COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

JAMES A. NOYES, Director

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August 21, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE: PD-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAM NOS. 2 AND 3
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1
3 VOTES

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project to construct two rubber dams in the City of Industry, concur that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County, and approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

2. Adopt the enclosed Reporting Program to ensure compliance with the project and conditions adopted to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

3. Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.

4. Authorize Public Works to pay the $1,250 fee to the State Department of Fish and Game as required by the Fish and Game and Public Resources Codes.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed project is to capture local runoff for groundwater recharge and to provide storage for water to be spread downstream of the dam. The proposed project is located within the San Gabriel River in the vicinity of Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry. The proposed project consists of constructing two approximately 442-feet-long and 8-feet-high inflatable rubber dams 14 feet upstream of existing drop structures in the San Gabriel River. The project also includes placing approximately 11,500 linear feet of chainlink fence and constructing two control houses along the levees.

An environmental impact analysis/documentation is a California Environmental Quality Act requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental impacts of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, we are also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors indicated that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it allows us to maintain a portion of the regional flood control system, thereby improving the quality of life in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The project is included in the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Flood Control District Construction program. The estimated cost of the project is $4,300,000. A construction contract is anticipated to be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent on your approval of this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, any lead agency preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. To comply with this requirement, a Public Notice, pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code, was published in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on June 18, 2003. Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration were sent to the El Monte Library for public review. Notices were also mailed to residents in the vicinity of the project.

Comments were received during the public review period from the California Department of Transportation, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Division of Safety of Dams. The responses to those comments are included in Attachment B of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, the Mitigated Negative Declaration determined that the project with necessary mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is requested at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The California Environmental Quality Act requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their action.

Mitigation measures have been included as part of the project. We have prepared the enclosed Reporting and Monitoring Program that includes maintaining records to ensure compliance with environmental mitigation measures adopted as part of this project. Your Board is being asked to approve and authorize Public Works to carry out this project.

A fee must be paid to the State Department of Fish and Game when certain notices required by the California Environmental Quality Act are filed with the County Clerk. Upon approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by your Board, Public Works will submit $1,250 to the County Clerk to pay this fee. In addition, a $25 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for processing. We will also file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project would capture local runoff for in-stream recharge and provide storage for downstream spreading.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to us.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAM NOS. 2 AND 3

I. Location and Brief Description

The proposed project is located within the San Gabriel River in the vicinity of Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry (see attached map). The proposed project consists of constructing two approximately 442-feet-long and 8-feet-high inflatable rubber dams 14 feet upstream of existing drop structures in the San Gabriel River. The project also includes placing approximately 11,500 linear feet of chainlink fence and constructing two control houses along the levees. The proposed project will capture local runoff for groundwater recharge and provide storage for water to be spread downstream of the dam.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

