

CHAPTER 1

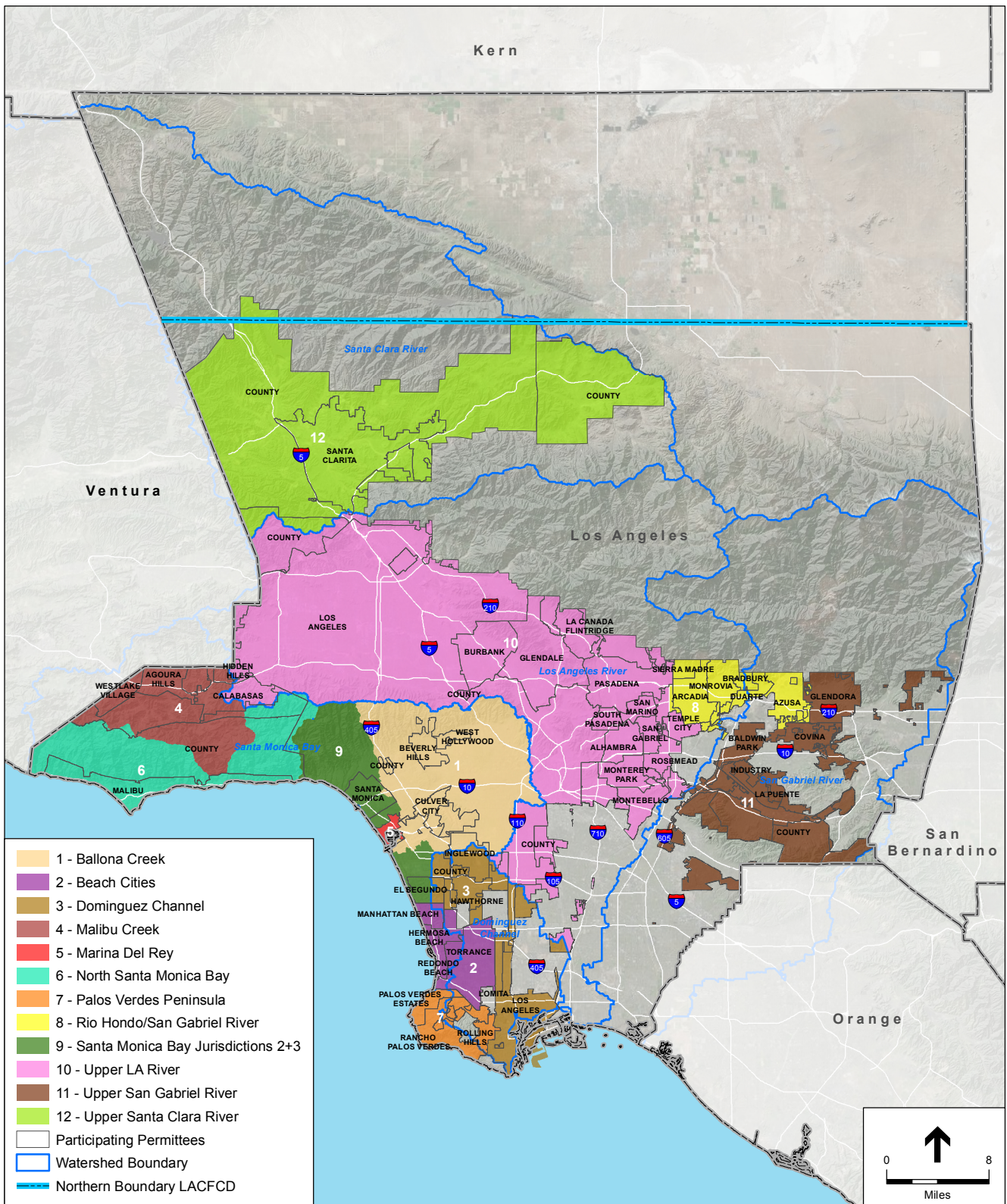
Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) was created in 1915 when the State Legislature adopted the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act to provide flood risk management, water conservation, and recreation and aesthetic enhancement within its boundaries. The LACFCD owns and maintains a broad network of flood control facilities that convey stormwater to the local rivers and ultimately to the ocean. This vast network of regional flood control channels is interconnected with local flood control facilities owned and maintained by the both the LACFCD and the incorporated municipalities within Los Angeles County.

