a. INTRODUCTION

This section analyzes the provision of sanitary sewer service to the project site. This section analyzes the proposed project's impact on the ability of the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW), Bureau of Sanitation, to meet the project's wastewater demands.

1. Environmental Setting

2. Collection Facilities

The LADPW, Bureau of Sanitation is responsible for wastewater collection and treatment in the City of Los Angeles. The Bureau maintains 6,700 miles of sewers in a 600-square-mile service area. These pipelines carry an average of 550 million gallons per day (mgd).[1] The Bureau of Sanitation is also responsible for system maintenance, including channel and debris basin cleaning, catch basin overflow control, basin and sewer repair, roach/rodent abatement, sewer odor control, sewer service charge adjustment, sewer spill and stoppage repair, standing water control, and storm drain maintenance.

The LADPW requires that the wastewater of a new development connect to the City's existing sewer system. Any developer constructing a new sewer line is required to coordinate the construction and dedication of any such sewer with the LADPW for future operation and maintenance. It would then be the responsibility of the LADPW to upgrade the wastewater collection and treatment systems by providing relief for existing trunk lines nearing capacity and expanding treatment facilities.

Currently the project site is vacant and is not served by any wastewater conveyance system. However, a sewer line presently runs underneath Andora Avenue adjacent to the eastern end of the project site, and ends at the terminus of the roadway.

3. Treatment Facilities

The Bureau operates four treatment and reclamation plants that are responsible for the removal of potentially harmful pollutants before effluent is discharged into the environment or recirculated as reclaimed water. Most sewage generated by the City ultimately flows to and is treated at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant (Hyperion) located in Playa del Rey. Hyperion also treats wastewater from several contract cities as well as unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County and other contract

1 LADPW. "About the City's Sewer System." November 30, 2006. http://www.lasewers.org/sewers/about/index.htm.

agencies. Hyperion can accommodate a dry weather flow of 450 mgd and wet weather flow of 850 mgd. Currently, Hyperion treats an average flow of 340 mgd, which is 110 mgd below dry weather capacity.[2] The unused capacity is partly due to water conservation measures now required as part of the City of Los Angeles Uniform Building Code, as sewer flows are directly proportional to water usage.

The Hyperion service area includes two inland reclamation plants: the Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (LAGWRP) in Los Angeles and the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP) in Van Nuys. These plants partially treat upstream flows generated by urban uses in the San Fernando Valley and route the partially treated flows to Hyperion. The LAGWRP, which opened in 1976, is capable of processing approximately 30 mgd of wastewater, while the TWRP, which opened in 1985, can treat 80 mgd of wastewater. Finally, the Terminal Island Treatment Plant (TITP), which resides in and services the Los Angeles Harbor area, started operating in 1935 and has the capacity to treat 45 mgd. Together the LAGWRP, TWRP, and TITP produce over 80 mgd of reclaimed water.[3] Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that can replace potable water in landscape, golf course, and agricultural irrigation and some industrial-commercial applications.

The proposed project would discharge its wastewater to the Reseda Sanitation Treatment Facility, which has a current maximum capacity of 80 million gallons per day (gpd) with current flows totaling 60 million gpd. Flows from this plant are then directed to the Hyperion, which has a maximum capacity of 450 million gpd.[4]

b. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. National

Hyperion is subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Order No. 94-021) issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board that regulates the discharge of treated sewage in the Santa Monica Bay. This permit sets limitations on the amount of pollutants that the plant can discharge into receiving waters. An increase above the set limits in the amount of sewage treated at these plants could result in the plants not being able to meet pollutant standards outlined in their respective permits.

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2 Bureau of Sanitation. "Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant." [Online] 30 November 2006. www.lacity.org/SAN/wpd/WPD/general/hypern1.htm.

3 LADPW. "About the Treatment Plants." [Online] 30 November 2006. http://www.lasewers.org/treatment_plants/about/index.htm.