Based on the information contained in the Initial Study, environmental effects that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project would be considered potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated into the project. These impacts and their associated mitigation measures are discussed in Section XVIII of the Initial Study.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study and mitigation measures incorporated, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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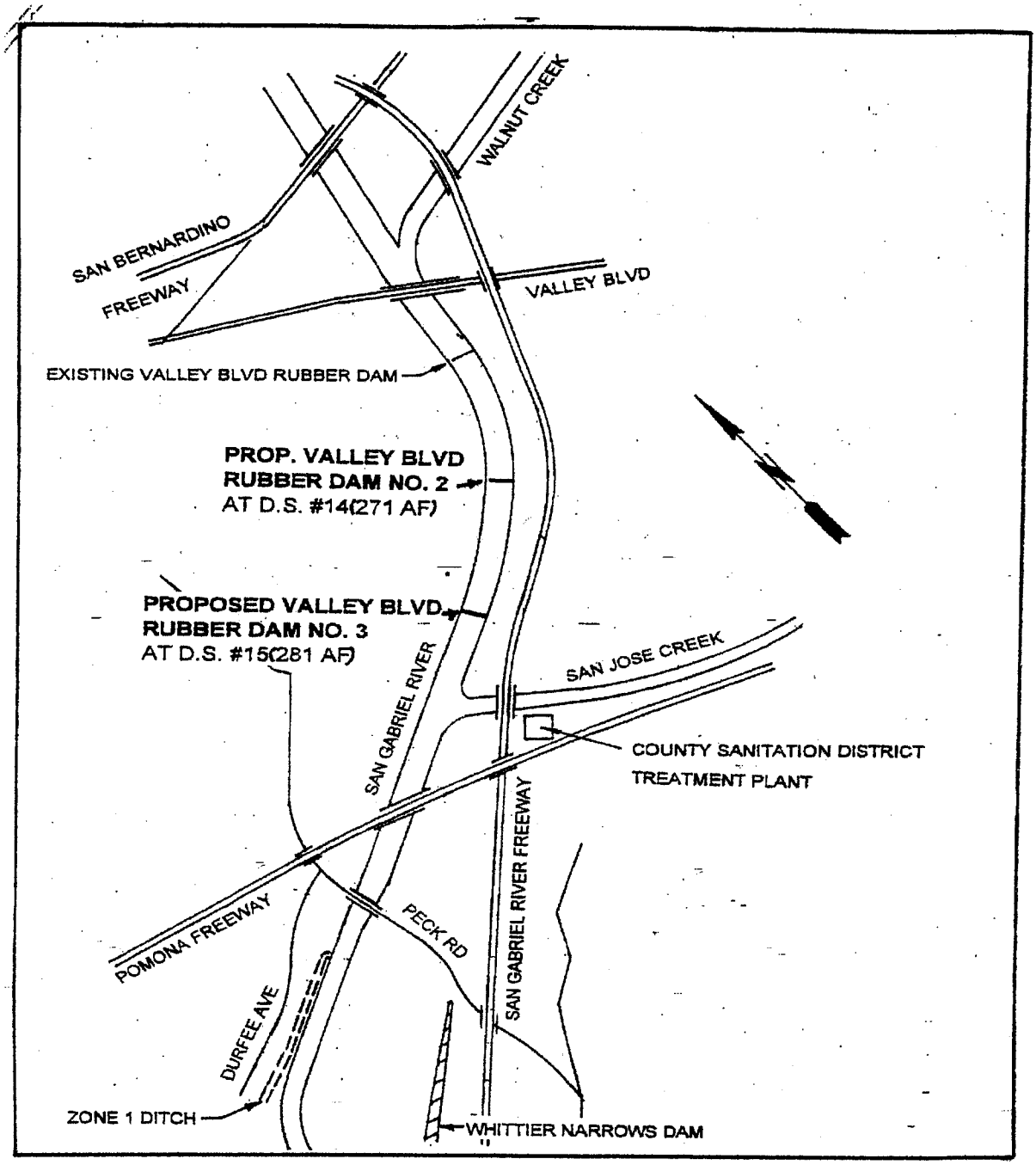
Attach.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAMS NOS. 2 AND 3



LOCATION MAP

Thom. Bros. 637 E-5

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title**: San Gabriel River Valley Boulevard Rubber Dam Nos. 2 and 3

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address**: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number**: Ms. Sarah D. Scott (626) 458-3916

4. **Project Location**: City of Industry

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address**: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

6. **General Plan Designation**: City of Industry

7. **Zoning**: Recreation and Open Space

8. **Description of Project**: The proposed project is located within the San Gabriel River in the vicinity of Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry. The proposed project consists of constructing two approximately 442-feet-long and 8-feet-high inflatable rubber dams 14 feet upstream of existing drop structures in the San Gabriel River. The project also includes placing approximately 11,500 linear feet of chainlink fence and constructing two control houses along the levees. The proposed project will capture local runoff for groundwater recharge and provide storage for water to be spread downstream of the dam.

9. **Surrounding Land Use and Settings**:

   A. **Project Site**-The proposed project is located within the San Gabriel River in the vicinity of Valley Boulevard, west of Interstate 605, north of State Route 60, and east of Peck Road/Durfee Avenue. This portion of the San Gabriel River is a soft-bottom, trapezoidal channel. A bike path runs along the top of the westerly bank levee. An equestrian trail runs adjacent to the bike path on its west side.

   B. **Surrounding Properties** - The surrounding properties to the west are primarily low-to medium-density residential properties. [1]Ten vegetation types occur in the area: willow riparian forest, willow riparian scrub, disturbed riparian scrub, riparian herb, freshwater (riparian) marsh, open water, sandy wash, annual grassland, ruderal, and ornamental and developed. Wildlife that may occur in the area are a variety of birds, lizards, rodents, domestic animals, and insects.