In December 2012, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) issued a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Permit No. CAS004001) covering discharges within coastal watersheds from the collective storm sewer systems in Los Angeles County (except from the City of Long Beach). The Permit regulates the discharge of stormwater runoff to waters of the United States from facilities owned and maintained by the LACFCD, the County of Los Angeles, and 84 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County (collectively referred to as Permittees). The purpose of the MS4 Permit is to achieve and maintain water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses of the receiving waters in the Los Angeles region. Each of the Permittees identified in the MS4 permit is responsible for meeting the conditions of the permit for MS4 discharges occurring within their jurisdiction.

The MS4 Permit gives Permittees the option of implementing an innovative approach to permit compliance through development of an Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP). The EWMPs will identify potential and priority structural and non-structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the region's stormwater collection system to improve runoff water quality. The LACFCD, along with participating Permittees, has opted to exercise this option and has submitted to the LARWQCB 12 separate Notices of Intent (NOIs) for the development of EWMPs within 12 distinct watershed groups (refer to **Figure 1-1**). Implementation of the EWMPs would be the responsibility of each Permittee and would occur following approval of the EWMPs by the LARWQCB.



SOURCE: ESRI.

LA County PEIR EWMP . 140474

Figure 1-1

Watersheds and EWMP Groups within LACFD Boundaries

The LACFCD, as a regional agency, is a member of each of the 12 EWMP working groups, and as such provides a commonality within each EWMP group. However, LACFCD does not have a special status or authority designated by the MS4 Permit over any of the other Permittees. The LACFCD will be working with the applicable Permittees in all 12 EWMP watersheds as an equal partner to identify the types and locations of BMPs needed to achieve permit compliance within each watershed.

The timeline identified in the MS4 Permit requires that Permittees submit the EWMP to the LARWQCB by June 28, 2015, in order to be in compliance with the permit conditions. The LACFCD recognizes that implementation of the EWMPs may potentially result in changes to environmental conditions. As a result, the LACFCD has prepared this Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to provide the public and the responsible and trustee agencies with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment associated with implementation of the EWMPs. The LACFCD will submit the PEIR to its governing body, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, for approval prior to submittal of the EWMPs. The EWMPs will be submitted by each EWMP group to the LARWQCB.

This PEIR describes and evaluates each of the EWMPs being prepared by the Permittees collectively. The discretionary action prompting the need for CEQA compliance is the submittal of the completed EWMPs to the LARWQCB. The EWMPs will identify management strategies including hundreds of structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be designed and implemented by the Permittees to meet permit compliance objectives. A few of the BMPs are currently well defined but most are yet to be fully developed under the EWMPs. A set of priority BMPs will be detailed in each of the EWMPs; these are being developed in parallel with the PEIR. The PEIR describes the details that are available for each of the EWMPs currently under preparation by the EWMP working groups.

The PEIR analysis is not intended to focus on the site-specific construction and operation details of each management strategy and project included in the EWMP. Rather, this PEIR serves as a first-tier environmental document that focuses on the effects of implementing the EWMPs to reduce urban runoff pollution. The analysis assesses worst case situations where construction or operation of projects may significantly impact environmental resources. The analysis outlines mitigation strategies to be followed by the LACFCD and other implementing agencies that rely on this PEIR to avoid or minimize impacts wherever feasible. The determinations of significance after mitigation in this PEIR will apply to the LACFCD and other implementing agencies that rely on this PEIR and the mitigation measures proposed herein.

LACFCD is the CEQA Lead Agency for this PEIR. This PEIR can be used by the LACFCD or other Permittees to streamline environmental review of individual EWMP projects. As individual projects identified in the EWMPs are fully developed, the implementing agency (i.e., the Permittee responsible for implementing the project) will conduct CEQA analysis for individual projects as appropriate or may determine that no additional CEQA analysis is required or that a

project is exempt from CEQA. Each implementing agency would determine the significance after mitigation for potential impacts of their proposed projects.

