



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

*Final Environmental
Impact Report*



SCH No. 2024010394
Report No. 1642
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FINAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 Introduction

This Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), as amended. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is the lead agency for the environmental review of the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (proposed Project) and has the responsibility for approving the proposed Project.

As described in the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq.), public agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental effects, with consideration of other conditions, including economic, social, technological, legal, and other benefits. As required by CEQA, this Final EIR assesses the potentially significant direct and indirect environmental effects of the proposed Project, as well as the potentially significant cumulative impacts that could occur from implementation of the proposed Project. The purpose of this Final EIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed Project on the environment and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be avoided or significantly lessened (including feasible mitigation measures); to identify any significant and unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated to below a significant level; and to identify reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposed Project that would avoid or substantially lessen any significant adverse environmental effects associated with the proposed Project and achieve the fundamental objectives of the proposed Project.

ES.2 Contents and Organization of the Final EIR

This Final EIR is prepared pursuant to Sections 15088, 15089, and 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Final EIR, in compliance with Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, contains the following:

- **Final Executive Summary.** The Final Executive Summary provides the contents and organization of the Final EIR, a summary of procedural compliance with CEQA, and a brief description of the proposed Project.
- **Chapter 1, *Responses to Comments Received*.** This chapter includes information regarding the three written comment letters on the Draft EIR received during the public review period. This chapter includes a copy of the comment letters as well as Metropolitan's responses to the letters.
- **Chapter 2: *Changes to the Draft EIR*.** This chapter contains a summary of changes made to the Draft EIR as a result of the comment letters received. As discussed therein, no changes to the Draft EIR are required as a result of the three comment letters received on the proposed Project.
- **Chapter 3: *Findings of Fact in Support of the Proposed Project*.** This chapter provides a summary of the Findings prepared for the proposed Project with respect to its significant environmental effects.
- **Chapter 4: *Feasibility of Proposed Project Alternatives*.** This chapter provides a summary of proposed Project alternatives identified in the Draft EIR and makes findings on the feasibility of implementing the identified alternatives.
- **Chapter 5: *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*.** This chapter provides the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) for the proposed Project. The MMRP is presented in table format and identifies mitigation measures for the proposed Project, the party

responsible for implementing the mitigation measures, the timing of implementing the mitigation measures, and the entity responsible for monitoring and reporting compliance for each mitigation measure.

- **Chapter 6: *Preparers*.** This chapter contains a list of preparers and contributors to the Final EIR.
- **Chapter 7: *Acronyms and Abbreviations*.** This chapter provides a list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the Final EIR.

ES.3 California Environmental Quality Act Review

Metropolitan has complied with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines during preparation of the EIR for the proposed Project. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) along with an Initial Study was prepared and circulated on January 17, 2024 to local, state, and federal agencies, and members of the public and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. A presentation on the proposed Project and CEQA process was provided at a meeting of the Monterey Park City Council held at Monterey Park City Hall on January 17, 2024. The NOP was made available for review at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and on Metropolitan's website at www.mwdh2o.com, and the Initial Study was made available for review at Metropolitan's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles and on Metropolitan's website. The NOP and Initial Study were also uploaded to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's State Clearinghouse to solicit participation from state agencies in determining the scope of the Draft EIR. The State Clearinghouse assigned a state identification number (State Clearinghouse No. 2024010394) to the proposed Project. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may presume responsible and trustee agencies who do not submit comments within 30 days of the release of an NOP have no responses to be considered. The review period ended on February 16, 2024.

Metropolitan received a total of seven written comment letters in response to the NOP from the following parties: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, Native American Heritage Commission, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and three City of Monterey Park residents (Andy Tsang, Daniel Allen, and James J. Miyashiro). All comments received during the NOP public notice period were considered during the preparation of the Draft EIR and included in Appendix A of the Draft EIR.

Pursuant to CEQA and its implementing guidelines, the Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period, which began on June 12, 2024 and concluded on July 29, 2024. The Draft EIR, Notice of Availability, and Notice of Completion were uploaded to the State Clearinghouse. The Notice of Availability, which provided information for where the documents could be viewed and how comments could be submitted to Metropolitan, was also distributed to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and to interested parties, agencies, adjacent property owners and residents, and owners and residents of properties directly adjacent to and across the street from the adjacent properties. During the public review period, copies of the Draft EIR were made available at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, Metropolitan's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, and on Metropolitan's website. A presentation on the proposed Project and Draft EIR was provided at the Monterey Park City Council meeting held at Monterey Park City Hall on June 18, 2024.

This Final EIR contains the Executive Summary as well as Chapters 1 and 2, which provide responses to comments received during the public comment period for the Draft EIR and changes made to the Draft EIR, respectively. Chapters 3 and 4 include Findings with respect to the potential effects of the proposed Project and a discussion on the feasibility of the proposed Project's alternatives. Chapter 5 includes the MMRP.

ES.4 Proposed Project Description

ES.4.1 Overview and Scope of the Proposed Project

The proposed Project includes the rehabilitation, replacement, and upgrades of several components of Metropolitan's facilities at Garvey Reservoir, including the reservoir cover and liner, inlet/outlet (I/O) tower, valves in the junction structure, facility electrical system, standby generator, surge tank telemetry equipment, and Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory as well as construction of a new pump station. The proposed Project is intended to accomplish necessary upgrades, improvements, and enhancements at Garvey Reservoir to ensure facility reliability, improve seismic safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and facilitate efficient operations and maintenance.

ES.4.2 Overview of the Project Site

The Project site is located at the Garvey Reservoir at 1061 South Orange Avenue in the city of Monterey Park in central Los Angeles County. The 142-acre Garvey Reservoir property is owned by Metropolitan and includes the Garvey Reservoir in the central portion of the site along with appurtenant structures and features, including the Administration Building, Water Quality Laboratory, standby generator, sodium hypochlorite tank farm, junction structure, surge tank, a construction trailer and paved parking area, an unpaved construction staging area, a communications tower and paved parking lot, paved roadways, power lines, mature trees, and landscaping. The Project site is located in a residential area with residential neighborhoods to the west, north, south, and east; Hillcrest Elementary School to the east; the Monterey Park City Yard to the north; and Garvey Ranch Park (located on Metropolitan fee property and easement) to the north.

ES.4.3 Project Objectives

The objectives of the proposed Project are as follows:

- Upgrade aging infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable drinking water;
- Improve existing laboratory space through building functional and safety improvements;
- Upgrade features of the Garvey Reservoir facility to improve seismic safety and building code/ADA compliance and to protect public safety and the environment;
- Enhance management of nitrification within the reservoir; and
- Improve existing facilities and install new facilities to enhance operational reliability, minimize the risk of future facility failures, and facilitate efficient operations and maintenance of Garvey Reservoir.

ES.4.4 Project Description

The proposed Project consists of rehabilitation of existing components as well as new construction, as described briefly in the following subsections.

