristics and benefits from implementation. The overarching goal of BMPs in the EWMP is to reduce the impact of stormwater and non-stormwater on receiving water

quality and address the water quality priorities as defined by the MS4 Permit. The development of each EWMP will involve the evaluation and selection of multiple BMP types, including nonstructural (institutional) and distributed, centralized, and regional structural watershed control measures, that will be implemented to meet compliance goals and strategies under the 2012 MS4 Permit.

The LACFCD, as a regional agency charged with conserving stormwater for use in our local water supply, has a vested interest in increasing opportunities for stormwater capture and groundwater recharge. The LACFCD has flood control infrastructure in each of the EWMP areas and is participating in all 12 EWMPs. The LACFCD will be working with the applicable Permittees and other stakeholders in all 12 EWMP watersheds to develop the EWMPs, which will be implemented by the Permittees that have jurisdiction within each EWMP area. The Permittees implementing the projects defined in the EWMPs, or "implementing agencies," will vary between EWMPs and individual projects. The LACFCD will be an implementing agency only on those projects for which it has been identified in an EWMP as a responsible implementing party.

Project Location: The proposed program would be located in several watersheds of Los Angeles County and would include the following enhanced watershed management groups: Ballona Creek, Beach Cities, Dominguez Channel, Malibu Creek, Marina del Rey, North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds (NSMBCW), Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group (RH/SGRWQG), Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel River, and Upper Santa Clara River. The project area is indicated in Figure 1.

Broad Range of Potential Benefits from EWMPs: If implemented, the proposed EWMP-generated benefits would include:

- Improved Water Quality
- Reduction in Impairment of Water Bodies for Designated Beneficial Uses
- Promotion of Water Conservation and Supply
- Enhanced Recreation Opportunities
- Support for Public Education Opportunities
- Improved Local Aesthetics
- Management of Flood Risks

Public Comments: The LACFCD is soliciting the views of interested persons and agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be evaluated in the PEIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the project description in this NOP and provide their comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The PEIR will be used by LACFCD's governing Board, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, when considering approval of the proposed EWMPs as well as for any related discretionary approvals.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, all comments to the NOP are due no later than September 29, 2014. Please send your comments to the address shown below. Include a return address or email address and a contact name in your agency with your comments.

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This NOP and other PEIR information, as it becomes available, can be accessed at:
www.LACoH2Osheds.com