The PEIR provides the LACFCD a foundation for any necessary future environmental review documents that focus on individual projects of the EWMPs for which the LACFCD is the designated Lead Agency. In addition, the PEIR can provide several advantages during the development and implementation of the EWMPs that may include:

- More exhaustive consideration of effects and alternatives than would be practical in an environmental impact report (EIR) for an individual BMP project.
- Consideration of cumulative impacts that might not be evident in a case-by-case or project-by-project analysis.
- Consideration by LACFCD as Lead Agency of broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures early in the process when there is greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts.

The EWMPs are to include a discussion of the environmental documents, assessments, and permitting required for the implementation of the priority projects. The PEIR can provide a basis for this discussion. The use of the PEIR in the development and implementation of the EWMPs is further discussed in this chapter in the *Purpose of the Program Environmental Impact Report*.

1.2 Project Background

Stormwater/Water Quality

MS4 discharges consist of stormwater and non-stormwater generated from point sources throughout a watershed, collected and conveyed through the MS4, and ultimately discharged into surface waters. The MS4 system includes curbs and gutters, man-made channels, catch basins, and storm drains throughout the Los Angeles region. Discharges may adversely affect receiving surface water quality with pollutants such as bacteria, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), metals, pesticides, and other man-made organic compounds. Aquatic toxicity, particularly during wet weather, is also a concern. Stormwater and non-stormwater discharges of debris and trash are also a pervasive water quality problem in the Los Angeles region. Pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater may have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems when persistent at certain concentrations above water quality criteria/thresholds.

Through water quality assessments conducted by the LARWQCB, the LARWQCB and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have established 33 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that identify Los Angeles County MS4 discharges as pollutant sources causing or contributing to water quality impairments. The TMDL development process is explained in more detail in Chapter 2.0, *Project Description*. The MS4 Permit (described briefly later in this chapter) is designed to reduce pollutant loads into local surface waters. The implementation of the 12 EWMPs and their watershed-specific compliance strategies (which are explained in more detail in Chapter 2.0) would address the need for reduction in urban runoff pollution through

treatment and infiltration, as well as increasing stormwater retention throughout the Los Angeles region.

MS4 NPDES Permit

On November 8, 2012, the LARWQCB adopted the fourth NPDES MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175) for discharges from the MS4s located within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles County (excepting the City of Long Beach), which became effective on December 28, 2012. The MS4 Permit identifies conditions, requirements, and programs that municipalities must comply with to protect regional water resources from adverse impacts associated with pollutants in stormwater and urban runoff. The MS4 Permit contains effluent limitations, receiving water limitations (RWLs), minimum control measures, and TMDL provisions and outlines the process for developing watershed management programs, including EWMPs.

Watershed Management Programs

The MS4 Permit Section VI.C (page 47) includes provisions that allow Permittees to voluntarily choose to implement a Watershed Management Program (WMP). The purpose of this program is to “allow Permittees the flexibility to develop Watershed Management Programs to implement the requirements of [the] Order on a watershed scale through customized strategies, control measures, and BMPs.” The permit states that “participation in a Watershed Management Program is voluntary and allows a Permittee to address the highest watershed priorities.”

Several areas of the County covered in the permit chose to comply with the MS4 Permit through the preparation of WMPs only. In these areas, the structural BMPs needed to achieve local water quality objectives were primarily distributed BMPs that were found to be categorically exempt from CEQA. Actions needed to achieve MS4 Permit compliance in areas that have chosen to implement WMPs only are not evaluated in this PEIR.

Enhanced Watershed Management Programs

The Permit Section VI.C.1.g (page 48) allows for watersheds to collaborate in preparing an EWMP to achieve Permit compliance with RWLs. The intent of the EWMP is to comprehensively evaluate opportunities for collaboration on multi-benefit regional projects that retain MS4 discharges and also address flood control and/or water supply within the participating Permittees’ collective jurisdictional boundaries. Twelve EWMP groups have formed to implement a collaborative approach to meeting the requirements of the 2012 MS4 Permit.

As required by the provisions of the MS4 Permit, each of the 12 EWMPs includes several components aimed at identifying priorities for water quality improvement and the mechanisms that will achieve those improvements. In general, these components include:

1. ***Stakeholder outreach and collaboration***, so that development and implementation of the EWMP is a collaborative effort between Permittees, stakeholders, and the public.
2. ***Identification of water quality priorities***, which serve as the basis for implementation and monitoring activities within the EWMP.