Reservoir Cover and Liner

The Garvey Reservoir floating cover is a weight-tensioned type cover that is approximately 1,900,000 square feet in size. The proposed Project includes the following items related to the reservoir cover and liner:

- Redesign of the I/O tower float assembly;
- Replacement of the polypropylene liner and disposal of the existing liner material;
- Inspection of the reservoir drainage system underneath the liner (including the underlying geotextile cushion, underdrain, circulation piping) and peripheral piping and repair or upgrade of the system and piping, if needed;
- Upgrade of the leak detection and monitoring system;
- Installation of a new floating cover; and
- Completion of start-up testing procedures including cover inflation, chlorination, emergency dewatering, and instrument testing.

I/O Tower

Garvey Reservoir is equipped with an I/O tower located at the east end of the reservoir. The proposed Project includes seismic rehabilitation of the I/O tower and access bridge. Equipment within the I/O tower and lighting fixtures along the access bridge would also likely be upgraded and replaced. In addition, whether or not the fixtures along the access bridge are replaced, light-emitting diode lights would be installed in the fixtures.

Junction Structure

The existing junction structure, which was originally constructed in the 1950s, is located to the east of the Administration Building, directly adjacent to South Orange Avenue. The proposed Project includes replacement of five valves in the junction structure to improve reliability. This component of the proposed Project requires review and approval by the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams because a different type of valve would be installed to improve performance. The Division of Safety of Dams regulates these valves because they are required for emergency dewatering of Garvey Reservoir.

Facility Electrical System

The facility electrical system, which includes instrumentation at the Project site, is aged and outdated, which presents maintenance challenges as some replacement parts are no longer carried by manufacturers. In addition to an aging electrical system, upgrade and/or redesign of the existing electrical system is needed to provide consistent power sources (240-volt to 480-volt) and to replace relays at the switchgear unit, the control panel, and other items. Most of the proposed Project electrical system work would be located underground between the Administration Building/Water Quality Laboratory and the sodium hypochlorite tank farm.

Standby Generator

The existing standby generator and its appurtenant electrical system, including transfer switches and the switchgear unit, are over 30 years old and have exceeded their useful life. The proposed Project includes replacement of these features along with upgrades to meet current emission and fire codes under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Emission and Fuel Standards Program. The new generator would either be in the open air under a canopy structure or would be in a new, enclosed building.

Surge Tank Telemetry

An existing 1,000-gallon surge tank is part of the on-site domestic water system located at the top of the reservoir embankment, immediately south of the reservoir. The proposed Project includes

improvements to the telemetry equipment connecting the surge tank to the pumps and installation of a direct cable from the pumps in the junction structure to the surge tank pressure switch. The Project also includes upgrades to the pressure switches and automated tank controls.

Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory

The Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory are both located within the former chlorination building that was part of the original reservoir construction in the 1950s and later converted to its current functions. The proposed Project includes the following:

- Design of a new interior plan layout for the entire building;
- Relocation of the existing Water Quality Laboratory to the Administration Building and vice versa;
- Relocation of the emergency eye wash station from outside the Administration Building to immediately adjacent to the Water Quality Laboratory;
- Provision of a new ADA-compliant parking stall with accessible path of travel to the building entrance;
- Modifications to the existing restroom for compliance with the 2010 ADA Standard for Accessible Design and 2022 California Building Codes (or most recent iteration in effect at the time);
- Reconstruction of a retaining wall on the south side of the building to prevent ponding and overflow from precipitation;
- Upgrades to the water heater, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system; and
- Upgrades to enhance safety features.

Pump Station

The proposed Project includes the construction of a new pump station adjacent to South Orange Avenue to allow for better drought operating conditions, water quality, and flow range. The new pump station would be approximately 150 feet south of the junction structure and would house multiple pumps and valves to provide operational flexibility. The pump station would be built of concrete and masonry, approximately 500 square feet in size, and partially recessed about 10 feet into the hillside adjacent to South Orange Avenue. A subsurface valve tie-in to the Middle Feeder is also proposed and would be actuated when the pump station is utilized.

Miscellaneous Site Upgrades

Numerous, smaller site components may be repaired or rehabilitated as part of the proposed Project. These miscellaneous upgrades may include:

- Upgrades to the ammonia feed system;
- Repaving or repairing existing reservoir roads;
- Replacement of perimeter chain link fencing with an eight-foot-high ornamental steel fence;
- Replacement of gates within property and along the perimeter;
- Improvements to the slopes behind the Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory to reduce stormwater runoff flows;
- Landscaping, tree trimming, and/or tree and vegetation removal;
- Replacement of security cameras and gate access/intercom; and
- Installation of security motion-activated lighting by the Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory.

ES.5 Areas of Controversy

CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(2) requires an EIR identify areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by other agencies and the public. No known areas of controversy are associated with the proposed Project.

ES.6 Issues to Be Resolved

CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(3) requires an EIR contain a discussion of issues to be resolved, including the choice among alternatives and whether or how to mitigate significant effects. There are currently no issues to be resolved for the proposed Project.

ES.7 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table ES-1 presents a brief description of the identified environmental impacts associated with each threshold analyzed in detail in the Draft EIR, proposed mitigation measures, and the level of significance after mitigation. As summarized in Table ES-1, all potentially significant impacts identified would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Impacts After Mitigation

Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Significance After Mitigation
Air Quality		
Impact AQ-A. The proposed Project would potentially conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan due to construction emissions. This impact would be potentially significant.	MM AQ-1 Construction Equipment Emissions Reduction Measures During Project construction activities, the Project Contractor(s) shall implement the following nitrogen oxide reduction measures: • All off-road diesel-fueled construction equipment greater than 25 horsepower shall be compliant with federally mandated clean diesel engine emissions standards (United States Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4) or should be alternatively-fueled (e.g., electric); and • Welders, pressure washers, and portable generators shall be electrically-powered, or electricity shall be pulled from the grid in lieu of using generators.	Less than Significant
Impact AQ-B. Project construction activities would generate criteria air pollutant emissions in excess of established thresholds. This impact would be potentially significant.	MM AQ-1	Less than Significant
Impact AQ-C. Project construction activities would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. This impact would be potentially significant.	MM AQ-1	Less than Significant
Impact AQ-D. The proposed Project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		
Impact GHG-A. Implementation of the proposed Project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Impact GHG-B. Implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. No impact would occur.	No impact would occur. No mitigation is required.	No Impact

Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Significance After Mitigation
Noise		
Impact NOI-A. The proposed Project would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Impact NOI-B. The proposed Project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Transportation		
Impact TRA-A. The proposed Project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Impact TRA-B. The proposed Project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Impact TRA-C. The proposed Project would not substantially increase traffic hazards. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Impact TRA-D. The proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access. This impact would be less than significant.	This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.	Less than Significant
Tribal Cultural Resources		
Impact TCR-A. The proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. No impact would occur.	No impact would occur. No mitigation is required.	No Impact

CHAPTER 1

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED

Responses to Comments

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) received three comment letters during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR.