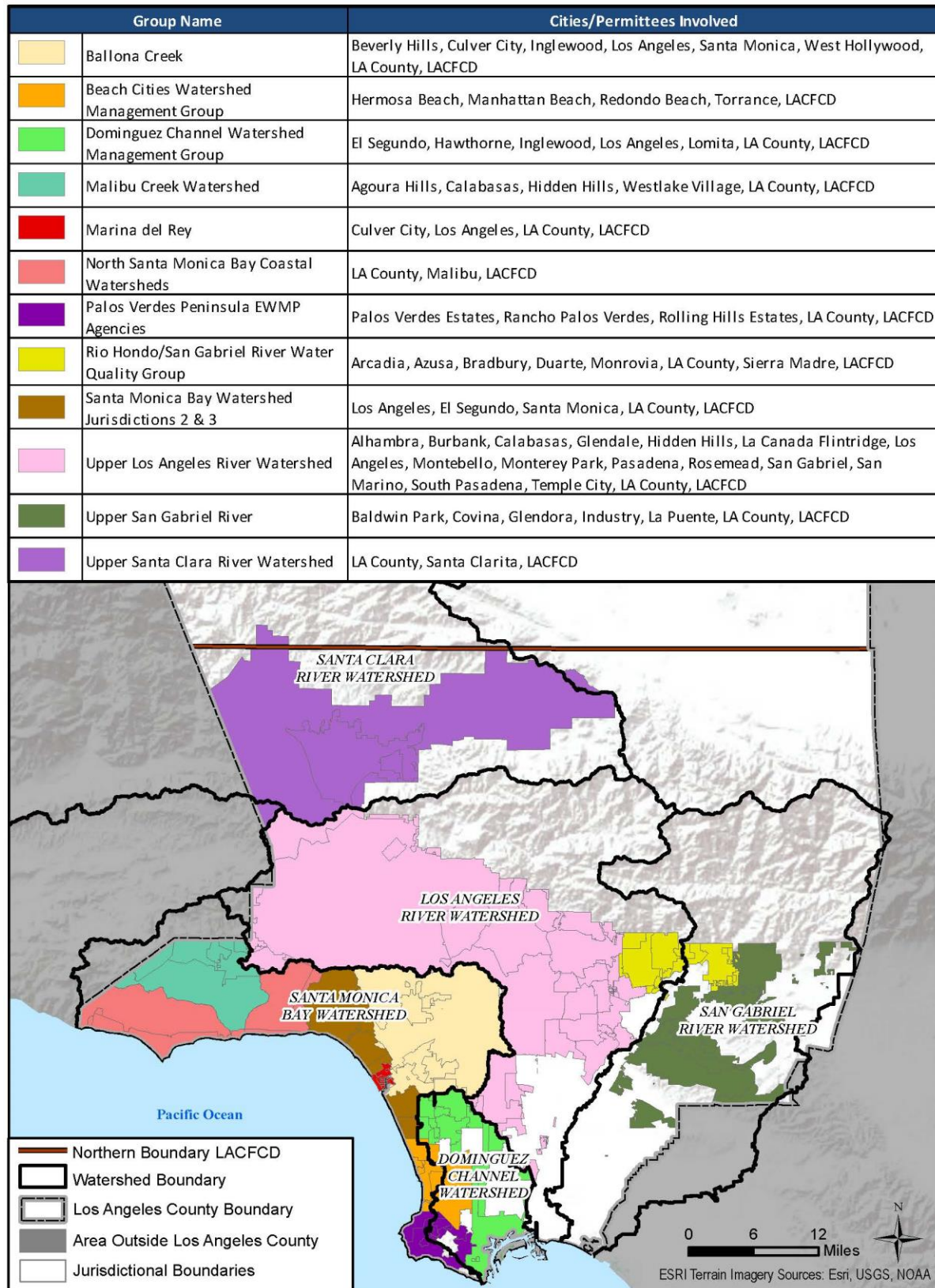
Scoping Meetings: Three scoping meetings will be held to receive public comments regarding the scope and content of the PEIR. The scoping meetings will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed program and the CEQA process. After the presentation, oral comments will be accepted. Written comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit comments in writing at the scoping meeting. Written comments also may be submitted anytime during the NOP review period. The scoping meetings will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2014
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Chace Park Community Room TBD
13650 Mindanao Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

DATE: Wednesday, September 10, 2014
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
LOCATION: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
First Floor Conference Room C
Alhambra, CA 91803

DATE: Monday, September 15, 2014
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: K Dalton Room
Community Center
119 W Palm Ave
Monrovia, CA 91016

Figure 1: Overview EWMP Groups



1. Introduction

The LACFCD along with other applicable Permittees have submitted NOIs to the LARWQCB to develop EWMPs for 12 watershed groups, in accordance with the 2012 MS4 Permit, Order No. R4-2012-0175. The LARWQCB is responsible for approval of the final EWMPs in compliance with the MS4 Permit. Implementation of the EWMPs would occur following approval of the final plan. To begin preparing the EWMPs, the Permittees collaborated on, developed, and submitted Draft Work Plans to the LARWQCB, outlining the proposed approach to preparation of each of their respective EWMPs. The primary approach to each of the EWMPs, as identified in the Draft Work Plans, includes identifying community-friendly, cost-effective methods of reducing urban runoff pollution and incorporating distributed and centralized structural and nonstructural watershed control measures for a multi-pollutant, multi-benefit approach. The EWMPs will also evaluate multi-benefit regional projects that will retain (through infiltration or capture and reuse) the stormwater quality design volume (85th percentile storm for 24 hours) for the runoff from the contributing drainage area.

The proposed project includes the potential nonstructural (institutional) and distributed, centralized, and regional structural watershed control measures described in the Draft Work Plans and detailed in the EWMPs currently under preparation. These measures will be evaluated in the PEIR. The PEIR will provide a program-level assessment of the overall permit compliance effort, focusing particularly on the structural watershed control measures proposed in each of the 12 EWMP areas.