3. **Identification of candidate watershed control measures** that Permittees and stakeholders can customize to address water quality priorities.
4. **Implementation of a Reasonable Assurance Analysis**, so that the Permittees, stakeholders, and regulatory authorities can identify which control measures are likely to be the most effective, and have confidence in the performance of the selected watershed control measures.

These components are discussed in further detail below.

Stakeholder Outreach and Collaboration

According to Part VI.C.1.f.v (page 48) of the MS4 Permit, each EWMP must provide appropriate opportunities for meaningful stakeholder input, including the development of a watershed management program Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that will advise and participate in the development of the EWMP. The MS4 Permit requires that at a minimum, the TAC include at least one Permittee representative from each Watershed Management Area (WMA) for which an EWMP is being developed (e.g., city administrators, stormwater program managers), one public representative from a non-government organization with public membership (e.g., environmental and community groups), and staff from the Regional Board, USEPA Region IX, and collaborating agencies (e.g., California Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).

Broader stakeholder groups will also be engaged through a series of workshops specific to each EWMP. The precise number and format of workshops will likely vary by watershed, with the overarching goal of providing a common and consistent orientation for stakeholders to the EWMP process, and a clear structure for stakeholders to contribute to the EWMPs. The TAC and stakeholders are expected to help define appropriate water quality priorities and identify suitable watershed control measures; these project elements are discussed further in this chapter.

Water Quality Priorities

The identification of water quality priorities is required in Section VI.C.5.a (p. 58) of the MS4 Permit as part of EWMP development. The Permit describes a four-step process for prioritizing and sequencing water quality concerns within each EWMP watershed:

1. Water quality characterization based on available monitoring data, TMDLs, 303(d) lists, stormwater annual reports, etc.
2. Water body-pollutant classification
3. Source assessment for the water body-pollutant categories
4. Prioritization of the water body-pollutant categories

The prioritization of pollutants under Step 4 is conducted for each EWMP watershed according to the following guidelines, established in the MS4 Permit:

- TMDLs (**first category**):

- Controlling pollutants for which there are water-quality-based effluent limitations and/or receiving water limitations with interim or final compliance deadlines within the permit term, or TMDL compliance deadlines that have already passed and limitations have not been achieved.
- Controlling pollutants for which there are water-quality-based effluent limitations and/or receiving water limitations with interim or final compliance deadlines between September 6, 2012, and October 25, 2017.
- Other Receiving Water Considerations (**second category**):
 - The second highest priority shall be considered controlling pollutants for which data indicate impairment of exceedances of receiving water limitations and the findings from the source assessment implicates discharges from the MS4.

The EWMP prioritization process includes identifying the priority pollutants and the schedule for implementing BMPs to meet the following criteria:

- For pollutants in the same class as TMDLs, the EWMPs evaluate the ability to consider these pollutants within the same time frame as the TMDLs.
- For pollutants on 303(d) list or in same class as 303(d) listings, the EWMPs develop a schedule to address these pollutants as soon as possible with milestones.
- For pollutants with exceedances that are not in the same class as the 303(d) listing, the EWMPs propose monitoring under CIMP to confirm exceedances and, if those exceedances are confirmed, the Permittees shall then develop a schedule to address these pollutants as soon as possible with milestones.
- For pollutants without exceedances in the last five years, the EWMPs will include them in monitoring plans but not prioritize them for BMPs.

The outcome of this process is the identification of water quality priorities in each EWMP and the proposed schedule for which BMPs are to be implemented to address these pollutants. Pollutants under a TMDL have higher priority and will be addressed under the timelines defined in the TMDLs. This further highlights that the EWMP is a continuation of water quality improvement efforts by the Permittees under existing TMDLs through adopted TMDL Implementation Plans. BMP types that are assessed in this PEIR therefore include BMPs that are under various stages of implementation and plan to meet TMDL waste load allocations.