- Saul Roe, June 23, 2024
- Brandon Cruz, P.E., Regional Engineer at the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), July 1, 2024
- Sam Wang, Program Supervisor at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), July 26, 2024

This chapter of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) includes a copy of the comment letters, along with Metropolitan's responses to comments in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15088. Under Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, Metropolitan is required to evaluate and provide written responses to comments received on the Draft EIR. In accordance with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), Metropolitan will provide these written responses to commenters at least 10 days prior to certifying the Final EIR.

Letter 1

From: [Salty](#)
To: [EPT](#)
Subject: Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:19:04 PM

Michelle Morrison & Jennifer Harriger

I just received the notice of availability for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project. This is disturbing because this after the MPK City council meeting which I could have asked questions directly to the MWD. This is also disturbing because MWD knows where I live but failed to mail the notice to me at my residence.

1-1

Totally absent from EIR is a discussion of the details of the replacement of the liner and the monitoring system. That liner and monitoring system was implemented by court order based on my comments to the EIR when MWD was trying to repair the leaks that had destroyed homes in MPK. This system is the 1st of its kind in the world and MWD engineers created a system that was much better than I ever imagined. An important part of the Judges order was that the MWD had to supply a monitoring terminal at MPK City Hall so that The City could evaluate leaks themselves. This was necessary because The City has no legal authority over MWD and MWD had withheld critical information from the City about the cause of the destruction of homes. In fact MWD had falsely denied that leaks from the Reservoir could have caused the damage.

1-2

I will only be satisfied if the Judges orders are implemented in the replacement system. That is that not only the dual layer system be at least as good as the existing one and the the monitoring system have a terminal at MPK City hall so that the City can see leaks in real time so that it can take action to protect the citizens.

1-3

I also want MWD to be able to continue to operate Garvey Reservoir even though MPK receives no direct benefit from its operation. Since my dad used to build hydroelectric dams, I understand the importance of Garvey Reservoir to MWD and its customers. My selfish reason for wanting Garvey Reservoir to continue to operate is that if MWD was forced to stop operations, the likely consequence would be that MWD would sell the property and the likely use would impact quality of life in Monterey Park.

1-4

I would like a copy of the engineering plans for the liner and monitoring system and a statement that you will be including all the items in the Judge's order. You may email that to me.

1-5

If I am not assured that all the Judge's orders will be fulfilled in the Rehabilitation Project I will object to the insufficient notice given me, which will delay the project. The major defect in the EIR is that it does not mention the impact of leakage as occurred before the current liner system was implemented. Since this is not mentioned or addressed, the EIR does not meet the CEQA requirements. It is my opinion that since I have standing in this case, it would be easy for me to get the EIR tossed out for not addressing the leakage issues and the items the Judge ordered. I would prefer that the EIR address these concerns and commit to implementing the Judge's orders. I know that once MWD is committed to it MWD engineers will again design and implement a system

1-6

better than I can imagine.

In any case I will be submitting a comment not only reflecting what the Judge ordered, but the other elements of my prior comment that the Judge did not order.

1-7

Please provide a copy of this Email to Director Morris, who knows me and led me on a tour of the MWD facilities.

Please call as soon as practical. My cell phone is [REDACTED] If I do not answer please leave a voice message or SMS text.

1-8

My wife owns the property at 548 Van Buren Drive, MPK. While not on the title I have part beneficial ownership.

Saul Roe

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Response to Comment Letter 1

COMMENTER: Saul Roe

DATE: June 23, 2024

Response 1-1

The commenter acknowledges they received the Notice of Availability for the Project, but expresses concern that the Notice of Availability was received after the Monterey Park City Council meeting and that the Notice of Availability was not mailed to their residence in San Marino.

This comment is acknowledged. Metropolitan voluntarily provided notice to all owners and occupants of properties adjacent to or across the street from properties contiguous to the Project site, including the commenter's property. Address information for all properties that received a Notice of Availability was obtained directly from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office. Metropolitan mailed the Notice of Availability to 548 Van Buren Drive, Monterey Park on June 11, 2024, and the presentation for the Monterey Park City Council occurred on June 18, 2024. Metropolitan will send future correspondence to the commenter's address in San Marino.

The Notice of Availability was posted with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for at least 30 days, as required under CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(d). Metropolitan posted the Notice of Availability and Draft EIR on the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's State Clearinghouse website for review by State agencies and members of the public, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(f). Metropolitan also placed a hard copy of the Notice of Availability and Draft EIR at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(g). The Draft EIR was circulated for the required 45-day public review and comment warranted period, between June 12, 2024 and July 29, 2024, as required by CEQA Guidelines Sections 15105 and 15087(e). Metropolitan complied fully with the noticing requirements under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. This comment does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR, and no further response is required.

Response 1-2

The commenter states that details of the liner and monitoring system replacement are not included in the Draft EIR and provides information on the history and requirements pertaining to the monitoring system.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a), Metropolitan included a description of the baseline conditions at the Garvey Reservoir site within the analysis of each environmental resource area evaluated in Section 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures*, of the Draft EIR. Section 15125(a) states that an EIR must include a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project and that the physical environmental conditions will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a lead agency determines whether an impact is significant. The Garvey Reservoir liner leakage that occurred prior to 1999 is not representative of baseline or existing conditions at Garvey Reservoir. The current liner, which has been in use since 1999, is functioning properly. Furthermore, the liner leakage at Garvey Reservoir prior to 1999 is well documented, and Metropolitan addressed damages to neighboring residential homes.

Details of the proposed reservoir liner replacement are provided in the Executive Summary and Section 2, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR (pages 2, 12-24). In addition to describing the liner replacement itself, Section 2, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR details the construction schedule, construction characteristics, estimated debris hauling quantities, and construction equipment for the

proposed liner replacement. The final design for the liner replacement is currently underway, with a tentative completion date in mid-2025, and plans will be available to share at that time.

The Draft EIR does not include a description of the Garvey Reservoir Monitoring System Upgrade Project because that project is a separate project determined to be categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA. The monitoring system was recently upgraded with new instrumentation and automated data acquisition equipment and is currently in the testing and commissioning phase. Metropolitan is closely coordinating with the City of Monterey Park (City) and providing data from the groundwater monitoring wells and liner flowmeters to the City. Details of the upgraded monitoring system will be available after the testing phase has been completed. Furthermore, the upgraded monitoring system allows City staff to access web-based data from the groundwater monitoring wells around Garvey Reservoir as well as the leakage detection system flowmeters at any time. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 1-3

The commenter requests the replacement liner and monitoring system meet the requirements of the court order.