1.1 Project Location

The proposed program includes several watershed management groups of Los Angeles County, which include the following EWMP groups: Ballona Creek, Beach Cities, Dominguez Channel, Malibu Creek, Marina del Rey, North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds (NSMBCW), Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group (RH/SGRWQG), Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River, Upper San Gabriel River, and Upper Santa Clara River. The geographic scope covered by each of these 12 EWMPs is described in further detail below and shown in Figure 1.

- Ballona Creek – The Ballona Creek EWMP area covers the Ballona Creek watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Inglewood, Culver City, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Beach Cities – The Beach Cities EWMP area covers portions of three watersheds: Santa Monica Bay Watershed Jurisdictional Group (SMB JG) 5 & 6, Dominguez Channel Watershed, and Machado Lake Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Torrance; and the LACFCD.
- Dominguez Channel – The Dominguez Channel EWMP area covers portions of three watersheds: Dominguez Channel Watershed, the Machado Lake Watershed, and the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lomita, and Los Angeles; County of Los Angeles; and the LACFCD.
- Malibu Creek – The Malibu Creek Watershed (MCW) EWMP area covers the majority of the MCW. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, , and Westlake Village; County of Los Angeles; and the LACFCD.

- Marina del Rey – The Marina del Rey EWMP area covers the Marina del Rey Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- North Santa Monica Bay – The NSMBCW EWMP area covers the SMB JG 1, SMB JG 4, and a portion of Malibu Creek within the City of Malibu’s borders. The Permittees within this EWMP are the City of Malibu; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula – The Palos Verdes Peninsula watershed management area covers most of the SMB JG7, the Los Angeles Harbor subwatershed, and the Machado Lake subwatershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates, and Rolling Hills Estates; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River – The RH/SGRWQG EWMP area covers portions of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Arcadia, Azusa, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, and Sierra Madre; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Santa Monica Bay – The Santa Monica Bay EWMP area covers the central region of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed (SMB JG2 and SMB JG3) and includes the urbanized Dockweiler and Santa Monica subwatersheds, as well as natural open space located in the Castle Rock, Pulga Canyon, Temescal Canyon, and Santa Monica Canyon subwatersheds. The Permittees within this EWMP include the Cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and El Segundo; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Upper Los Angeles River – The Upper Los Angeles River EWMP area covers the upper reaches of the Los Angeles River Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Alhambra, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, La Cañada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, and Temple City; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Upper San Gabriel River – The Upper San Gabriel River EWMP area covers portions of the San Gabriel River Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the Cities of Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, Industry, and La Puente; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.
- Upper Santa Clara River – The Upper Santa Clara River EWMP area covers the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed. The Permittees within this EWMP are the City of Santa Clarita; County of Los Angeles; and LACFCD.

2. Background

2.1 Stormwater/Water Quality

MS4 discharges consist of stormwater and non-stormwater generated from municipal land uses that are ultimately discharged into surface waters throughout the region. The MS4 system includes curbs and gutters, man-made channels, catch basins, and storm drains throughout the Los Angeles region. Discharges may adversely affect receiving surface water quality with pollutants such as bacteria, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), aluminum, copper, lead, zinc, diazinon, and cyanide. Aquatic toxicity, particularly during wet weather, is also a concern. Stormwater and non-stormwater discharges of debris and trash are also a pervasive water quality problem in the Los Angeles region. Pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater may have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems.

Water quality assessments conducted by the LARWQCB have identified impairment of beneficial uses of water bodies in the Los Angeles region possibly caused or contributed to by pollutant loading from municipal stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. The MS4 Permit described below is designed to reduce pollutant loads into local surface waters.

2.2 Total Maximum Daily Loads

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 303(d), requires states to identify waters that do not meet water quality standards despite the treatment by pollution-control technology. States are required not only to identify these “water quality limited segments” but also to prioritize such waters for the purpose of developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). A TMDL is defined as the “sum of the individual waste load allocations (WLAs) for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background” (40 CFR 130.2), such that the capacity of the water body to assimilate constituent loads (the loading capacity) is not exceeded. A TMDL represents an amount of pollution that can be released into a specific water body without causing a decline in water quality and impairment of beneficial uses. The TMDL also allocates the loads among current and future pollutant sources to the water body and forms the basis for WQBELs and RWLs assigned in NPDES permits. LARWQCB and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have established 33 TMDLs that identify Los Angeles County MS4 discharges as one of the pollutant sources causing or contributing to these water quality impairments.