Identification of Candidate Watershed Control Measures

The EWMPs describe a broad range of structural and non-structural control measures aimed at achieving compliance with the provisions of the MS4 Permit. These control measures are more commonly referred to as BMPs. BMPs vary in function and type, with each BMP providing unique design characteristics and benefits of implementation. Further description of both non-structural and structural BMP types, examples and anticipated distribution of the BMPs are presented in Chapter 2.0, *Project Description*, as these are the basis for the proposed program.

Reasonable Assurance Analysis

The Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) is a critical component of the EWMPs and is used to demonstrate “that the activities and control measures will achieve applicable water-quality-based effluent limitations and/or RWLs with compliance deadlines during the Permit term” (Los Angeles MS4 Permit, Part VI.C.5.b.iv.(5), page 63). While the MS4 Permit prescribes the RAA as a quantitative demonstration that control measures (such as BMPs) will be effective, the RAA also provides an opportunity to use a modeling process to identify and prioritize potential control measures. The RAA for each EWMP uses a model to simulate a critical storm (design storm) and demonstrate that the selected BMPs for each watershed will achieve compliance with the TMDLs and water-quality-based effluent limitations.

The RAA is being performed as part of the preparation of the EWMPs, and in parallel with the preparation of this PEIR. The RAA demonstrates that the primary goal of the EWMP is to meet the water quality goals. The modeling being performed as part of the RAA will determine if the number and distribution of the BMP types and specific projects identified in the EWMP Work Plans will meet the water quality goals. This PEIR will assess the types of BMPs that may be implemented to meet these goals. Chapter 2.0, *Project Description*, provides examples of these types and maps showing the approximate location and potential distribution of these BMP types to meet these goals. These BMP examples are subject to change through the EWMP planning process that is developing on a parallel track to this PEIR. The EWMPs are also planning documents that will be revised periodically to reflect new data, further modeling, emerging technologies, and results of BMP monitoring and assessments.

1.3 CEQA Environmental Review Process

CEQA Process Overview

The basic purposes of CEQA are to: (1) inform the public and government decision makers regarding potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities, (2) identify ways in which potential environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced, (3) prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures, and (4) disclose to the public the reasons why a government agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved.

CEQA states that an EIR should use a multidisciplinary approach applying social and natural sciences to make a qualitative and quantitative analysis of all the foreseeable environmental impacts that a proposed project would exert on the surrounding area. As stated in Section 15151 of the CEQA Guidelines:

“An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which intelligently takes an account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonable feasible.”

This PEIR for the proposed program was prepared to comply with CEQA regulations, and is to be used by local agencies and the public in their review of the potential environmental impacts of the EWMP's implementation, proposed alternatives, and mitigation measures that would minimize, avoid, or eliminate the potential environmental effects. The LACFCD will consider the information presented in this PEIR, along with other factors, in the development and implementation of the EWMPs. The EWMPs are to include a discussion of the environmental documents, assessments and permitting required for the implementation of the priority projects. The PEIR can provide a basis for this discussion.

Significance criteria have been developed for each environmental resource analyzed in this Draft PEIR. The significance criteria are defined at the beginning of each impact analysis section.

Impacts are categorized as follows:

- **Significant and Unavoidable:** Mitigation might be recommended but impacts are still significant.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation:** Potentially significant impact but mitigated to a less-than-significant level.
- **Less than Significant:** Mitigation is not required under CEQA but may be recommended.
- **No Impact.**

Purpose of the Program Environmental Impact Report

The LACFCD determined that implementation of the 12 EWMPs could have a significant effect on the environment and therefore required preparation of a PEIR. The LACFCD prepared this Draft PEIR to provide the public and the responsible and trustee agencies with information about the potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed program, to identify possible ways to minimize potentially significant effects, and to describe and evaluate feasible alternatives to the proposed program.

This document has been prepared as a PEIR. According to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168(a), a PEIR is one type of environmental review document that may be used to evaluate a plan or program that has multiple components (projects and actions) or to address a series of actions that are related in any of the following ways:

- Geographically.
- As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions.
- In connection with the issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program.
- As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental affects that can be mitigated in similar ways.

