

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This document is the finalizing addendum to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Conifer Tank Replacement Project. This Final EIR (FEIR) has been prepared by the Triunfo Sanitation District (District) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section 21000 et seq., Title 14 of the California Public Resources Code) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (Section 15000 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Title 14).

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations stipulates that an EIR must be prepared for any project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The Conifer Tank Replacement Project is a “project” as defined by the referenced code. Upon preliminary review, the District determined that the project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, an EIR was required. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared and circulated for public review from August 3, 2007 through October 1, 2007.

This document, together with the DEIR prepared in August 2007, constitute the FEIR for the proposed project. The District, as the Lead Agency for this project, is required by Section 15089 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations to prepare a Final EIR. The FEIR will be used by the District as part of its approval process including incorporation of mitigation measures which have been developed through the environmental review process. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is incorporated as Section F of this FEIR.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

As required by Section 15132 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the FEIR includes of the following elements:

- The DEIR.
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR (see Table of Contents).
- Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR (see Section C).
- Responses to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process (see Section C).
- Revisions to the Draft EIR/Errata Pages (Section D). Please note that changes to the Draft EIR (including the Initial Study) are denoted with double strike through for deleted text (~~example~~), and **bolded, underlined text** for new information.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The District is the lead agency for this FEIR because it has the primary approval authority for the proposed project. The District will use the FEIR in its decision-making process in determining whether or not to approve the proposed project and in its selection of a tank and pipeline alternative.

Prior to approving the proposed project, the District must certify that:

- The FEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
- The FEIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency (District) in a public meeting and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the FEIR prior to considering the proposed project; and
- The FEIR reflects the District's independent judgment and analysis (Section 15090 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations).

For this project, the District Board will consider certification of the FEIR and the discretionary project approvals.

In conjunction with certification of the FEIR, the District must prepare one or more written findings of fact for each significant environmental impact identified in the document. These findings must either state that:

- The project has been changed (including adoption of mitigation measures) to avoid or substantially reduce the magnitude of the impact;
- Changes to the project are within another agency's jurisdiction and have been or should be adopted; or
- Specific considerations make mitigation measures or alternatives infeasible.

For impacts identified in an FEIR which cannot be reduced to a level that is less than significant, the Lead Agency may issue a Statement of Overriding Considerations for approval of the project if specific social, economic, or other factors justify a project's unavoidable adverse environmental effects. However, for this project no significant impacts that could not be reduced to a less than significant level have been identified. If the District decides to approve a project for which this FEIR has been prepared, the District will issue a Notice of Determination (NOD).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC REVIEW

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the proposed project was distributed by certified mail to interested parties (including responsible and trustee agencies) and the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit (State Clearinghouse) by the District on May 10, 2007, posted on the District's web site and filed with the Ventura County Clerk of the Board. The NOP was also forwarded by the State Clearinghouse to various State agencies that may potentially have an interest in the project on May 18, 2007. The State Clearinghouse number, 2005051158, which was assigned to the project originally in 2005 has been retained.

The District held a scoping meeting as recommended in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15083 regarding early public consultation on Monday May, 21, 2007 at 6:30 PM at the Oak Park Community Center. Notice of the meeting was provided in the Acorn (a local news paper) on May 10, 2007 and the Ventura County Star (also a news paper) on May 6, 2007. The District web site mentioned the meeting for several weeks in advance, under meeting agendas (beginning April 23, 2007), and for a couple weeks in advance within the web site-posted NOP. The NOP as well as the entire Initial Study was posted on the District's web site from February 26, 2007. The District also posted both the A7 and A8 sites with 4 feet by 8 feet displays

identifying the site, and presenting the NOP text and visual simulations of the project on May 1, 2007. The onsite postings were in association with story poles that were placed at the alternative project sites, on May 9, 2007 showing the circumference and height of the proposed aboveground tank alternatives that were addressed in the Initial Study.

The DEIR and Notice of Availability (NOA), including notice of the meeting on the DEIR, were provided to agencies, organizations and individuals known to the District to have an interest in the project on August 1 and 2, 2007. A Notice of Completion (NOC) was filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County of Ventura Clerk of the Board's Office. The NOA was published in the Acorn on August 9, 2007 and the Ventura County Star on August 5, 2007. The 4 feet by 8 feet displays at the A7 and A8 proposed alternate tank sites were updated to include a copy of the NOA.

Following the release of the DEIR there was a 60-day public review period that extended from August 3, 2007 through October 1, 2007. This comment period was extended to October 31 which accommodated agencies where the notice was sent to a headquarters office rather than the local office (i.e., National Park Service and California Department of Fish and Game). In addition to distribution of the DEIR as described above, copies of the document were made available for public review at the District office and Oak Park Public Library. The document was also available on the District's web site.

One public meeting to solicit comments on the DEIR was held on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 6:15 PM at the Oak Park High School, Room G-9. At this meeting a brief presentation was made describing the proposed project. The public was invited to make oral comments and/or submit written comments on the DEIR. This public meeting was noticed as part of the NOA process identified above. Additionally, the agenda was posted on the District's web site from August 3, 2007 until after the meeting.

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