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[1] Bonterra Consulting March 19, 2003, Biological Technical Report

10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):**
    - United States Army Corps of Engineers-Section 404 Permit
    - Regional Water Quality Control Board-Section 401 Certification
    - California Department of Fish and Game-Section 1601 Agreement

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

___ Aesthetics	___ Agriculture Resources	___ Air Quality
_X_ Biological Resources	___ Cultural Resources	___ Geology/Soils
___ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	_X_ Hydrology/Water Quality	___ Land Use/Planning
___ Mineral Resources	___ Noise	___ Population/Housing
___ Public Services	___ Recreation	___ Transportation/Traffic
___ Utilities/Service Systems	___ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

___ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

_X_ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

___ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

___ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

___ I find that although the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Sarah D. Scott
Signature

3-26-03
Date

Sarah D. Scott
Printed Name

LACDPW
For

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) "Potential Significant Impact" is appropriate if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more "Potential Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4) "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potential Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or other California Environmental Quality Act process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). See the sample question below. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAMS NO. 2 AND NO. 3

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	**AESTHETICS - Would the project:**					
	a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
	b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				X
	c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
	d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
II.	**AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:					
	a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				X
	b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				X
	c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III.	**AIR QUALITY** - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
	a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
	b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
	c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for zone precursors)?				X
	d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
	e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
IV.	**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** - **Would the project:**					
	a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
	b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
	c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species; or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
	f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				X
V.	**CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**					
	a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
	b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
	c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
	d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X
VI.	**GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:**					
	a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
		i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a know fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
		ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
		iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
		iv) Landslides?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
	c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			X	
	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
VII.	**HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:**					
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
	d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X
VIII.	**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** - **Would the project:**					
	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
	b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
	c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
	d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?		X		
	g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
IX.	**LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:**					
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				X
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
X.	**MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**					
	a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
	b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X
XI.	**NOISE - Would the project result in:**					
	a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
	b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
	c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
	d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
XII. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
	c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
XIII. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u> -						
	a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
		Fire protection?				X
		Police protection?				X
		Schools?				X
		Parks?				X
		Other public facilities?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. RECREATION -						
	a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
	b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:						
	a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
	b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?				X
	c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
	d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
	f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
	g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:						
	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
	g)	Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -						
	a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
	b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively Considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

XVIII. DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MITIGATE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS -

Section 15041 (a) of the State CEQA guidelines states that a lead agency for a project has authority to require changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment. No significant effects have been identified. However, the following mitigation measures have been included:

Air Quality

- Control dust by appropriate means such as watering and/or sweeping.
- Compliance with applicable air pollution control regulations.

Biological Resources

- Compliance with all necessary regulatory permits/agreements.
- Preconstruction/focused survey to be performed by a qualified biologist.
- Restoration of riparian habitat at no less than a 1:1 ratio.

Geology and Soils

- Proper removal and disposal of excess soils and excavated materials.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Proper maintenance of all construction equipment.
- Compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances regarding chemical cleanup.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Compliance with all applicable Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Noise

- Compliance with all applicable noise and ordinances during construction.
- Construction activities would be restricted to the construction times allowed by the City of El Monte and to the County appointed construction times, except during emergency situations.

Transportation/Traffic

- Advance notification of all street and/or lane closures and detours to all emergency service agencies.
- Clear delineations and barricades to designate through-traffic lanes.
- Compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances regarding the transportation routes for the haul of material.

ATTACHMENT A

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAM NOS. 2 AND 3

I. AESTHETICS-Would the project:

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

No impact. The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the scenic vista.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not damage trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or any other scenic resources within a State scenic highway.

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project consists of constructing two approximately 442-feet-long and 8-feet-high inflatable rubber dams 14 feet upstream of existing drop structures in the San Gabriel River. The project also includes placing approximately 11,500 linear feet of chainlink fence along the levees and the construction of two control houses. The dams, fences, and control houses will be constructed within the vertical limits of the river and a similar structure exists upstream thereof. Therefore, the general characteristics will not be altered. Thus, no significant adverse visual impacts are anticipated to occur from the implementation of the project.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not introduce any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area.

II. **AGRICULTURE RESOURCES-In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:**

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

No impact. The location of the proposed project is not used for agricultural purposes nor as farmland. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with a Williamson Act contract. The proposed project will not impact any existing zoning for agricultural use.

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

No impact. The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

III. **AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:**

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

No impact. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with the current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

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

Less than significant impact. Construction-related emissions and dust would be emitted during project construction. However, the effect would be temporary and would not significantly alter the ambient air quality of the area. Construction activities would be restricted to the construction times allowed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means, such as sweeping and/or watering, and comply with applicable air pollution regulations. The impacts would be temporary and considered less than significant.

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

No impact. The proposed project will neither result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips to the project location nor lead to emissions, which exceed thresholds for ozone precursors. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on ambient air quality standards.