The EWMPs would include multiple projects and actions that cover a broad geographic scale. This PEIR provides a foundation for any necessary future environmental review documents that focus on individual projects of the EWMPs. A PEIR can provide the following additional advantages (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168[b]):

- Provide for a more exhaustive consideration of effects and alternatives than would be practical in an EIR on an individual action.
- Ensure consideration of cumulative impacts that might not be evident in a case-by-case or project-by-project analysis.
- Avoid duplicative consideration of basic policy issues.
- Allow Lead Agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures early in the process when the agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts.
- Facilitate a reduction in paperwork.

A PEIR may be prepared on a plan before the details of each and every project within the long-term plan have been developed, as is the case for the EWMPs. Therefore, this PEIR addresses the environmental effects of the program as a whole. The analyses focus on the environmental effects of implementing the EWMPs as a program to improve surface water quality and increase water conservation. For the proposed program, many management strategies are only in the concept development or planning phase. The PEIR analysis is not intended to focus on the site-specific construction and operation details of each management strategy and project included in the EWMPs. Rather, this PEIR serves as a first-tier environmental document that focuses on the effects of implementing the EWMPs overall as a plan to reduce urban runoff pollution.

This PEIR evaluates the major environmental effects of implementing proposed EWMP projects from a broad perspective; this evaluation is a *program-level* analysis. While the Permittees are developing the design, construction, and operation details of the projects that would be included in the EWMPs, these project details are not the focus of this PEIR. Instead, the PEIR frames the nature and magnitude of the expected environmental impacts associated with these proposed EWMP projects and identifies program mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the projects as proposed. As discussed further in this report, more detailed *project-level* analyses of individual EWMP projects may be conducted separately by each of the Permittees as required by CEQA. The EWMPs are to include a discussion of the environmental documents, assessments, and permitting required for the implementation of the priority projects. The PEIR can provide a basis for this discussion. This PEIR can be used by the LACFCD or other local implementing agencies to streamline environmental review of individual EWMP projects. The implementing agency may determine that a more detailed, *project-level* analysis is required, or may determine some projects to be exempt from CEQA. For non-exempt projects, project-level CEQA review will be conducted separately by the appropriate implementing agency. The separate environmental review of individual projects will evaluate site-specific impacts and incorporate feasible mitigation measures and alternatives (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168[c]).

Impact Assessment Methodology

This PEIR provides a “program level” assessment, meaning that the type of BMPs that are envisioned for implementation are described and evaluated in concept, with examples of implemented projects provided to illustrate typical features. Each EWMP includes a list of potential locations where these BMP types may be installed, along with available information on the anticipated scale, location, and construction methods required for installation. Maps identifying potential and priority BMP locations are provided in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, with the overall EWMP watershed characteristics and BMP implementation strategy. The PEIR focuses its assessment on construction and operation of these potential and priority BMPs to be installed throughout the watersheds—but primarily within urbanized areas where the pollutant loading is greatest and where these BMPs can be most cost-effective in meeting water quality goals. The analysis assesses worst case situations where construction or operation of projects may significantly impact environmental resources. The analysis outlines mitigation strategies to be followed by Implementing Agencies to avoid or minimize impacts wherever feasible. Exact locations and BMP designs are not defined. Rather, the overall compliance strategy of BMP type, quantity, and geographic distribution is assessed on a cumulative, regional scale.

Scoping Period

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was published by the LACFCD on August 29, 2014 (**Appendix A**). The NOP was circulated to federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested parties, for a period of 30 days. The distribution list is also located in Appendix A. The NOP was made available in print and electronic form, and the LACFCD accepted comments on the NOP for a 30-day period, closing on September 29, 2014. In addition, an email notification regarding the availability of the NOP was sent to over 700 interested EWMP stakeholders. The NOP discussed the purpose of the EWMPs and their management strategies, identified the EWMP Study Areas, and provided a brief and preliminary list of environmental issue areas that could be impacted. The initial 30-day comment period was extended an additional 30 days to October 29, 2014, to provide greater opportunity for public comment on the NOP. The notification for the extension of the comments period was sent by email to the over 700 interested EWMP stakeholders. The notice of the extension was also provided through the LACFCD Twitter account. In addition, a recording of the Scoping Meeting presentation was posted on the LACFCD website. A link to the website (www.LACoH2Osheds.com) was provided in the email and Twitter feed announcements.