As a result of seepage discovered in areas adjacent to Garvey Reservoir in 1989 and ensuing legal challenges, Metropolitan entered into a comprehensive settlement agreement with the City in September 1993 that was amended, in part, in 2014 (1993 Settlement Agreement). Under the 1993 Settlement Agreement, Metropolitan agreed to extensive monitoring and operational procedures that include regular coordination with the City. Metropolitan believes the commenter's reference to a "court order" is to the 1993 Settlement Agreement. In compliance with the 1993 Settlement Agreement, the reservoir went back into service in 1999, and the liner system has performed very well, as supported by more than two decades of data. Metropolitan continues to maintain full compliance with all legal requirements under the 1993 Settlement Agreement. As part of this project, the reservoir liner would be replaced in-kind, meaning the same multi-layer liner design would be used for the new liner. The existing liner continues to perform well; however, the proposed Project includes proactive replacement of the existing liner to extend the life of the reservoir system and because it will be exposed during the proposed reservoir cover replacement and inlet/outlet (I/O) tower rehabilitation.

As mentioned in Response 1-2, Metropolitan would continue to maintain the reservoir monitoring system, which was recently upgraded. The upgrade included a replacement of the existing monitoring station at Monterey Park City Hall, and City staff now have full-time access to the monitoring data. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 1-4

The commenter states they would prefer Garvey Reservoir to remain operated by Metropolitan because they recognize the importance of Garvey Reservoir and wish for the property to remain in its current use.

This comment is acknowledged. This comment does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR, and no further response is required.

Response 1-5

The commenter requests a copy of the engineering plans for the liner and monitoring system, as well as a statement that Metropolitan will include all requirements from the court order.

Metropolitan communicated with the commenter via phone call on June 24, 2024 and via email on July 1, 2024. In this communication, and as stated under Response 1-3, Metropolitan confirmed it

continues to maintain full compliance with all legal requirements under the 1993 Settlement Agreement and will continue to do so. Metropolitan also indicated the final design for the liner replacement is currently underway, with a tentative completion date in mid-2025, and plans will be available to share at that time. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 1-6

The commenter states if they do not receive assurance the court order requirements will be fulfilled, they would object to the notice provided regarding the Draft EIR. The commenter states the opinion that the EIR is deficient because it does not mention the impact of leakage that occurred before the existing liner system was implemented.

As discussed in Responses 1-2 and 1-3, Metropolitan is in compliance with the requirements of the 1993 Settlement Agreement and will continue to comply with this proposed Project. Metropolitan complied fully with the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines pertaining to the provision of public notice of the availability of the Draft EIR.

To comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(a), Metropolitan completed the following:

- Provided the Notice of Availability to the public at the same time the Notice of Completion was sent to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research on June 12, 2024;
- Provided the Notice of Availability to all organizations and individuals who had previously requested such notice in writing; and
- Directly mailed the Notice of Availability to all owners and occupants of property contiguous to the Project site.

Although not required by CEQA, Metropolitan voluntarily provided notice to all owners and occupants of properties adjacent to or across the street from properties contiguous to the Project site, including the commenter's property. Refer to Response 1-1 for additional information on Metropolitan public noticing and outreach. Refer to Response 1-2 for a description of baseline conditions.

This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 1-7

The commenter notes they will submit a comment that reflects both the court order requirements and the other elements of their prior comment the court did not prescribe.

This comment is acknowledged. This comment does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR, and no further response is required.

Response 1-8

The commenter requests a copy of their comments be sent to Metropolitan's Director Morris, and requests to be called as soon as possible. The commenter provides information on property ownership regarding the property on 548 Van Buren Drive.

In accordance with the commenter's request, Metropolitan sent a copy of the comments to Director Morris. In addition, Metropolitan spoke with the commenter via phone call on June 24, 2024 and provided a follow-up email response on July 1, 2024 to discuss their comments. Metropolitan hand-delivered the Notice of Preparation to the property at 548 Van Buren Drive on January 17, 2024 and mailed the Notice of Availability to this property on June 11, 2024. This comment does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR, and no further response is required.

Letter 2

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 942836
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
 (916) 653-5791

**July 1, 2024**

Ms. Michelle Morrison, Senior Environmental Specialist
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 700 N. Alameda Street
 Los Angeles, California 90012

Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
 SCH # 2024010394
 Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Morrison:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project submitted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), dated June 2024. The proposed project includes the replacement/rehabilitation of the reservoir cover and liner, rehabilitation of the I/O tower, replacement of valves within the junction structure, updating the facility electrical system, replacing the standby generator, upgrades to the surge tank telemetry, remodeling of the Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory, and the construction of a new pump station.

2-1

An insufficient amount of information is included in the EIR to make an accurate jurisdictional determination with regards to the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project, and it is unclear whether this project will be subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. Therefore, the MWD needs to submit preliminary plans so that DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

2-2

If the proposed work is subject to State jurisdictional, an alteration application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fees must be filed with DSOD prior to proceeding with the project. If an application is required, all dam safety related issues must be satisfactorily addressed prior to our approval of the application and all work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Erik Malvick, the Design Engineering Branch Manager, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 820-7820.

2-3

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer Travis Chatters at (916) 565-7829 or me at (916) 565-7827.

2-4

Sincerely,

Brandon Cruz, P.E., Regional Engineer
 Southern Region
 Field Engineering Branch
 Division of Safety of Dams

cc: (See Attached List)

DocuSign Envelope ID: 5E699391-4C75-4547-BAA0-D24148D55006

Ms. Morrison
July 1, 2024
Page 2

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Response to Comment Letter 2

COMMENTER: Brandon Cruz, P.E., Regional Engineer, Southern Region, Field Engineering Branch, Division of Safety of Dams, California Department of Water Resources

DATE: July 1, 2024

Response 2-1

The commenter notes DSOD has reviewed the Draft EIR and provides a summary of the proposed Project.

This comment is acknowledged and does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR or the CEQA process. Therefore, no further response is required.

Response 2-2

The commenter requests additional information in order to determine whether the Project would be subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. The commenter requests Metropolitan provide preliminary plans so DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

As stated on page 18 in Section 2, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR, the replacement of five valves in the junction structure may require review and approval by DSOD if a different type of valve is installed to improve performance. Additionally, the outlet tower seismic rehabilitation and the access bridge replacement will require review and approval by the DSOD. DSOD regulates the outlet system, including the outlet tower and valves, because they are required for emergency dewatering of Garvey Reservoir. Accordingly, Table 4 on page 24 in Section 2, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR lists DSOD as an agency from which Metropolitan anticipates requiring an approval for the proposed Project, specifically for “any modifications to the existing liner, floating cover, I/O tower, and valves.” Metropolitan is coordinating with DSOD staff and plans to submit an alteration permit application, including the requested preliminary plans, for the jurisdictional components of the proposed Project. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 2-3

The commenter notes if the proposed Project is subject to DSOD jurisdiction, then an alteration application, along with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fees, must be filed with DOSD prior to proceeding with the Project. If the application is required, all dam safety-related work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California.

As discussed under Response 2-2, Metropolitan is coordinating with DSOD staff and plans to submit an alteration permit application for the jurisdictional components of the proposed Project and would comply with all applicable DSOD requirements. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 2-4

The commenter provides a contact, including a name and contact information, should Metropolitan have further questions or need additional information.

This comment is acknowledged and does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR or the CEQA process. Therefore, no further response is required.