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project may create small amounts of dust from the construction and pollution from diesel trucks. The project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means, such as sweeping and/or watering, and complying with applicable air pollution regulations. The project construction will be short term. Therefore, the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

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

Less than significant impact. Objectionable odors may be generated from diesel trucks during construction activities. These types of odors from project construction would be short term and temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project from objectionable odors is considered less than significant.

IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

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

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporation. A biological survey[1] identified the species that were observed in the project area include Cooper's hawk, White-tailed kite, Double-crested cormorant, Least Bell's vireo, Yellow warbler, and the Yellow-breasted chat and nineteen special-status plant species. Construction of the proposed project would potentially result in impacts to these species and any other species that may be expected to occur.

To mitigate for the potential effects on any special-status species, the impacts would be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures listed in Appendix A and conducting preconstruction bird surveys. Therefore, with these mitigation measures incorporated, the proposed project impacts would be considered less than significant.

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

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporation. The biological survey[1] identified that the proposed project site does support some riparian habitat. A total of 0.87 acres of native riparian vegetation consisting of willow riparian scrub, riparian herb, and sandy wash would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Approximately 0.13 acres of this impact would be on willow scrub while the rest of this impact would be on herbaceous or nonvegetation riparian areas. Impacts to these vegetation types would be considered significant.

However, to mitigate for the potentially significant effect on riparian habitat, we will obtain the necessary permits/agreements required by the regulatory agencies and incorporate the mitigation measures required. Mitigation may consist of restoring riparian habitat at no less than 1:1 ratio or as otherwise required through the regulatory agencies permitting process. By ensuring no net loss to habitat values, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant effects on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.

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

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[1] Bonterra Consulting March 19, 2003, Biological Technical Report

Less than significant impact. The proposed project is not a known wetland habitat. However, a United States Army Corps Nationwide permit will be obtained for this project prior to construction. Therefore, the proposed project impact on federally-protected wetland habitats is considered less than significant.

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

Less than significant impact. Even though the proposed project would require construction in the channel, because the dams are inflated temporarily, the impacts would not substantially change the movement patterns within the corridor. Thus, the impact on wildlife corridors is considered less than significant.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with provisions of a Habitat Conservation, Natural Community Conservation, or any other habitat conservation plans.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES-Would the project:

a-d) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries?***

No impact. No known historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources exist in the project area. However, if any cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during construction, the contractor will cease all construction activities and contact a specialist to examine the project sites as required by project specifications. Thus, the effects of the proposed project on these resources are not considered significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS-Would the project:

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

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

No impact. There are no known active faults[2] underlying the project site; therefore, a fault rupture occurring at the project site would not be anticipated.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No impact. The project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. The activities related to the project will not trigger strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than significant impact. The project area is within a known area of liquefaction[3] but does not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects due to any seismic-related ground failure. Thus, the proposed project will not have a significant effect on people or structures caused by seismic related ground failure or liquefaction.

iv) Landslides?

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact of exposing people or structures to landslides.

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

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed project would result in the disruption of a limited amount of soil. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly compact the earth and properly dispose of any excess excavated materials. The existing topography will not significantly be altered by the construction. Therefore, the impact on soil erosion and loss of topsoil would be considered less than significant.

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[2] State of California Earthquake Fault Zones El Monte Quadrangle Revised Official Map Effective: January 1, 1994

[3] State of California Earthquake Seismic Hazard Zones El Monte Quadrangle Official Map Released: March 25, 1999

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project site may be located on a potential liquefaction area. Project specifications will require the contractor to compact the soil to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent. The soil will not become unstable as a direct result of the project. Thus, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

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

No impact. The soil at the proposed project location is not considered expansive. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact by creating significant risk to life or property.

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

No impact. There are no septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems at the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

VII. <u>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project</u>:

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

No impact. The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

b-c) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or wastes within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?***

Less than significant impact. Combustible engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances will occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical cleanups, and the nearby school officials would be notified of the spill and any precautions to be taken. Thus, the proposed project impact on the public or the environment is considered less than significant.

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

No impact. The proposed project site is not known to be located on a listed hazardous material site.