Table 1-1 provides a list of the commenters that sent comments on the NOP. The comment letters are located in Appendix A.

Scoping Meeting 2 Wednesday, September 10, 2014
 6:00 P.M.
 County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
 900 South Fremont Avenue
 First Floor Conference Room C
 Alhambra, CA 91803

Scoping Meeting 3 Monday, September 15, 2014
 6:30 P.M.
 K Dalton Room
 Monrovia Community Center
 119 W Palm Ave
 Monrovia, CA 91016

Draft Program EIR Public Review

In accordance with Section 15105 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft PEIR is available for public review and comment for a 45-day review period. The Draft PEIR has been circulated to federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties who may wish to review and issue comments on its contents. All written comments should be sent to:

Gregg BeGell, P.E.
 County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
 Project Management Division II
 900 South Fremont Avenue, 5th Floor
 Alhambra, CA 91803

All written comments received on the Draft PEIR will be commented on and included in the Final PEIR. Comments on the Draft PEIR must be received in writing by the end of the public review period. Copies of the Draft PEIR and related key documents, as well as documents incorporated by reference, are available for review at the following public locations:

Lead Agency County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
 Project Management Division II
 900 South Fremont Avenue, 5th Floor
 Alhambra, CA 91803

Ballona Creek Culver City Julian Dixon Library
 4975 Overland Ave.
 Culver City, CA 90230

View Park Library
 3845 W. 54th Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90043

Beach Cities WMG	Hermosa Beach Library 550 Pier Ave. Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Ave. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Dominguez Channel WMG	Hawthorne Library 12700 Grevillea Ave. Hawthorne, CA 90250
	Carson Library 151 E. Carson St. Carson, CA 90745
Malibu Creek	Agoura Hills Library 29901 Ladyface Court Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Marina del Rey	Lloyd Taber Marina del Rey Library 4533 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292
North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds	Malibu Library 23519 W. Civic Center Way Malibu, CA 90265
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Lomita Library 24200 Narbonne Ave. Lomita, CA 90717
Rio Hondo/San Gabriel WQG	Duarte Library 1301 Buena Vista St. Duarte, CA 91010
	Live Oak Library 4153-55 E. Live Oak Ave. Arcadia, CA 91006
Santa Monica Bay	Wiseburn Library 5335 W. 135th St. Hawthorne, CA 90250

Upper Los Angeles River San Gabriel Library
500 S. Del Mar Ave.
San Gabriel, CA 91776

La Cañada Flintridge Library
4545 N. Oakwood Ave.
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Upper San Gabriel River Baldwin Park Library
4181 Baldwin Park Blvd.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

La Puente Library
15920 E. Central Ave.
La Puente, CA 91744

Upper Santa Clara River Stevenson Ranch Express Library
Dr. Richard H. Rioux Memorial Park
26233 W. Faulkner Dr.
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

The Draft PEIR can also be accessed through the internet at: www.LACoH2Osheds.com.

Public Hearings

Public comments on the Draft PEIR will be accepted from January 16, 2015 to March 2, 2015.
Public hearings on the Draft PEIR to accept written or oral comments are scheduled as follows:

- 1st Meeting Thursday, January 29: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Florence-Firestone Service Center – Contact: Tony Brookins, Director
7807 S. Compton Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90001 Phone: (323) 586-6502
- 2nd Meeting Tuesday, February 3: – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
LA County Fire Camp #2 Classroom (Hahamongna Watershed Park) –
Contact: Celia Hernandez
4810 Oak Grove Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011 (818) 790-6434
- 3rd Meeting Thursday, February 5 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
San Pedro Service Center – Contact: Lilia Andres, Regional Manager
769 W. Third St., San Pedro, CA 90731 Phone: (310) 519-6091
- 4th Meeting Tuesday, February 10: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Topanga Library – Contact: Oleg Kagan, Library Manager
122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, CA 90290 Phone: (310) 455-3480
- 5th Meeting Wednesday, February 11: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Hacienda Heights Community Center
1234 Valencia Avenue, Hacienda Heights CA 91745

6th Meeting

Tuesday, February 17: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
East Los Angeles Library – Contact: Alice Medina, Librarian
4837 East 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022 Phone: (323) 264-0155

Final PEIR Publication and Certification

Written comments received on the Draft PEIR will be addressed in a Response to Comments document which, together with the Draft PEIR, will constitute the Final PEIR. As required by CEQA, responses to comments submitted by responsible public agencies will be distributed to those agencies for review prior to consideration of the Final EIR by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will decide whether to certify the Final PEIR at a public meeting. Upon certification of the PEIR, LACFCD may proceed to take action on program approval and submittal of the EWMPs to the LARWQCB.