Letter 3



SENT VIA E-MAIL:

July 26, 2024

EP@mwddh2o.com

Michelle Morrison, Senior Environmental Specialist
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Environmental Planning Section
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

**Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Garvey
Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (Proposed Project)(SCII No. 2024010394)**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to review the above-mentioned document. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. To provide context, South Coast AQMD Staff (Staff) has provided a brief summary of the project information and prepared the following comments.

South Coast AQMD Staff's Summary of Project Information in the Draft EIR

Based on information provided in the Draft EIR, the Proposed Project consists of construction and operation of improvements to the Garvey Reservoir 142-acre site located at 1061 South Orange Avenue, Monterey Park, Los Angeles County, CA.¹ The Proposed Project site consists of the Garvey Reservoir (maximum storage capacity of 1,600 acre-feet) and pertinent structures and features (see Figure 1).^{2,3} Garvey Reservoir was constructed in 1954 and has since undergone numerous extensive upgrades and repairs.⁴ The reservoir is once again currently in need of upgrades and improvements to ensure reliability, improve seismic safety, ensure compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, and facilitate efficient operations and maintenance.⁵ The Proposed Project's specific workplan consists of, but is not limited to, the following: 1) replacement of the reservoir liner and installation of a new 1,900,000 square feet floating cover; 2) seismic rehabilitation of inlet/outlet tower (I/O); 3) replacement of five valves in the junction structure to improve reliability; 4) upgrade and/or redesign of existing electrical system; 5) installation of new diesel standby generator to replace existing standby generator that is over 30 years old; 6) improvements to the telemetry equipment connecting surge tank to pumps; 7) relocation of existing water quality lab to the administration building and vice versa and upgrades to the water heater, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system; 8) construction of a new pump station; and 9) miscellaneous upgrades such as upgrades to the ammonia feed system.⁶ The Proposed Project will not result in additional water supplies.⁷ Construction of the Proposed Project will occur in three phases with Phases One and Two taking place approximately between

3-1

¹ Draft EIR for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (DEIR), p. 12.

² *Ibid.* Executive Summary, p. 1.

³ *Ibid.* Chapter 2, p. 12.

⁴ *Ibid.* Chapter 2, p. 13.

⁵ *Ibid.* Chapter 1 - Introduction, p. 8.

⁶ *Ibid.* Chapter 2 - Project Description, pp. 17-20.

⁷ *Ibid.* Section 3.1 - Air Quality, p. 39.

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September 2025 and December 2027 and Phase Three taking place approximately between January 2034 and June 2035.⁸

3-1
(continued)



Figure 1. Existing and Proposed Site Facilities. Source: p. 16 of Draft EIR

⁸ *Ibid.* Chapter 2 - Project Description, p. 20.

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South Coast AQMD Staff's Comments*Proposed Project Likely Subject to the Following Permitting and Compliance Requirements:*

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. During any activities capable of generating fugitive dust including but not limited to earthmoving activities, actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions for compliance with South Coast AQMD Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust may be required. | 3-2 |
| 2. Excavation/grading work associated with preparation and/or construction of the project may be subject to South Coast AQMD Rule 1166 – Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions from Decontamination of Soil and as such may require a Rule 1166 VOC contaminated soil mitigation plan. In addition, if certain toxic air contaminants are identified in the soil, compliance with South Coast AQMD Rule 1466 – Control of Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants may also be required. | 3-3 |
| 3. Permitting public notice as the project site is located within 1,000 feet of a K-12 school (<u>Hillcrest Elementary School located at 795 Pepper St, Monterey Park, CA 91755</u>). | 3-4 |
| 4. New construction application(s) for emergency standby generator(s). | 3-5 |
| 5. New construction application(s) for ammonia storage tank(s) should upgrades to the existing ammonia feed system be necessary. | 3-6 |

In addition to the aforementioned South Coast AQMD Rules 403, 1166 and 1466, the following South Coast AQMD rules and regulations are the most pertinent to the Proposed Project and include but are not limited to: Rule 201 – Permit to Construct, Rule 203 – Permit to Operate, Rule 212 – Standards for Approving Permits and Issuing Public Notice, Rule 401 – Visible Emissions, Rule 402 – Nuisance, Rule 1108 – Cutback Asphalt, Rule 1110.2 – Emissions from Gaseous- and Liquid-Fueled Engines, Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings, Rule 1143 – Consumer Paint Thinners and Multi-Purpose Solvents, Rule 1186 – PM10 Emissions from Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations, Regulation XIII – New Source Review, Rule 1401 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants, and Rule 1470 – Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines.⁹

3-7

South Coast AQMD Air Permits and Role as a Responsible Agency

The Draft EIR states that the Proposed Project involves installation of a new diesel-fueled standby generator (to be equipped with a US EPA Tier III non-road engine).¹⁰ The Draft EIR also states that a South Coast AQMD Permit to Construct and Permit to Operate would be required for installation of the new standby generator.¹¹ If implementation of the Proposed Project would require the use of new stationary sources, including but not limited to emergency generators, fire water pumps, boilers, etc., air permits from South Coast AQMD will be required and the role of South Coast AQMD would change from a Commenting Agency to a Responsible Agency under

3-8

⁹ South Coast AQMD Rule Book, <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book>.

¹⁰ DEIR, Volume 3 Appendix C: Noise Technical Study - Appendix B Generator Specifications.

¹¹ *Ibid.* Chapter 2 - Project Description, p. 24.

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CEQA. In addition, if South Coast AQMD is identified as a Responsible Agency, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15086, the Lead Agency is required to consult with South Coast AQMD. CEQA Guidelines Section 15096 sets forth specific procedures for a Responsible Agency, including making a decision on the adequacy of the CEQA document for use as part of evaluating the applications for air permits. For these reasons, the Final EIR should include a discussion about any new stationary equipment requiring South Coast AQMD air permits and identify South Coast AQMD as a Responsible Agency for the Proposed Project.

3-8
(continued)

The Final EIR should also include calculations and analyses for construction and operation emissions for any new stationary sources, as this information will also be relied upon as the basis for the permit conditions and emission limits for the air permit(s). Please contact South Coast AQMD's Engineering and Permitting water purveyor staff at (909) 396-3627 for questions regarding what types of equipment would require applications for new air permits. For more general information on permits, please visit South Coast AQMD's webpage at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/permits>.

3-9

Conclusion

As set forth in California Public Resources Code Section 21092.5(a) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(a-b), the Lead Agency shall evaluate comments from public agencies on the environmental issues and prepare a written response at least 10 days prior to certifying the Final EIR. As such, please provide South Coast AQMD written responses to all comments contained herein at least 10 days prior to the certification of the Final EIR. In addition, as provided by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(c), if the Lead Agency's position is at variance with recommendations provided in this comment letter, detailed reasons supported by substantial evidence in the record to explain why specific comments and suggestions are not accepted must be provided.