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

No impact. The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan nor within two miles of a public use airport. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

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

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

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

No impact. The proposed project site is located outside the public street and would not interfere with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

No impact. The proposed project would not expose people or structures to any significant risks involving wildland fires. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to result in adverse impacts related to risks associated with wildland fires.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY-Would the project:

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project is within a watercourse. However, it is not anticipated to have an effect on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements within a water body. The contractor will be required to implement Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not involve the use of any water that would result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. In fact, the proposed project would impound local runoff for later downstream recharge and/or provide on-site recharge providing longer time for water to percolate into the soil; and thereby, recharging ground water. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge.

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project involves the construction of two inflatable rubber dams. The dams are generally inflated during the winter rainfall period to hold the water behind the dams. When the water reaches a certain elevation, the water will be released for downstream spreading. The purpose of the dams is to capture local runoff for groundwater recharge and to provide storage for

spreading water in the downstream portions of the river. This will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or an increase in the amount of surface runoff. Therefore, the construction of the proposed project is not expected to have a significant impact on erosion or siltation or result in flooding on- or off-site.

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

Less than significant impact. The construction of the proposed project will not result in additional surface water runoff. Construction is expected to begin during dry periods. If flows are present within the river at the time of construction, they will be redirected from the project area using Public Works approved methods. The contractor will take precautions to ensure that any hazardous chemical spills are properly cleaned up. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the capacity of the stormwater drainage systems and will not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

f) ***Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporation. An application for a Section 401Water Quality Certification waiver will be submitted and compliance with all the provisions of the permit will be adhered to in order to prevent impacts to water quality. Therefore, proposed project will not impact or degrade water quality.

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

No impact. Existing flood hazards are established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map[4] Community-Panel No. 065043 0460 B, the proposed project site is located in Flood Hazard Zone "C." A Flood Hazard Zone "C" is defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency as an area of minimal flooding. Implementation of the proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

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

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[4] Community-Panel Number 065043 0460 B dated December 2, 1980

No impact. As stated above, the proposed project is located in an area of minimal flooding. Therefore, construction of the proposed rubber dams will not place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area.

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

No impact. The rubber dams will be designed to accommodate short-term ponding for a maximum of up to two weeks during storm events. A fence will be installed to prevent human injury. Therefore, it is not expected that the proposed project will expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding as a result of levee or dam failure.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

IX. **LAND USE AND PLANNING-Would the project:**

a) ***Physically divide an established community?***

No impact. The proposed project will not physically divide an established community.

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

No impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans.

X. **MINERAL RESOURCES-Would the project:**

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

No impact. The construction of the proposed project would not deplete any known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

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

No impact. The project site is not identified as a mineral resource recovery site in the local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on locally-important mineral resource recovery sites.

XI. <u>NOISE-Would the project result in</u>:

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

Less than significant impact. Noise levels within the proposed project site will increase during construction. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The contractor will be required to comply with the construction hours specified in the County and/or City of Industry noise control ordinances. Overall, since the construction period will last for a short period, the project would not expose people to severe noise levels. Thus, the impact of severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

b) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?***

Less than significant impact. The project could generate limited and temporary groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. However, the project specifications would require the contractor to comply with all noise laws and ordinances. Thus, the exposure of persons to groundborne noise and vibration would be considered less than significant due to the short-term nature of the project.

c) ***A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.***

No impact. There will be no substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise level due to the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on permanent noise increases.

d) ***A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

Less than significant impact. During the construction phase of the project, there will be a nominal increase in existing noise levels due to construction and transportation of material to and from the project site. Construction activities will be limited to normal County-and/or City-regulated hours. Due to the short-term nature of the project, the impact from ambient noise levels will be less than significant.

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

No impact. The proposed project will neither be located within an airport land use plan nor within two miles of a public use airport.

XII. **POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:**

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

No impact. The proposed project will not induce a population growth, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the project will not induce a significant population growth.

b-c) ***Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, or displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

No impact. The proposed project will not displace existing houses or people, creating a demand for replacement housing. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the construction of replacement housing.

XIII. **PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the project:**

a) ***Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of***

which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?

No impact. The project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The project will not have an impact on fire or police protection services as a result of new or physically-altered governmental facilities.

XIV. RECREATION - Would the project:

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

No impact. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not include any new recreational facilities or expansion of existing recreational facilities. A bike path that parallels the river on the top of the west levee is an existing recreational facility in the project area. This facility may require temporary closure or a detour around the construction area. The contractor would be required to provide advance notice of closure and detours. The bike path would be restored to its original condition upon project completion. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on recreational facilities.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:

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

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will require transportation of construction equipment and materials to the project site. This could minimally increase the existing traffic. However, the impact would be only during construction

of the proposed project and is, therefore, temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project on substantial traffic increases is considered to be less than significant.

b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?***

No impact. The proposed project will not exceed a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for roads or highways in the project area.

