



COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CHLORIDE COMPLIANCE FACILITIES PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (FINAL)

To: Mailing List

Lead Agency: Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County

State Clearinghouse Number: 2012011010

Project Title: Santa Clarita Valley Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report (Final)

Project Location: County of Los Angeles; County of Ventura; and City of Santa Clarita

Introduction

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) has prepared the Final Santa Clarita Valley Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report (Final Facilities Plan and EIR) to determine a recommended project that meets project objectives including compliance with the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (Chloride TMDL). The EIR portion of the document was prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Final Facilities Plan and EIR was prepared in conformance with the State Revolving Fund Loan Program Guidelines.

Background

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) are a confederation of 23 independent special districts that serve the wastewater and solid waste management needs of approximately 5.4 million people in Los Angeles County. The SCVSD is one of these 23 districts. The Sanitation Districts' service area covers approximately 820 square miles and encompasses 78 cities and unincorporated territory within the County of Los Angeles.

The SCVSD provides wastewater management services to the Santa Clarita Valley. The system consists of an interconnected network of over 42 miles of trunk sewers, one pumping plant, and two interconnected water reclamation plants. The Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) and the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (VWRP) have a combined treatment capacity of 28.1 million gallons per day (mgd) and currently treat approximately 20 mgd of wastewater. The two plants provide tertiary treatment, which produces high quality recycled water that essentially meets drinking water standards and is suitable for reuse. A portion of the treated water is beneficially reused, and the remainder is discharged into the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River (SCR).

Project Objectives

The goal of the Facilities Plan is to identify a project that meets the project objectives in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The project objectives are as follows:

- Provide compliance with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Los Angeles Region's (RWQCB-LA) Chloride TMDL for SCVSD wastewater treatment and discharge facilities
- Provide the necessary wastewater treatment facilities and programs for chloride removal while conserving the area designated for future VWRP Stage VI expansion
- Provide a wastewater treatment and effluent management program that accommodates recycled water reuse opportunities in the community while protecting beneficial uses of the SCR

Purpose and Need

The SCR supports aquatic species and habitat and recharges the underlying groundwater basin that serves as a water supply. Under the federal Clean Water Act and the state's Porter-Cologne Act, the RWQCB-LA is responsible for regulating discharges to the SCR to protect beneficial uses of the river. The RWQCB-LA has determined that high chloride (salt) harms salt-sensitive avocado and strawberry crops along Highway 126, downstream of the VWRP and SWRP. Therefore, the RWQCB-LA adopted the Chloride TMDL in 2002, which imposes a chloride limit of 100 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for the treated water discharged to the SCR from the two upstream water reclamation plants.

Chloride is naturally present in both groundwater and imported water used to provide the drinking water supplied to Santa Clarita homes and businesses. When wastewater leaves homes and businesses and enters the sewer system, the chloride level is higher due to additions from regular human activities. Chloride is also added during wastewater treatment, mainly during disinfection. These additions cause chloride levels in the treated water to exceed the 100 mg/L limit.

In recent years, chloride levels in the two water reclamation plant discharges have dropped significantly due to improved source control, largely through the community's removal of over 8,000 automatic water softeners. However, the state's regulation requires further chloride reduction to comply with either the 100 mg/L chloride limit or the modified 117 mg/L chloride limit that would be conditioned upon construction of the Alternative Water Resources Management Plan (AWRM) facilities.

The SCVSD has prepared the Final Facilities Plan and EIR to meet project objectives including compliance with the Chloride TMDL.

Recommended Project

The Final Facilities Plan evaluates a wide variety of options and alternatives and identifies a recommended project, which consists of Alternative 4 and, as a backup, Alternative 2. The potential environmental impacts of the recommended project are analyzed in the Final EIR. Alternatives 4 and 2 are summarized below.

Alternative 4: Phased AWRM

Alternative 4, referred to as the Phased AWRM (Figure 1), consists of two phases: Phase I, which would definitely be implemented, and Phase II, which would only be triggered if Phase I does not meet specific performance standards.