3-10

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. South Coast AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address any air quality questions that may arise from this comment letter. Please contact Evelyn Aguilar, Air Quality Specialist, at caquilar@aqmd.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Sam Wang
 Sam Wang
 Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR
 Planning, Rule Development & Implementation

BR:MP:EA
 LAC240613-02
 Control Number

Response to Comment Letter 3

COMMENTER: Sam Wang, Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR, Planning, Rule Development & Implementation, South Coast Air Quality Management District

DATE: July 26, 2024

Response 3-1

The commenter notes SCAQMD has reviewed the Draft EIR and provides a summary of the proposed Project.

This comment is acknowledged and does not raise concerns pertaining to the adequacy of the Draft EIR or the CEQA process. Therefore, no further response is required.

Response 3-2

The commenter states compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 is required during any activities capable of generating fugitive dust.

As stated on page 44 in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR, the Project Contractor(s) would be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403. Adherence to the dust suppression requirements included in Rule 403, which are incorporated by reference in Section 01065 of Metropolitan's construction contractor specifications, would minimize the creation of fugitive dust. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-3

The commenter states excavation/grading work associated with Project construction may be subject to SCAQMD Rule 1166. The commenter states if certain toxic air contaminants (TACs) are detected in the soil, compliance with SCAQMD Rule 1466 may also be required.

Should TACs be detected in soil during Project construction, Metropolitan and the Project Contractor(s) would comply with the applicable provisions of SCAQMD Rules 1166 and 1466 pursuant to Section 01065 of Metropolitan's construction contractor specifications, which require the Project Contractor(s) to obtain necessary local, state, and federal permits and comply with the requirements of all such permits and laws, regulations, acts, codes and ordinances. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-4

The commenter notes the Project is subject to permitting public notice because the Project site is located within 1,000 feet of Hillcrest Elementary School.

Metropolitan or its Project Contractor(s) would provide all required notices prior to construction pursuant to Section 01065 of Metropolitan's construction contractor specifications, which require the Project Contractor(s) to obtain necessary local, state, and federal permits and comply with the requirements of all such permits and laws, regulations, acts, codes and ordinances. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-5

The commenter notes the Project is subject to a new construction application for the emergency standby generator(s).

As indicated in Table 4 on page 24 in Section 2, *Project Description*, of the Draft EIR, Metropolitan would be required to obtain a Permit to Construct and Permit to Operate for the new standby generator pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 1470. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-6

The commenter notes the Project would be subject to a new construction application for ammonia storage tank(s), should upgrades to the existing ammonia feed system be necessary.

Metropolitan would comply with applicable SCAQMD permitting requirements for the installation of new ammonia storage tank(s). This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-7

The commenter provides a list of SCAQMD rules and regulations pertinent to the Project.

Page 35 in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR indicates SCAQMD Rules 401, 402, 1108, 1110.2, 1113, 1143, 1186, 1401, and 1470 are applicable to the proposed Project. Metropolitan would comply with other applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations and obtain permits as appropriate. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-8

The commenter states if implementation of the Project would require the use of new stationary sources, such as emergency generators, air permits from SCAQMD would be required and SCAQMD would serve as a responsible agency under CEQA. The commenter requests the Final EIR include a discussion about any new stationary equipment requiring SCAQMD permits and the Final EIR identify SCAQMD as a Responsible Agency for the Project.

As indicated in Table 4 in Section 2.9, *Potential Permits and Discretionary Approvals*, in the Draft EIR, Metropolitan anticipates obtaining a Permit to Construct and a Permit to Operate from SCAQMD for installation of the new standby generator and that one of the purposes of the Draft EIR is to provide the agencies listed in Table 4 with information to support the agency permitting process. SCAQMD was also listed as a responsible agency on the Summary Form submitted to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research along with the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed replacement standby generator throughout Section 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures*. Specifically, Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR includes a discussion of the air pollutant emissions associated with construction and operation of the standby generator, including construction emissions modeling. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-9

The commenter requests the Final EIR include calculations and analyses for construction and operation emissions for any new stationary sources because this information will serve as the basis for permit conditions and emissions limits for the air permit(s).

Pages 40 to 41 under Threshold AQ-B in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR includes calculations and analyses for construction emissions associated with the proposed replacement standby generator. As stated on page 25 of the Draft EIR, the impact analysis compares the proposed Project to existing conditions, also known as the CEQA baseline. Under existing conditions, Metropolitan operates and maintains a standby generator at the Project site. As stated on page 39 in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, "because operations and maintenance activities (e.g., frequency of staff

visits, standby generator testing, water usage in Administration Building/Water Quality Laboratory) would remain the same as existing conditions under the proposed Project after completion of construction, operational air pollutant emissions were not quantified.” Metropolitan would comply with applicable SCAQMD requirements for emissions quantification as part of obtaining a Permit to Construct and Permit to Operate for the proposed new standby generator. This comment does not warrant changes to the Draft EIR.

Response 3-10

The commenter requests written responses to comments be provided to SCAQMD at least 10 days prior to certification of the Final EIR and provides contact information.

In accordance with the commenter’s request and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), Metropolitan will provide written responses to SCAQMD’s comments at least 10 days prior to certification of the Final EIR. No further response is required.

CHAPTER 2

CHANGES TO THE DRAFT EIR

As provided in Section 15088(d) of the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations 15000 et seq.), responses to comments may take the form of a revision to a draft EIR or may be a separate section in the Final EIR. This chapter complies with the latter. No changes to the Draft EIR are required as a result of the comments received on the Draft EIR.

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CHAPTER 3

FINDINGS OF FACT IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

3.1 Overview of Findings of Fact

CEQA requires the lead agency to make written Findings when deciding to approve a project for which an EIR identifying one or more significant environmental effects was certified (California Public Resources Code Section 21081). Specifically, Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

- a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible findings are:
 - (1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.
 - (2) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
 - (3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.
- b) The findings required by subsection (a) shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

Section 15092(b) of the CEQA Guidelines further stipulates a public agency shall not decide to approve or carry out a project for which an EIR was prepared unless either:

- (1) The project as approved will not have a significant effect on the environment, or
- (2) The agency has:
 - (A) Eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects on the environment where feasible as shown in findings under CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, and
 - (B) Determined that any remaining significant effects on the environment found to be unavoidable under CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 are acceptable due to overriding concerns as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.