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

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

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

No impact. The proposed project does not involve any design features or incompatible uses constituting safety hazards.

e) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within the channel and, therefore, will have no impact on emergency access.

f) ***Result in inadequate parking capacity?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the need for more parking. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on parking capacity.

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

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS-Would the project:**

a) ***Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?***

No impact. The project will not result in contamination or an increase in discharge of wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not require the construction or expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities. The existing drainage facilities will accommodate the proposed construction.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water entitlements. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water resources.

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

No impact. No significant increase in the amount of wastewater discharged will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment capacity.

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

No impact. The proposed project will not generate any significant amount of solid waste. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on landfill capacity.

g) ***Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

No impact. The project would comply with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE-Would the project:

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

No impact. Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the quality of the environment that cannot be mitigated to insignificance.

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

No impact. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, and cumulatively considerable.

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

No impact. The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

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Appendix A

Mitigation Measures[1]

Mitigation Measures for Direct Impacts

Mitigation Measure No. 1

Approximately 0.87 acres of riparian habitat (willow riparian scrub, riparian herb, and sandy wash) would be impacted by the proposed project. A jurisdictional delineation would be required to determine the extent of the study area that would be subject to Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) jurisdiction. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works will obtain all necessary permits/agreements from the ACOE and CDFG. Mitigation for project impacts to riparian habitat will consist of restoring riparian habitat at no less than a 1:1 ratio or as otherwise approved through the ACOE and CDFG permit/agreement process for the proposed project. The location of the mitigation site will also be determined through consultation with the ACOE and CDFG during the permitting/agreement process. The objective of the mitigation would be to ensure no net loss of habitat values from the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure No. 2

The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher was not observed in the study area during the survey. A focused survey will be conducted according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services protocol for this species prior to construction. If the focused survey finds the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in the impact area, then construction will be delayed until after September 15th of any year, unless a qualified biologist has determined that nesting is complete (i.e., young have fledged and are independent). Construction may begin prior to completion of nesting if appropriate noise abatement measures are implemented and weekly noise monitoring demonstrates that noise levels are less than 60 dBA at specified monitoring locations near the nest(s) as determined by the biological monitor.

Mitigation Measure No. 3

The Least Bells' Vireo was observed in the study area during the survey. A focused survey will be conducted according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services protocol for this species prior to construction. If the focused survey finds the Least Bells' Vireo in the impact area, then construction will be delayed until after September 15th of any year, unless a qualified biologist has determined that nesting is complete (i.e., young have fledged and are independent). Construction may begin prior to completion of nesting if appropriate noise abatement measures are implemented and weekly noise monitoring demonstrates that noise levels are less than 60 dBA at specified monitoring locations near the nest(s) as determined by the biological monitor.

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[1] Bonterra Consulting March 19, 2003, Biological Technical Report

Mitigation Measures for Indirect Impacts

Mitigation Measure No. 4

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works will apply for the Section 401 Water Quality Certification waiver and will comply with all of the provisions of the permit including the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which includes provisions for the implementation of Best Management Practices and erosion control measures.

PROGRAM FOR REPORTING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MITIGATION MEASURES

SAN GABRIEL RIVER VALLEY BOULEVARD RUBBER DAM NOS. 2 AND 3

The following program will be used to monitor and implement the mitigation measures discussed in Section XVIII of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1.0 **Program Management**

1.1 After adoption of environmental mitigation measures by the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works shall designate responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with each mitigation measure.

1.2 To facilitate implementation and enforcement of this program, Public Works shall ensure that the obligation to monitor and report compliance with environmental mitigation measures is required by all project-related contracts between the County and consultant, prime construction contractor, and any other person or entity who is designated to monitor and/or report compliance under this program during the preconstruction and construction phases.

1.3 Public Works, as appropriate, shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that each project-related environmental mitigation measure, which was adopted, is implemented and maintained.

2.0 **Preconstruction**

2.1 Public Works or consultant for project design is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures into the project design and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

2.2 Public Works or consultant for design of project-related off-site improvements is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

3.0 **Construction**

3.1 Public Works or the prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for constructing and/or monitoring the construction of mitigation measures incorporated in final construction documents and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

3.2 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for implementation and/or monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures affecting methods and practices of construction (e.g., hours of operation, noise control of machinery) and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

3.3 Public Works is responsible for monitoring compliance of prime construction contractor(s) with responsibility set forth in 3.1 and 3.2 above and reporting noncompliance in writing.