Phase I would include construction of ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection facilities at the VWRP and SWRP, construction of salt management facilities in Ventura County, and use of supplemental water. The salt management facilities would consist of approximately five groundwater extraction wells in the eastern portion of the Piru Subbasin, approximately six groundwater extraction wells in the western portion of the Piru Subbasin, at least one pump station for each well field, and an approximately 36-inch-diameter, 6-mile-long pipeline to deliver blended groundwater to a point in the SCR with perennial flow (near the Fillmore Fish Hatchery). The salt management facilities would improve the overall salt balance in the SCR watershed and would help justify a higher chloride limit for the VWRP and SWRP. The supplemental water system would consist of an approximately 24-inch-diameter pipeline less than 1 mile long and two or three groundwater wells in the Saugus formation. The low chloride water provided by these wells would be blended with the VWRP discharge to meet the Chloride TMDL limit. In order to replace this water and ensure no net loss of water supply to the SCV, additional water would be imported by the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) on the SCVSD's behalf. This replacement water would be obtained from the Buena Vista-Rosedale (BV-R) project in the Central Valley of California under existing agreements between CLWA and the BV-R operator and would be conveyed using existing infrastructure.

Phase II would be triggered if chloride limits are not met by Phase I. If needed, Phase II would include microfiltration/reverse osmosis (MF/RO) facilities at the VWRP; second-pass RO facilities at the VWRP; a brine disposal system; and, potentially, an RO product water conveyance system to Ventura County. The brine would be disposed via deep well injection (DWI), described in the next section.

Backup Alternative (Alternative 2): MF/RO With Brine Disposal via Deep Well Injection

Under Alternative 2 (Figure 2), the existing chlorine-based disinfection systems at the VWRP and SWRP would be replaced with UV disinfection facilities. The VWRP's tertiary-treated wastewater would receive advanced treatment via MF/RO to remove chloride and second-pass RO facilities for brine minimization. The low chloride RO product water would be combined with the remaining tertiary-treated wastewater to produce a blend that meets the Chloride TMDL limit of 100 mg/L for chloride. In order to meet Chloride TMDL requirements for SWRP discharge, approximately 2.3 mgd of the RO product water would be pumped to the SWRP for blending with tertiary-treated wastewater. The RO product water conveyance system would consist of a pump station at the VWRP and a 16-inch-diameter, 3.5-mile-long pipeline from the VWRP to the SWRP.

The brine waste from the MF/RO facilities must be disposed in a safe manner by means of DWI. A pump station and an approximately 8-inch-diameter, 2.5-mile-long pipeline would convey brine from the VWRP to a DWI site located to the south of the plant. Approximately five injection wells would be constructed at the DWI site along with appurtenant facilities. The brine would be injected over 1 mile beneath the earth's surface in permeable soil containing high salinity water. The deep well injection system would be operated at pressures well below the

fracture pressure of the formation to ensure that confining geologic layers maintain their integrity and continue to protect the much shallower groundwater resources used for drinking water.

Potential Significant Environmental Impacts

The Final EIR has determined that Alternative 4 and backup Alternative 2 would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality during construction.

Significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality would occur during construction of Phase II of Alternative 4 and Alternative 2. Construction of these alternatives would exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) daily regional threshold for NO_x and could violate or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation even after mitigation. Phase II of Alternative 4 and Alternative 2 would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants during construction not mitigated to a level that is less than significant.

No other significant unavoidable environmental effects would result from the recommended project after incorporation of identified mitigation measures.

Availability of Final Facilities Plan and EIR

The Final Facilities Plan and EIR will be available for review online at <http://www.lacsd.org>. Hardcopies will also be available to the public at the following locations:

Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County –
Public Counter
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

City of Santa Clarita – City
Hall Public Counter
23920 Valencia Blvd, #120
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Canyon Country Jo Anne
Darcy Library
18601 Soledad Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

Valencia Library
23743 West Valencia Blvd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Old Town Newhall Library
24500 Main Street
Santa Clarita, CA 91321

Castaic Library
27971 Sloan Canyon Road
Castaic, CA 91384

Stevenson Ranch
Express Library
26233 West Faulkner Drive
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

Fillmore Library
502 Second Street
Fillmore, CA 93015

City Terrace Library
4025 E. City Terrace Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90063

Presentation of Recommended Project

The recommended project will be presented to the SCVSD Board of Directors at the Board meeting indicated below:

Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County Board Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2013, at 6:30 PM
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Boulevard
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

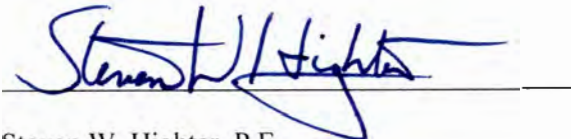
Approval and Certification of Final Facilities Plan and EIR