The Final EIR prepared for the proposed Project identifies certain significant impacts that may occur as a result of the implementation of the proposed Project, either alone or on a cumulative basis in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects and programs. Metropolitan is the lead agency with respect to the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15367. The following sections make detailed Findings with respect to the potential significant effects of the proposed Project and refer, where appropriate, to the mitigation measure set forth in the Final EIR. The Final EIR and the administrative record concerning the proposed Project provide additional facts

in support of the Findings herein. In addition, the mitigation measures set forth in the Final EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) are incorporated by reference in these Findings. The MMRP was developed in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 (see Chapter 5).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, Findings are not required for those impacts which are determined to be less than significant or for which no impact would occur. For informational purposes, the Draft EIR concludes the proposed Project would have either a less-than-significant impact or no impact related to other emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people (Threshold AQ-D), greenhouse gas emissions (Thresholds GHG-A and GHG-B), noise (Thresholds NOI-A and NOI-B), transportation (Thresholds TRA-A, TRA-B, TRA-C and TRA-D), and tribal cultural resources (TCR-A). In addition, the Draft EIR concludes cumulative impacts related to localized fugitive dust and odorous emissions (Section 3.1.5.2 of the Draft EIR); noise (Section 3.3.5.2 of the Draft EIR); and construction traffic, traffic hazards, and emergency access (Section 3.4.5.2 of the Draft EIR) would be less than significant. The Draft EIR also determines the proposed Project's contribution to significant cumulative impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions (Section 3.2.5.2 of the Draft EIR), operational traffic and VMT (Section 3.4.5.2 of the Draft EIR), and tribal cultural resources (Section 3.5.5.2 of the Draft EIR) would not be cumulatively considerable (less than significant). Furthermore, the Initial Study for the proposed Project (Appendix A of the Draft EIR) concluded the proposed Project would result in less-than-significant or no impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, airport noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

3.2 California Environmental Quality Act Review

Metropolitan has complied with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines during preparation of the EIR for the proposed Project. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) along with an Initial Study were prepared and circulated on January 17, 2024 to local, state, and federal agencies, and members of the public and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. A presentation on the proposed Project and CEQA process was provided at the Monterey Park City Council meeting held at Monterey Park City Hall on January 17, 2024. The NOP was made available for local review at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, and on Metropolitan's website at www.mwdh2o.com, and the Initial Study was made available for review at Metropolitan's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles and on Metropolitan's website. The NOP and Initial Study were also uploaded to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's State Clearinghouse to solicit participation from state agencies in determining the scope of the Draft EIR. The State Clearinghouse assigned a state identification number (State Clearinghouse No. 2024010394) to the proposed Project. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may presume responsible and trustee agencies who do not submit comments within 30 days of the release of an NOP have no responses to be considered. The review period ended on February 16, 2024.

Metropolitan received a total of seven written comment letters in response to the NOP from the following parties: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, Native American Heritage Commission, SCAQMD, and three City of Monterey Park residents (Andy Tsang, Daniel Allen, and James J. Miyashiro). All comments received during the NOP public notice period were considered during the preparation of the Draft EIR and included in Appendix A of the Draft EIR.

Pursuant to CEQA and its implementing guidelines, the Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period which began on June 12, 2024 and concluded on July 29, 2024. The Draft EIR, Notice of Availability, and Notice of Completion were uploaded to the State Clearinghouse. The Notice of Availability, which provided information for where the documents could be viewed and how comments could be submitted to Metropolitan, was also distributed to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and to interested parties, agencies, adjacent property owners and residents, and owners and residents of properties directly adjacent to or across the street from these adjacent properties. During the public review period, copies of the Draft EIR were made available at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, Metropolitan's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, and on Metropolitan's website. A presentation on the proposed Project and Draft EIR was provided at the Monterey Park City Council meeting held at Monterey Park City Hall on June 18, 2024.

3.3 Less-than-Significant Environmental Impacts with Mitigation

Having received, reviewed, and considered the entire record, both written and oral, related to the proposed Project and Final EIR, Metropolitan makes the following Findings associated with potentially significant impacts that can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of mitigation measure identified in the Final EIR.

3.3.1 Air Quality

Project-Level Impacts

As discussed in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR, construction of the proposed Project would result in temporary increases in regional and localized air pollutant emissions from construction equipment operation on site, construction worker vehicle trips to and from the site, and haul trips to transport materials, demolition debris, and soil to and from the Project site. Emissions generated during Phase 1 construction activities would exceed the SCAQMD regional threshold for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), primarily due to high emissions during the completion of seismic upgrades to the I/O tower, but would not exceed the remaining SCAQMD regional thresholds for criteria air pollutant emissions. The high NO_x emissions during Phase 1 would primarily be the result of the use of construction equipment throughout the Project site to complete various Project activities. In addition, on-site emissions of particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀) would exceed the applicable SCAQMD Localized Significance Threshold for PM₁₀ during Phase 1 if all Project components are under construction on the same day.

Construction of the proposed Project would also result in temporary increases in local TAC emissions as a result of diesel particulate matter generated by heavy-duty construction equipment and heavy, diesel-fueled truck trips for transport of demolition debris and soil. Project construction activities would result in an incremental excess cancer risk (i.e., the additional individual cancer risk created by Project construction activities above the existing background cancer risk) and chronic hazard risk (i.e., the potential for non-cancer health effects to occur as a result of exposure to TACs) in exceedance of SCAQMD thresholds.

Because of the exceedance of the SCAQMD regional significance threshold for NO_x and Localized Significance Threshold for PM₁₀ during Phase 1 of construction activities as well as the exceedance of SCAQMD thresholds for excess cancer risk and chronic hazard risk, Project construction would potentially conflict with the SCAQMD's 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (Threshold AQ-A),

potentially result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the South Coast Air Basin is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (Threshold AQ-B), and potentially expose sensitive receptors to substantial criteria pollutant and TAC concentrations during construction (Threshold AQ-C). With implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, Project-level impacts related to these construction-phase air quality impacts would be reduced to less-than significant levels.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1 – Construction Equipment Emissions Reduction Measures. During Project construction activities, the Project Contractor(s) shall implement the following NO_x reduction measures:

- All off-road diesel-fueled construction equipment greater than 25 horsepower shall be compliant with federally mandated clean diesel engine emissions standards (United States Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4) or should be alternatively-fueled (e.g., electric); and
- Welders, pressure washers, and portable generators shall be electrically-powered, or electricity shall be pulled from the grid in lieu of using generators.

Cumulative Impacts

The South Coast Air Basin is designated nonattainment for ozone and particulate matter; therefore, cumulative air quality impacts related to particulate matter and ozone are potentially significant. In addition, the immediate region around the Project site has an estimated carcinogenic risk of 549 in a million, which is higher than the basin-wide average of 424 in a million. Therefore, cumulative air quality impacts related to TACs are also potentially significant.

Construction of the Project during Phase 1 would result in a cumulatively considerable increase of regional NO_x emissions and localized PM₁₀ emissions but would not exceed other SCAQMD regional significance thresholds for volatile organic compounds (an ozone precursor) or particulate matter or the applicable Localized Significance Threshold for NO_x. In addition, Project construction as a whole would result in a cumulatively considerable increase of TAC emissions. Implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would reduce the proposed Project's construction emissions of NO_x, PM₁₀, and TACs and lessen the proposed Project's contribution to cumulative ozone, particulate matter, and TAC impacts during construction such that it would not be cumulatively considerable (less than significant).

Findings Per CEQA Guidelines

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed Project that avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Final EIR.