4.0 **Project Operation**

4.1 After completion and final acceptance of the project, Public Works is responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with adopted mitigation measures, which affect project operation.

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COMMENT LETTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING
IGR/CEQA BRANCH
120 S. SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-4429
FAX (213) 897-1337

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

June 26, 2003

IGR/CEQA cs/030663
NEG DEC
City of Industry
San Gabriel River Valley Blvd.
Rubber Dams Nos. 2 and 3
Valley Blvd./San Gabriel River
Vic. LA-605-19.21
SCH # 2003061098

Ms. Sarah D. Scott
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

JUN 30 2003
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

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7/18/03
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Dear Ms. Scott:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation in the environmental review process for the above-mentioned project. Based on the information received, we have the following comments:

1-1 We recommend that construction related truck trips on State highways be limited to off-peak commute periods. Transport of over-size or over-weight vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans Transportation Permit.

If you have any questions regarding our response, refer to our internal IGR/CEQA Record # cs/030663, and please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 897-4429.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

STEPHEN BUSWELL
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Mr. Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

Robert Nicholson

COMMENT LETTER 2

State of California - The Resources Agency

GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
http://www.dfg.ca.gov
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201

Flex your POWER

July 16, 2003

Clear 7.18.03 e

RECEIVED JUL 16 2003 STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Sarah D. Scott
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Mitigated Negative Declaration for San Gabriel River Rubber Dams Number 2 and 3

State Clearinghouse Number 2003061098

Dear Ms Scott:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (CEQA Section 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq.) and Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq.

The proposed project consists of the construction of two 442 feet-long, eight-foot high inflatable rubber dams within the San Gabriel River in the vicinity of Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry. Approximately 11,500 linear feet of chain link fence and two control houses near the levees would also be constructed. The proposed project will capture local runoff for groundwater recharge and provide storage for water to be spread downstream from the dam. The dams would be inflated during the winter months resulting in the temporary, but repeated inundation of approximately 60 acres. Direct impacts to habitat associated with the construction of facilities include 0.13 acre of willow riparian scrub, 0.56 acre of riparian herb, 0.18 acre of sandy wash, 0.68 acre of annual grassland, 0.9 acre of ruderal vegetation, and 0.08 acre of developed areas. Two territories of the State-listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) territories have been identified within the study area.

The Department offers the following comments and recommendations:

2-1 A California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained, if the project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed pursuant to CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. CESA Permits are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a 2081 permit unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a 2081 permit.

2-2 A jurisdictional delineation of lakes, streams, and associated riparian habitats should be included in the MND, including a delineation of wetlands pursuant to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland definition adopted by the Department[1]. Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to the Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2-3 The project will require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code, with the applicant prior to the applicant's commencement of any activity that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed. The Department's issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a responsible agency. The Department as a responsible agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the agreement[2]. Currently, the MND proposes "compliance with all necessary regulatory permits/agreements" as a mitigation measure. To the extent feasible, the MND should propose

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[1] Cowardin, Lewis M., et al. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[2] A Streambed Alteration Agreement form may be obtained by writing to: Department of Fish and Game, 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, by calling (858) 636-3160, or by accessing the Department's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/1600 .

specific mitigation measures to compensate for stream, wetland, and riparian impacts. The provision of required permits does not necessarily satisfy CEQA requirements for a lead agency to demonstrate that significant impacts have been avoided or mitigated.

2-3 Specific mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should be discussed. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. Areas reserved as mitigation for project impacts should be protected from future direct and indirect impacts. Potential issues to be considered include limitation of access, conservation easements, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, and fire.

2-4 Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity.

2-5 Parish's gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum* ssp. *parishii*) was not observed during vegetation mapping. We acknowledge that this shrubby species is conspicuous, but because it is feared to be extinct, and was last seen nearby (San Gabriel River, 1980), a focused survey may be justified. In this case, a definitive statement from the project botanist stating that there is <u>no possibility</u> for this species to occur within the project area would suffice.

2-6 Page 4 of the MND contains a typographical error: nineteen special-status plant species have not been observed within the project area.