2.3 MS4 Permit

On November 8, 2012, the LARWQCB adopted the fourth NPDES MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175) for discharges from the MS4 within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles County. The MS4 Permit became effective on December 28, 2012. The 2012 MS4 Permit establishes the waste discharge requirement for stormwater and non-stormwater discharges within the watersheds of Los Angeles County. The MS4 Permit identifies conditions, requirements, and programs that municipalities must comply with to protect regional water resources from adverse impacts associated with pollutants in stormwater and urban runoff. The MS4 Permit contains effluent limitations, RWLs, Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), TMDL provisions, and outlines the process for developing watershed management programs, including the EWMP.

The 2012 MS4 Permit includes provisions that allow Permittees to voluntarily choose to implement an EWMP to achieve permit compliance with RWLs. The intent of the EWMP is to comprehensively evaluate opportunities, within the participating Permittees' collective jurisdictional boundaries, for collaboration among Permittees and other partners on multi-benefit regional projects that, wherever feasible, retain non-stormwater runoff and also address flood control and/or water supply. Twelve EWMP groups have formed to implement a collaborative approach to meeting the requirements of the 2012 MS4 Permit.

3. Enhanced Watershed Management Plans

The MS4 Permittees listed in Figure 1 submitted 12 NOIs for the development of 12 EWMPs to the LARWQCB. The 12 NOIs were approved by the LARWQCB. The 12 EWMPs being developed in Los Angeles County for the applicable watersheds have been a collaborative effort by the various EWMP agencies.

The EWMPs provide for their respective areas a comprehensive stormwater management plan that optimizes the stormwater and financial resources under the stewardship of the EWMP groups. The EWMPs include multi-benefit stormwater management projects that may also provide environmental, aesthetic, recreational, water supply, and/or other community enhancements in a cost-effective manner.

To begin preparing the EWMPs, the Permittees collaborated on, developed, and submitted Draft Work Plans to the LARWQCB, outlining the proposed approach to preparation of each of their respective EWMPs. The EWMP Work Plans establish the basis for the EWMPs. The EWMP Draft Work Plans describe the path that MS4 Permittees propose to complete the Watershed Management Program requirements of the 2012 MS4 Permit.

In accordance with the provisions of the MS4 permit, the work plans describe the following steps to EWMP development:

1. Identification of water quality priorities, including evaluation of existing water quality conditions, classification of pollutants, assessment of known and suspected pollutant sources in the watershed, and prioritization of water quality issues in the watershed
2. Characterization of existing and potential control measures within the watershed
3. Addressing the approach to incorporate reasonable assurance analysis (RAA) in the optimization of watershed control measures

The LARWQCB is responsible for approval or denial of the EWMPs in compliance with the MS4 Permit. Implementation of the EMWPs would occur following approval by the LARWQCB.

4. EWMP Watershed Control Measures

The MS4 Permit requires Permittees to identify strategies, control measures, and BMPs that will be implemented. Improvements to water quality will be achieved through implementation of watershed control measures that consist of both structural and nonstructural BMPs. BMPs vary in function and type, with each BMP providing unique design characteristics and benefits from implementation. Opportunities for BMP implementation are driven by locations where BMPs are feasible/desirable. The overarching goal of BMPs in the EWMPs is to reduce the impact of stormwater and non-stormwater on receiving water quality and to address water conservation and the water quality priorities. The development of the

EWMPs will involve the evaluation and selection of multiple BMP types, as described in the following pages.

4.1 Structural BMPs

Structural BMPs involve the construction of a physical control measure to alter the hydrology and/or water quality of incoming stormwater or non-stormwater. The three major functions for structural BMPs are infiltration, water quality treatment, and storage, as follows:

- Infiltration – Runoff is directed to percolate into the underlying soils. Infiltration generally reduces the volume of runoff and increases groundwater recharge.
- Water quality treatment – Pollutants are removed through various unit processes, including filtration, settling, sedimentation, sorption, straining, and biological or chemical transformations.
- Storage – Runoff is captured, stored (detained), and slowly released into downstream waters. Storage can reduce the peak flow rate from a site, but does not directly reduce runoff volume.

