IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
L. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS
2. SEWER

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation Division, provides sewer conveyance infrastructure and wastewater treatment services to the project area. The Hyperion Treatment Plant (HTP), located west of the Los Angeles International Airport in Playa Del Rey, provides treatment capacity for wastewater flows generated within the project area. Furthermore, the project site is located in the East Valley Tributary Area, and is a tributary to the L.A.-Glendale Wastewater Reclamation Plant (LAGWRP). The LAGWRP is part of the Hyperion Treatment System. Wastewater flowing from the East Valley Tributary flows through the LAGWRP and then to the HTP. The LAGWRP treats 90 percent of the East Valley Tributary's wastewater and then sends the remaining 10 percent to the HTP for treatment. The LAGWRP removes solids and disinfects the wastewater to the purity standards set forth in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. The disinfected wastewater is then discharged into the Los Angeles River. The City has planned increases in the LAGWRD capacity by the year 2010, from 20 million gallons per day (mgd) to 50 mgd.[1]

In December 1998, the HTP was upgraded to provide full secondary treatment for all wastewater based on an average dry weather flow of 450 mgd. HTP currently processes average wastewater flows of approximately 350 mgd and has a design capacity of 650 mgd.[2] The remaining capacity of the HTP is, therefore, approximately 300 mgd.

The Hyperion Service Area (HSA) encompasses approximately 328,000 acres, or approximately 515 square miles, of the greater Los Angeles area. The HSA also serves 53,000 acres outside the jurisdiction of the City on a contract basis. The HSA includes approximately 96 percent of the total area served by the City.

The project site is currently undeveloped and does not generate wastewater. The nearest existing sewer line is located under La Tuna Canyon Road, adjacent to the project site.[3] In the vicinity of Interstate 210, this is an 8-inch sewer line. However, the sewer line increases in size as it proceeds westerly. In the vicinity of the entrances to Development Area B, the existing sewer is a 15-inch line. The design capacity of this sewer line is approximately 615,000 gallons per day (gpd). Based on the current

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1 *The Framework Element of the Los Angeles General Plan, www.lacity.org/pln/framewrk/fwhome0.htm, February 10, 2003.*

2 *Correspondence from Adel H. Hagekhalil, Division Manager, Wastewater Engineering Services Division, Bureau of Sanitation, May 29, 2002, confirmed April 11, 2003.*

3 *Ibid.*

number of lateral tie-ins presently contributing to the sewage flow in this line, it has a remaining capacity of approximately 25 percent.[4] Based on the design capacity of 615,000 gpd, this sewer line therefore has an estimated remaining capacity of approximately 153,750 gpd. According to the City Wastewater Engineering Services Division of the Bureau of Engineering, there are no sewer service problems or deficiencies in the immediate vicinity of the project site.[5]

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Threshold of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

Project Impacts

Implementation of the proposed project would introduce 280 new single-family homes into undeveloped hillsides located southerly of the Sunland-Tujunga community. As indicated in Table IV.L-3, these homes are estimated to generate a total of 92,400 gpd.[6] The project is proposed to be served by a gravity-flow remote service line that would connect to the existing City 15-inch sewer line under La Tuna Canyon Road. The proposed sewer system for Development Area A would consist of an 8-inch sewer main. A 10-inch sewer line would pass under Interstate 210 pursuant to an encroachment permit to be obtained from Caltrans to join the main line from Development Area A to the Development Area B sewer line. The confluence point of this line and the Development Area B line is located at the approach of the proposed east entry bridge. The 10-inch pipe would be suspended under the bridge and then extended to join the existing 15-inch sewer line under La Tuna Canyon Road. Within Development Area B, the sewer alignment flow would be split at approximately the middle area of the development. The sewer alignment flow in the eastern portion of Development Area B would be the same line that connects with the Development Area A line, as mentioned above. The alignment that flows toward the west in Development Area B would consist of an 8-inch sewer line. This line would be suspended under the west bridge and extended to join the existing 15-inch sewer line under La Tuna Canyon Road. This point of the system is the proposed second point of connection.