2-7 The Department is concerned with the potential effects of inundation on the vegetation occurring within the project area. According to the MND and associated Biological Technical Report (BonTerra, 2003), the estimated maximum duration of inundation is two weeks. However, it is unclear if this would be the case if several large storms occurred within a relatively short period of time. Temporarily inundated willows are able to make up an oxygen deficit by forming adventitious roots at the water surface in response to inundation, typically in situations where the water level is somewhat constant. As a condition of the Streambed Alteration Agreement, the Department will require documentation regarding the ability of the plant communities upstream from the dams to withstand worst-case inundation. Besides the duration of inundation, the depth of inundation should also be considered. The Department will need to know how the surface elevation behind the proposed dams is expected to fluctuate, and whether willows and other native vegetation can or cannot adapt to the fluctuation. The existing rubber dam operated by Public Works may provide useful information in this regard. In the

absence of detailed information, the Department may require post-construction monitoring to be performed. If adverse effects associated with inundation are identified during monitoring, additional mitigation measures would be required. However, as pointed out in the Biological Technical Report, it is also possible that the inundation could result in an increased amount of riparian habitat.

Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Brad Henderson at (310) 214-9950.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Chadwick
Habitat Conservation Supervisor

cc:

Department of Fish and Game
File
Laura Crum
Brad Henderson

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kerri Davis

State Clearinghouse

COMMENT LETTER 3

State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

Date: JUL 17 2003

To: 1. Nadell Gayou, Resources Agency Project Coordinator
Environmental Review Section
901 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

2. Ms. Sarah D. Scott
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803-1331

From: **Department of Water Resources**

Subject: SCH #2003061098, Notice of Completion and Environmental Document for San Gabriel River Valley Boulevard Rubber Dam Nos. 2 and 3, Los Angeles County

The Division of Safety of Dams has reviewed your June 19, 2003 submittal of Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal for the proposed rubber dams and finds that they are exempted from the State jurisdiction for safety. The owner is not required to submit an application for the construction of the two dams.

Section 6004 (b) of the California Water Code defines that no obstruction in the channel of a stream or watercourse which is 15 feet or less in height from the lowest elevation of the obstruction and which has the single purpose of spreading water within the bed of the stream or watercourse upstream from the obstruction for percolation underground shall be considered a dam.

If you have any questions please contact Office Engineer Chuck Wong at (916) 227-4601 or Regional Engineer Mutaz Mihyar at (916) 227-4600.

David Gutierrez, Acting Chief
Division of Safety of Dams
(916) 227-9800

ATTACHMENT B

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

RECEIVED ON THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Presented below are responses to written comments received during circulation for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration regarding the proposed San Gabriel River Valley Boulevard Rubber Dams Nos. 2 and 3 project. Responses are provided to all comments that raise environmental issues, as required by the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. A copy of each letter received is included on the following page.

Response to letter of comment received from California Department of Transportation

1-1 The contractor will be required by the project specifications to obtain all necessary permits from Caltrans. When possible, the use of oversized loads on State highways will be limited to off-peak hours.

Response to letter of comment received from California Department of Fish and Game

2-1 Discussions were held at the project site with Mr. Brad Henderson on whether a California Endangered Species Act Permit would be needed. It was resolved that we would get a determination with the submittal of our application for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

2-2 A consultant has been hired to provide a wetland jurisdictional delineation.

2-3 Upon approval of our document we will apply to the Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement application. The Consulting firm hired to perform the delineation will provide specific mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats. Mitigation measures could possibly include a 1:1 replacement for habitat; the staging areas for equipment to be limited outside the wetlands; limiting construction equipment placed on wetlands, if not avoidable; avoiding multiple crossing locations in the wetlands and, if unavoidable, confining vehicle and equipment crossing through wetlands to a single corridor; the use of mats or other measures for operating heavy equipment on wetlands to minimize soil discharge; and a qualified biologist will be retained to avoid impacts or disturbances which would cause abandonment of active nests containing eggs and/or young.

2-4 Plans for restoration and revegetation will completed by a consultant.

2-5 The Biological Technical Report dated March 19, 2003 indicates that the consulting botanist did not observe the Parish's Gooseberry in the study area and does not expect the species to occur. (Pages 12 and 29)

2-6 Page 4 of the Mitigated Negative Declaration should be "the potential for nineteen special-status plant species" instead of nineteen special-status plant species.

2-7 The rubber dams will automatically deflate in the event that several large storms occur within a relatively short period of time. Therefore, the estimated two week maximum duration of inundation will not change. A consultant will be solicited to determine the ability of the plant communities upstream from the dams to withstand worst-case inundation, including impacts from fluctuating surface elevations.

Response to letter of comment received from California Department of Water Resources

Thank you for your response and your comments have been noted.