The SCVSD Board of Directors will consider certification of the Final EIR and approval of the Final Facilities Plan at the Board meeting indicated below:

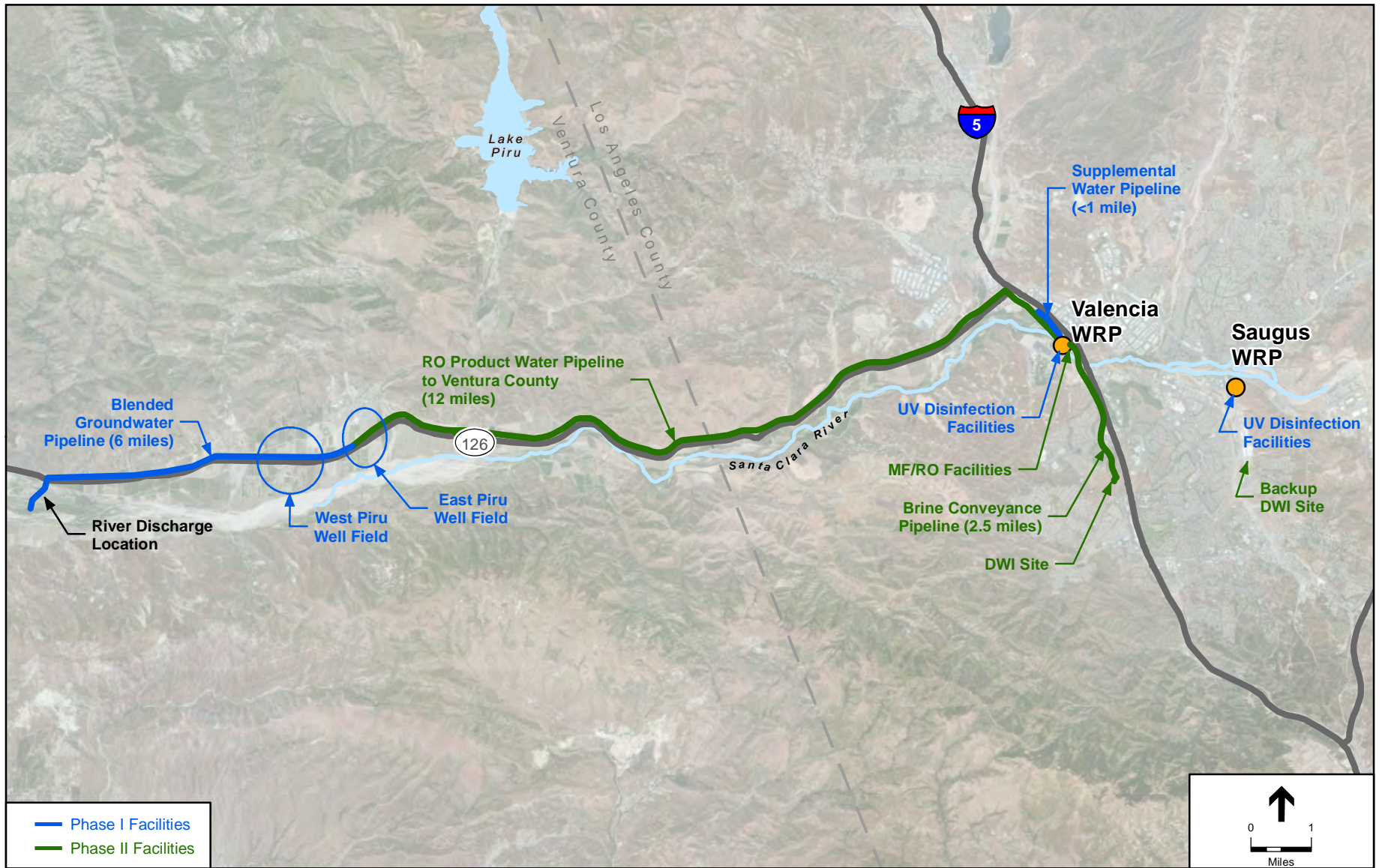
Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County Board Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013, at 6:30 PM
Santa Clarita City Hall
23920 Valencia Boulevard
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Please share this notice with anyone else you feel may be interested.

Date: 10/10/2013



Steven W. Highter, P.E.
Supervising Engineer, Planning Section
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County





Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and EIR
Figure 2
 Alternative 2: MF/RO With Brine Disposal via Deep Well Injection