Facts in Support of Findings Related to Air Quality

Implementation of MM AQ-1 would require all off-road diesel-fueled construction equipment to be compliant with federally mandated emission standards (United States Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4), or be alternatively-fueled, and would require welders, pressure washers, and portable generators to be electrically powered. As demonstrated in Tables 12, 13, and 14 in Section 3.1, *Air Quality*, of the Draft EIR, implementation of MM AQ-1 would reduce regional construction-related NO_x emissions, localized PM₁₀ emissions, and cancer and chronic risk below the applicable SCAQMD thresholds. As noted in the SCAQMD guidance referenced in the Draft EIR, if a project's criteria pollutant and/or TAC emissions do not exceed the applicable SCAQMD thresholds, then the project's emissions would not be cumulatively considerable. Therefore, because mitigated emissions and excess cancer and chronic hazard risks would not exceed the applicable SCAQMD thresholds,

which are set at the levels at which an individual project's contribution to cumulative air quality impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, the proposed Project's contribution to cumulative air quality impacts related to ozone, PM₁₀, and TACs would not be cumulatively considerable (less than significant with mitigation incorporated).

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CHAPTER 4

FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

CEQA requires an EIR to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to a project, or to the location of the project, that would feasibly obtain most of the basic project objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6). The “No Build” Alternative must be evaluated, and if it is the environmentally superior alternative, another environmentally superior alternative must be identified among the other alternatives (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[e][2]).

Metropolitan identified and considered the following reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the proposed Project. The alternatives presented include the statutorily mandated “No Project” alternative as well as a “No Pump Station” alternative. These alternatives are evaluated for their ability to avoid or substantially lessen the impacts of the proposed Project identified in the Final EIR as well as for their ability to meet the basic objectives of the proposed Project as described in the Final EIR.

Whether to reject or approve any of the alternatives is a decision only for the decision makers. They may reject alternatives that are undesirable from a policy standpoint as well as alternatives that fail to meet proposed Project objectives.

4.1 No Project Alternative

Description

Under the No Project alternative, the proposed Project would not be implemented. Construction of a new pump station, miscellaneous site upgrades, and rehabilitation of the reservoir cover and liner, I/O tower, junction structure, facility electrical system, standby generator, surge tank telemetry, and Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory would not occur. Garvey Reservoir would largely continue to operate in its existing condition, and various infrastructure and buildings would remain exposed to seismic risk, reduced reliability, and reduced safety. Aging and impaired infrastructure would eventually fail, requiring unplanned shutdowns and potentially disrupting water supply to Metropolitan’s member agencies. If a major seismic event occurs, significant structural damage could result and compromise the integrity of Garvey Reservoir. Routine maintenance, operations, and repair activities would continue to occur at Garvey Reservoir, as under existing conditions. The No Project alternative would not meet any of the proposed Project objectives.

Findings and Rationale

The No Project alternative assumes the proposed Project would not be implemented. The No Project alternative would have “similar,” “similar but reduced,” or “reduced” environmental impacts compared to the proposed Project with regard to: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. The No Project alternative would result in fewer impacts than the proposed Project because no construction activities or changes to the existing operational characteristics of Garvey Reservoir would occur, and the proposed Project’s significant but mitigable

impacts related to air quality would not occur. However, the No Project alternative would not meet any of the proposed Project objectives and would fail to implement necessary seismic improvements and infrastructure rehabilitation/upgrades, resulting in ongoing risks to structural integrity following seismic events, operational functionality and reliability of critical infrastructure, and safety of staff at the Garvey Reservoir. As a result, the No Project alternative would result in a greater impact to geology and soils than those that would occur under the proposed Project because this alternative would not include the completion of critical seismic upgrades to the I/O Tower and access bridge. Therefore, Metropolitan rejects the No Project alternative.

4.2 No Pump Station

Description

Under the No Pump Station alternative, the proposed pump station adjacent to South Orange Avenue and the proposed subsurface valve tie-in to the Middle Feeder would not be constructed. As such, construction activities would conclude with Phase 2 in 2027, and no Phase 3 construction activities would occur. In addition, because the pump station would not be constructed, on-site electricity usage would not increase. The No Pump Station alternative would meet most of the Project objectives except for enhancing management of nitrification within the reservoir. Under the No Pump Station alternative, nitrification potential in the reservoir would need to be managed through different means, similar to existing conditions. Nitrification potential is currently managed through enhanced mixing within the reservoir; however, this method is not feasible when demand is low due to low reservoir turnover and could create water quality issues in the future.

Findings and Rationale

The No Pump Station alternative would have “similar” environmental impacts as the proposed Project with regard to: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Environmental impacts under this alternative would generally be similar but incrementally reduced as compared to the proposed Project because of the reduced duration of construction activities and because no on-site increase in electricity usage would be required. However, this alternative would not avoid the proposed Project’s significant but mitigable impact related to air quality because Phase 1 and 2 construction activities would still occur. Metropolitan rejects the No Pump Station alternative as infeasible because it would not avoid the significant but mitigable air quality impact and it would not meet all of the Project objectives. Metropolitan makes this determination after taking into account economic, legal, social, technological and/or other considerations, including the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers.

CHAPTER 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

5.1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The MMRP for the proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d). Metropolitan will use this MMRP to track compliance with the required Project mitigation measures.

Metropolitan's Board of Directors will consider the MMRP during the certification hearing for the Final EIR. The final MMRP will incorporate the mitigation measure adopted for the proposed Project. Metropolitan finds the measure included in the MMRP constitutes changes or alterations that avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed Project on the environment.

This MMRP summarizes the mitigation commitment identified in the Final EIR. Table 1 provides the MMRP, which includes the mitigation measure, monitoring timing, and responsible and implementing parties. Metropolitan is the agency responsible for ensuring implementation of the mitigation measure. The columns in the table provide the following information:

- **Mitigation Measure:** This column lists the action(s) that will be taken to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.
- **Responsible Party:** This column lists the agency responsible for ensuring implementation of the mitigation measure.
- **Timing of Implementation:** This column indicates the general schedule for conducting each monitoring task, either during design phase, prior to construction, and/or during construction.
- **Implementation Party:** This column lists the party responsible for carrying out the action(s) described in the mitigation measure.

Table 1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing of Implementation	Implementing Party
Air Quality			
MM AQ-1 Construction Equipment Emissions Reduction Measures During Project construction activities, the Project Contractor(s) shall implement the following nitrogen oxide reduction measures: • All off-road diesel-fueled construction equipment greater than 25 horsepower shall be compliant with federally mandated clean diesel engine emissions standards (United States Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4) or should be alternatively-fueled (e.g., electric); and • Welders, pressure washers, and portable generators shall be electrically-powered, or electricity shall be pulled from the grid in lieu of using generators.	Metropolitan	During construction	Contractor

CHAPTER 6

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CHAPTER 7

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

7.1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DSOD	Division of Safety of Dams
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
I/O	inlet/outlet
Metropolitan	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
NOA	Notice of Availability
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NOP	Notice of Preparation
PM ₁₀	particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less in diameter
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
TAC	toxic air contaminant

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