4 Memorandum Re: Off-Site Sewer System Status, Hidden Creeks Estates. Communication with Balal Tamimi, District Engineer with the City of Los Angeles Sanitation District on November 29, 2005. December 9, 2005.

2. Local

General Plan Infrastructure Systems Element

Long-term goals are set forth by the City of Los Angeles in the General Plan Infrastructure Systems Element related to wastewater services. First, the Element discusses that the reuse of gray water offers an opportunity for demand side management. Gray water is household wastewater from sinks, showers, bathtubs, and washing machines that can be treated and reused on site. Gray water, like reclaimed water, can be used to supplant potable water for irrigation purposes and gray water systems can help reduce the wastewater stream. The Element also states that legislation allowing residential use of gray water should be supported through streamlined permitting, and that every effort must be made to ensure that gray water does not enter the stormwater system.

Second, the Element discusses the City's plan to increase the capacity of the LAGWRP and Hyperion by 2010. While the City anticipates that current capacities are sufficient for treatment needs in 2010, expansions will eventually be necessary to sustain growth beyond 2010. These plans should be adopted into the City's 10-Year Capital Improvement Program to secure funding (see below).

Wastewater Capital Improvement Program

The City's 10-Year Capital Improvement Program identifies the wastewater system upgrades, equipment, and modifications to be funded by the City within a 10-year period. Many of these improvements are necessary in order to comply with State and Federal Clean Water Act regulations. The Fiscal Year 2006/2007–2015/2016 Capital Improvement Program itemizes and estimates costs for projects scheduled for the four treatment plants, collection system, pumping plants, system-wide operations, and recovery from the 1994 Northridge earthquake.[5]

Ordinance No. 166,060 (Sewer Allocation), adopted June 1990, limits the annual increase in the wastewater quantity discharged into the Hyperion system to 5 mgd. Bureau of Engineering Special Order No. SO06-0691 changed the design peak dry weather flow for sanitary sewers from three-quarter depth to one-half the sewer diameter to implement the City-adopted goal of no overflows or diversions from the wastewater collection system. Since these two criteria impact the sewer capacity availability assessment and approval, they should be considered in the evaluation of project impacts.

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5 Bureau of Sanitation. *Wastewater Capital Improvement Program, FY 2006/2007 – FY 2015/2016*. Accessed online at http://www.lacitysan.org/fmd/WCIP/WCIPBook06-07.pdf (30 November 2006).

c. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. Significance Criteria

Thresholds

The 2006 *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* indicates that a project would normally have a significant wastewater impact if:

WW-1 The project would cause measurable increase in wastewater flows at a point where, and at a time when, a sewer's capacity is already constrained or that would cause a sewer's capacity to become constrained; or

WW-2 The project's additional wastewater flows would substantially or incrementally exceed the future scheduled capacity of any one treatment plant by generating flows greater than those anticipated in the Wastewater Facilities Plan or General Plan and its elements.

Project Impacts

The determination of significance is made considering:

WW-1 *if the proposed project would cause measurable increase in wastewater flows at a point where, and at a time when, a sewer's capacity is already constrained or that would cause a sewer's capacity to become constrained; and,*

WW-2 *if the proposed project would result in additional wastewater flows that substantially or incrementally exceed the future scheduled capacity of any one treatment plant by generating flows greater than those anticipated in the Wastewater Facilities Plan or General Plan and its elements.*

During project construction, construction contractors for the project would provide portable, on-site sanitation facilities for use by the construction crews that would be serviced at approved disposal facilities and treatment plants. The amount of construction related wastewater that would be generated would be minimal and would not have a significant impact on wastewater disposal and treatment facilities due to the temporary nature of construction and expected low volumes of wastes. As a result, construction impacts would be less than significant.