There are three categories of structural BMPs—regional, centralized, and distributed; they are defined by the runoff area treated by the BMP and the required retention volume in accordance with the Permit. Structural BMPs fall under a variety of subcategories that correspond to their function and water quality benefit. Each of these three categories is described below.

4.1.1 Regional Structural BMPs

“Regional EWMP projects” are defined by the MS4 Permit as multi-benefit regional projects that, wherever feasible, retain all non-stormwater runoff and all stormwater runoff from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event for the contributing drainage area, while also achieving other benefits such as flood control and/or water supply. Examples of regional structural BMPs include:

- Infiltration BMPs
 - Surface Infiltration BMPs (Infiltration Basins, Infiltration Trenches, Infiltration Galleries, and Bioretention-implemented as single or multiple types)
 - Multi-Directional Infiltration BMPs (Dry Wells, Hybrid Bioretention, and Dry Wells)
- Detention Basins (promote settling out of larger particles)
- Capture and Use BMPs (underground cisterns, storage, and use as irrigation)

Regional BMPs include infiltration facilities that promote groundwater recharge and detention facilities that encourage settling of larger particles in stormwater flows. Infiltration and detention regional BMPs can be either constructed as open-surface basins or subsurface galleries. Capture and Use BMPs collect and use stormwater where applicable for purposes such as irrigation. All of these BMP types must retain the required design storm volume without release into the MS4 or receiving waters.

Opportunities for Regional BMPs will be identified and evaluated within and across subwatersheds, with focus on the multi-benefit potential for capture and reuse of wet-weather flows within variable drainage areas. Availability of public land will be the first criteria for identifying the location and type of BMP. Potential project locations may include areas with open spaces, whether they are within parks, large parking lots, or vacant spaces.

Regional BMPs that may be included in the EWMPs will be identified and described further in the PEIR.

4.1.2 Centralized Structural BMPs

Centralized structural BMPs are constructed structural practices intended to treat runoff from a contributing area of multiple parcels. Generally, centralized structural BMPs are installed on large public parcels or adjacent to storm drain outfalls and receiving waters. Some examples of centralized structural BMPs include the following:

- Bioinfiltration BMPs (Bioretention with underdrain, bioinfiltration, highflow biotreatment, and raised underdrain, vegetated swales, filter strips—implemented as single or multiple types)
- Constructed wetlands (aboveground and belowground)
- Treatment BMPs/Low-flow diversion
- Creek/river/floodplain/estuary restoration

4.1.3 Distributed Structural BMPs

Distributed structural BMPs are constructed structural practices intended to treat runoff close to the source and are typically implemented at a single- or few-parcel level. The following list includes common distributed BMPs that can be implemented at the parcel level:

- Site scale detention (dry/wet detention ponds, detention chambers)
- Green infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID)
 - Biofiltration
 - Bioretention
 - Porous/permeable pavers
 - Green streets
 - Infiltration BMPs
 - Bioswales/buffer strips
 - Planter boxes
 - Rainfall harvesting (green roofs, rain barrels, and cisterns)
- Flow-Through Treatment BMPs
 - Media/cartridge filters
 - High-flow biotreatment
- Source Control Treatment BMPs
 - Catch basin inserts/screens
 - Hydrodynamic separators
 - Gross solids removal devices (GSRDs)
 - Low flow diversions

4.2 Institutional BMPs/ Non-Structural Control Measures

These are policies, actions, and activities which are intended to prevent pollutants from entering stormwater runoff, thus eliminating the source of the pollutants. Most institutional BMPs are implemented to meet Minimum Control Measure (MCM) requirements in the MS4 permit; MCMs are considered a subset of institutional BMPs. MCMs do not involve construction of facilities that physically remove pollutants, but may involve costs associated with the procurement and installation of items such as signage or spill response kits. The six categories of MCMs outlined in the MS4 permit are as follows:

- Development Construction Program
- Planning and Land Development Program
- Industrial Commercial Facilities Control Program
- Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination Program
- Public Agency Activities Program
- Public Information and Participation Program

Nonstructural BMPs or Institutional Controls are often implemented as programs or strategies which seek to prevent and/or reduce runoff and/or pollution close to the source. Nonstructural BMPs include but are not limited to:

- Irrigation control (runoff reduction) and water-efficient landscaping
- Brake pad replacement
- Covered trash receptacles
- Replacement of lead in wheel weights, or reduction in the copper content of brake pads
- Pet waste cleanup stations
- Street sweeping
- Catch basin cleaning
- Downspout disconnect program

The MS4 permit allows Permittees to customize MCMs to address high-priority water quality goals within their watersheds. Customization can range from eliminating an MCM (with the exception of the Planning and Land Development Program requirement), proposing actions within an MCM to target specific water quality issues, and increasing or decreasing activities within an MCM (with appropriate justification).