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[4] *Telephone correspondence with Nelson Sarti, Wastewater Engineering Services Division, Bureau of Sanitation, May 14, 2003.*

[5] *Correspondence from Adel H. Hagekhalil, Division Manager, Wastewater Engineering Services Division, Bureau of Sanitation, May 29, 2002, confirmed April 11, 2003.*

[6] *Calculated using the 2002 City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering Manual, Table 227, generation rate of 330 gallons per dwelling unit per day.*

According to the Wastewater Engineering Services Division of the City Bureau of Engineering, the existing sewer line under La Tuna Canyon Road has the capacity to handle the additional sewage generation from the proposed project, based on the number of lateral tie-ins presently contributing to the sewer flow.[7] With implementation of the proposed project, the remaining capacity in this sewer line would be reduced from approximately 25 percent to approximately 10 percent. Since there is an existing sewer line adjacent to the project site with sufficient capacity to handle the flows from the proposed project, no off-site sewer line improvements are anticipated, other than the proposed project's connection. Further, the HTP has approximately 300 mgd of remaining capacity, which could accommodate the increased flow of 92,400 gpd from the proposed project. The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, the proposed project's impact on sewer systems would be less than significant.

Table IV.L-3
Project and Cumulative Sewage Generation
Canyon Hills Project

Land Use	Size	Generation Rate (gallons/1,000 sf/day)[a]	Total Wastewater Generation (gpd)
Proposed Project			
Single Family Homes	280 DU	330/DU	92,400
Related Projects[b]			
Fast Food Restaurant	3,050 sf	300	915
Convenience Store/Gas Station	7,427 sf	80	594
Retail	103,240 sf	80	8,259
Church	68,000 sf	200	13,600
Auto Repair	31,080 sf	80	2,486
Single Family Homes	135 DU	330/DU	44,550
YMCA Expansion	7,508 sf	80	601
Golf Course	160 acres (13,000 sf clubhouse/ maintenance)	300	3,900
		Total Related Projects	*74,905*
		Total Proposed Project	*92,400*
		Cumulative Total	***167,305***

[a] *Source: City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering, April 11, 2003.*
[b] *The 13 related projects are summarized into these land uses.*

[7] *Correspondence from Adel H. Hagekhalil, Division Manager, Wastewater Engineering Services Division, Bureau of Sanitation, May 29, 2002, confirmed April 11, 2003.*

MITIGATION MEASURES

As no significant sewer impacts have been identified, no mitigation measures are required. However, in order to comply with the City's water conservation and sewer allocation ordinances, the proposed project's new homes shall be equipped with water conservation devices (i.e. showerheads, toilets, faucets, etc.). The standard City sewage generate rate used to estimate the proposed project's future sewage generation reflect these latest water conservation measures.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project in conjunction with the 13 related projects (see Figure II-1 in Section II.C (Related Projects)) would increase the generation of sewage within the HTP's service area. The cumulative amount of sewage generated is projected to be 167,305 gpd (see Table IV.L-3). As previously discussed, the design capacity of the HTP is 650 mgd and the HTP's current average wastewater flow is 350 mgd. Therefore, the HTP has a remaining capacity of approximately 300 mgd. The cumulative sewage generation would be well within the design capacity of the HTP, representing about 0.05 percent of the remaining capacity.

Furthermore, the only related project that would potentially share the same sewer line as the proposed project is the Duke Project (Related Project No. 7). It is anticipated that the 10 single-family homes that would be constructed with the Duke Project would contribute approximately 3,300 gpd of sewage to the existing line in La Tuna Canyon Road. This would result in the reduction of the remaining capacity of this sewer line by approximately 0.6 percent. The Duke Project in combination with the proposed project would reduce the remaining capacity in this sewer line from 25 percent to 9.4 percent. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the related projects in combination with the proposed project on wastewater facilities would be less than significant.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

The proposed project's impacts on sewer services would be less than significant.