As described in **Section III, Project Description**, the proposed project would consist of 45 single-family residences, which would increase the site population by approximately 119 people. Based on the year 2010 population estimate contained in the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Community Plan, the associated population increase would represent approximately 0.09 percent of the projected area population of

134,960 persons.[6] Implementation of the proposed project would increase the demand for water over existing conditions and uses on the project site. As indicated in **Table IV.K.2-1, Project Wastewater Generation**, the project is estimated to result in gross wastewater generation of approximately 14,850 gpd, or 5.4 million gallons per year. The project site is vacant and does not generate any wastewater; therefore, for purposes of this analysis, no number is used to quantify current wastewater generated at the project site.

Table IV.K.2-1
Project Wastewater Generation

Land Use	Quantity	Generation Factor[1] (gpd/per unit)	Daily Generation (gal/day)	Annual Generation (million gal)
Single-Family Residences	45 du	330	14,850	5.4

[1] *Written correspondence from Adel Hagekhalil, Division Manger, Wastewater Engineering Services Division, LADWP Bureau of Sanitation, February 7, 2007.*

gal = gallon; du = dwelling unit

The estimated wastewater generation for the project is anticipated to be approximately 14,850 gpd. Hyperion, which ultimately treats the City's sewage, is operating at 110 million gpd below capacity. The projected 14,850 gpd of wastewater generated by the project represents less than 0.1 percent of this excess capacity. Based on the results of the gauging described above, the existing sewer system may be able to accommodate the project's anticipated wastewater flow; however, the local sewer line serving the project site would have to be extended at the terminus of Andora Avenue to follow Rodgers Way, resulting in a potential significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measures **MM-WW-1** through **MM-WW-4**, as described below, have been proposed in order to accommodate the project's wastewater flow as deemed necessary by the Bureau of Sanitation.

Additionally, all projects served by Hyperion are subject to the Sewer Allocation program, which limits additional discharge according to a pre-established percentage rate. Before the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety formally accepts a set of plans and specifications, LADPW must first determine if there is allotted sewer capacity available for the project. If the allotment for a particular time period (usually a month) has already been allocated, the project is placed on a waiting list until adequate treatment capacity has been determined. Under the allocation program, Hyperion has capacity to serve a particular growth rate. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As part of project implementation, the project applicant would be required by the City of Los Angeles to pay sewage connection fees based on the number of plumbing fixtures associated with the proposed

6 City of Los Angeles, "Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Community Plan," *Los Angeles General Plan* (2000), p. 7.

project. In addition, the applicant would be required by the City to pay sewage facility charges that allow the project to pay its share of the cost of treatment facilities. The sewage facility charge is collected by the City of Los Angeles from owners and developers of new land uses within the City. Since the applicant would pay the above fees and would upgrade any existing pipelines without sufficient flow capacity in order to ensure adequate wastewater service for the project, potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of the mitigation measures **MM-WW-1** through **MM-WW-4**, described below.

2. Mitigation Measures

MM-WW-1 Install low-volume toilets and restricted flow water fixtures in all facilities.

MM-WW-2 The project would comply with Bureau of Sanitation recommendations for the proposed development.

MM-WW-3 The project would provide for on- and off-site sewers and easements in accordance with applicable provisions of the Municipal Code to the satisfaction of the Bureau of Sanitation and the City Engineer.

MM-WW-4 The Bureau of Engineering has indicated that, upon review of the preliminary tentative tract map, the site may require a pump station to mitigate sewage drainage flows affected by excessive slopes.

d. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Development of the proposed project as well as other related approved and pending projects within the project area would increase wastewater generation. Several improvements to the Hyperion system have recently been completed to allow the system to treat increased wastewater flows. In addition, each new development within the City of Los Angeles is required to comply with the City's water conservation ordinances and other regulations pertaining to sewer collection and disposal. Therefore, cumulative impacts on wastewater services would be less than significant.

1. Mitigation Measures

No cumulative impacts to wastewater service were identified and, therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

2. Adverse Effects

With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, **MM-WW-1** through **MM-WW-4**, project and cumulative impacts related to wastewater service would be less than significant.