Because the LACFCD does not have jurisdictional authority for ordinance and code enactment or enforcement, they are limited in application of MCMs for Public Information and Participation Programs.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts

The LACFCD is considering having the PEIR evaluate the following preliminary listing of potential environmental issues. The environmental issues to be addressed will be finalized after the close of the public comment period and comments on the NOP are received.

The PEIR will focus on potential effects that could result from implementation of the projects and management actions identified in each EWMP. The PEIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from the construction and operation of EWMP projects, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Potential impacts are summarized below. The PEIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary to minimize potentially significant impacts of each EWMP. The PEIR is anticipated to evaluate, at a minimum, the following preliminary listing of environmental issues.

Aesthetics

Potential direct and indirect impacts could occur both during construction and after the proposed EWMP facilities are built and operating. Potential issues associated with aesthetics in relation to the proposed EWMP BMPs could include obstruction of high-quality or important views during either construction or operation of EWMP BMPs, impacts to local character, or construction of facilities incompatible with local recreation facilities or open-space areas. The PEIR will identify the potential visible physical changes to the natural and man-made environment, including the addition of new BMPs into the viewshed (temporary and permanent) and the removal of other components from the view (i.e., blocking of views). The PEIR will also identify the potential effects of the proposed EWMP BMPs on the existing light, glare, shadow, and shade environments.

Air Quality

Construction and operation of EWMP projects could cause air emissions. Air emissions could result from construction equipment exhaust, ground disturbance during construction, material hauling, construction employee-commute travel, vehicle operational maintenance trips, and vehicle trips associated with any increases in employment. Operation of some of the proposed EWMP facilities may potentially generate emissions associated with energy use. The PEIR will evaluate the effects of construction and operational activities on air quality and also will develop mitigation measures if necessary to reduce potential impacts.

Biological Resources

Implementation of the EWMP projects could occur within existing sensitive habitats. The projects could result in changes to wildlife habitat, disruption of natural movement corridors, fragmentation or isolation of wildlife habitats, and disturbance of sensitive species during construction or operation. In particular, reduced flows in downstream segments resulting from runoff retention could alter riparian and aquatic habitats. The PEIR will evaluate the potential for such facilities to impact biological resources and will also discuss local ordinances and state and federal regulations governing biological resources.

Cultural Resources

The proposed EWMP BMPs would require construction of structural BMPs which could be above and/or below ground. Issues regarding cultural resources during construction activities could include disturbance of known or unknown archeological sites, paleontological resources, and/or human remains where groundbreaking activities occur as well as disturbance or alteration of structures with historical importance. The PEIR will assess the potential effects of the proposed EWMP BMPs on cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological, and Native American resources. Mitigation measures will be identified if necessary to reduce the level of impact where possible.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Southern Los Angeles County is a seismically active region. The proposed EWMP BMPs would require construction of structural BMPs that could be subject to potential seismic and geologic hazards, including

ground shaking, liquefaction, soil stability conditions, soil erosion rates, expansive soils, and landslides. Policies provided in the County's General Plan and applicable standard County requirements will be evaluated as to their effect of mitigating or avoiding any potentially significant effects. The PEIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary to reduce potential adverse effects to proposed facilities.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Implementation of proposed EWMP BMPs could result in the generation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with construction and operations. The PEIR will estimate construction-related emissions and long-term operational emissions, including total CO₂-equivalent emissions for evaluating the effects of GHGs. The PEIR will examine the project's effects on global climate change and evaluate consistency of the project with the State's GHG emissions reduction goals.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Excavation during construction of proposed EWMP BMPs could uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Construction activities could result in the release of hazardous materials. Potential hazards will be evaluated and assessed by reviewing the data collected by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor databases. The policies provided in the County's General Plan and any standard County requirements will be evaluated as to their effect of mitigating or avoiding any potentially significant effects. The PEIR will evaluate the potential for EWMP projects to result in the release of hazardous materials. Mitigation measures will be proposed if necessary to reduce any significant effects of the project that may involve hazardous material issues to ensure that any hazards encountered during construction would be handled in accordance with applicable regulations.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs may change local drainage patterns at construction sites, which could affect the volume, quality, and rates of surface runoff that in turn could affect local surface water resources. Considered cumulatively, the proposed EWMP facilities may also change regional drainage patterns, which could affect the hydrology, hydraulics, and/or water quality of streams, rivers, and other receiving waters. The PEIR will identify relevant federal, state, and local regulations and agencies, including provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, the state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the permitting and regulatory authority of the RWQCB. The PEIR will identify stormwater quality protection measures required during construction and operation of proposed facilities. The PEIR also will evaluate potential impacts to flood control capacity and develop mitigation strategies if necessary to avoid significant impacts.

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs would likely result in increased infiltration and recharge in various locations throughout the EWMP watersheds. Such activities could affect local groundwater levels and water quality. The PEIR will evaluate potential effects of increased storm water recharge and will identify mitigation measures if necessary to ensure that potentially necessary significant impacts are reduced or avoided.

Land Use and Recreation

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs would include implementation of structural BMPs throughout the EWMP watershed areas. Issues associated with land use and planning could result from construction of new BMPs from the proposed EWMP. Issues associated with these components could

include compatibility with adjacent land uses or zoning designations, consistency with relevant land use policies, and access to adjacent land during new construction or repairs of existing flood control or recharge facilities. The PEIR will evaluate the compatibility of the proposed EWMP BMPs with existing and planned land uses within the EWMP watershed areas.

Noise

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs would require implementation of structural BMPs that would potentially generate noise and vibration. Construction activities that could be a significant source of noise and vibrations include trucking operations, use of heavy construction equipment (e.g., graders, cranes, and frontend loaders), pile driving activities, and blasting. Fixed sources of noise may include pumps and motors at pump stations. Construction noise and vibration impacts related to the proposed EWMP facilities will be evaluated at a program level. The PEIR will recommend mitigation strategies to ensure that proposed EWMP projects implemented by local agencies comply with local noise policies and ordinances.

Population and Housing/Growth Inducement

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs will include implementation of structural and nonstructural BMPs that would improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration. The proposed EWMP BMPs are unlikely to affect population and housing or induce growth. In addition, construction of the proposed EWMP BMPs or alteration of current facilities is not anticipated to lead to displacement or interruption of operation of businesses during construction. The PEIR will, however, identify current population and employment projections and identify local planning jurisdictions with the authority to approve growth and mitigate secondary effects of growth.

Public Services

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs is unlikely to affect demand for public services, or, by itself, to require new or expanded facilities for public service providers. Potential issues related to the construction and operation of the proposed EWMP facilities include disruption or impediment of fire, police, or other emergency services to areas/facilities where proposed EWMP facilities would be constructed or operated. However, the PEIR will assess the potential for the proposed EWMP BMPs to affect police and fire protection services, schools, parks, and recreational facilities, such that new or expanded buildings or structures may be required that would, in turn, affect the environment.

Traffic and Transportation

Construction of the proposed EWMP BMPs could affect traffic on local roadways as a result of vehicle trips associated with hauling of material and equipment, road closures and detours, increased demand for parking to serve construction workers, and increase in traffic hazards caused by construction activities. The PEIR will evaluate the potential for additional construction vehicles, lane closures, or road closures to impact traffic and circulation. The PEIR will identify mitigation strategies to reduce any potential effects.

Utilities and Energy

Potential issues related to the construction and operation of the proposed BMPs include the disruption or impediment of service to areas where the proposed BMPs would be constructed or operated. Existing and projected regional supplies, demands, and facilities will be described along with any existing constraints, deficiencies, or service issues for the proposed EWMP BMPs. The PEIR will evaluate the project's potential to affect utilities and will identify mitigation measures to minimize the effects.

Implementation of the proposed EWMP BMPs would also result in implementation of watershed control measures that may potentially increase the amount of energy required locally to operate some of these BMPs. The PEIR will evaluate potential energy consumption associated with implementation of structural and nonstructural BMPs.