CEQA requires the adoption of findings prior to approval of a project where a certified EIR identifies significant environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15091 and 15092). If the Board of Supervisors approves the program even though significant impacts identified by the PEIR cannot be mitigated, it will adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations that states in writing the reasons for its actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093[b]). This Statement of Overriding Considerations must be included in the record of the project approval and mentioned in the Notice of Determination (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(c)).

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

CEQA Section 21081.6(a) requires lead agencies to “adopt a reporting and mitigation monitoring program for the changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.” This Draft PEIR identifies and presents mitigation measures that would form the basis of such a monitoring program. Any mitigation measures adopted by the LACFCD will be included in a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) to verify compliance. The MMRP will be included within the Final PEIR.

1.4 Documents Incorporated by Reference

The following documents are incorporated by reference in this PEIR:

Ballona Creek Watershed Management Group, *Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) Final Work Plan*, prepared by City of Beverly Hills, City of Culver City, City of Los Angeles, City of Inglewood, City of Santa Monica, City of West Hollywood, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Flood Control District, June 2014.

Ballona Creek Watershed Management Group, *Revised Notice of Intent: Enhanced Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program*, December 2013.

Beach Cities Watershed Management Group, *Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) Work Plan*, prepared by City of Hermosa Beach, City of Manhattan Beach, City

of Redondo Beach, City of Torrance, and Los Angeles County Flood Control District, June 2014.

Beach Cities Watershed Management Group, *Notice of Intent: Enhanced Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program*, December 2013.

California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board, official website, <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>, accessed July 29, 2014.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges Within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Order NO. R4-2012-0175, NPDES Permit NO. CAS004001*, December 2012.

Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Group, *Enhanced Watershed Management Program Work Plan*, prepared by City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, City of Hawthorne, City of Inglewood, City of El Segundo, City of Lomita, and Los Angeles County Flood Control District, June 2014.

Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Group, *Notice of Intent: Enhanced Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program*, June 2013.

Malibu Creek Watershed Group, *Revised Notice of Intent: Enhanced Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program*, June 2013.

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1.5 PEIR Organization

This Draft PEIR is organized into the following chapters and appendices:

Executive Summary. This chapter summarizes the contents of the Draft PEIR.

Chapter 1.0, *Introduction.* This chapter discusses the CEQA process and the background and purpose of the PEIR for the proposed program.

Chapter 2.0, *Project Description.* This chapter provides an overview of the proposed program and each EWMP group, describes the need for and objectives of the proposed program, and provides detail on the characteristics of the proposed program.

Chapter 3.0, *Environmental Impact Analysis.* This chapter describes the environmental setting and identifies impacts of the proposed program for each of the following environmental resource areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils/Mineral Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Waste; Hydrology

and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning/Agriculture; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services/Recreation; Transportation and Circulation; and Utilities, Service Systems, and Energy. Measures to mitigate the impacts of the proposed program, if necessary, are presented for each resource area.

Chapter 4.0, *Cumulative Impacts*. This chapter evaluates the potential for the proposed program to result in secondary environmental cumulative effects.

Chapter 5.0, *Growth-Inducement Potential*. This chapter evaluates the potential for the proposed program to induce population growth and result in secondary environmental effects due to such growth.

Chapter 6.0, *Alternatives Analysis*. This chapter presents an overview of the alternatives development process and describes the alternatives to the proposed program that were considered.

Chapter 7.0, *Organizations and Persons Contacted*. This chapter identifies authors involved in preparing this Draft PEIR, including persons and organizations consulted.

Chapter 8.0, *Report Preparers*. This chapter identifies authors involved in preparing this Draft PEIR, including persons and organizations consulted.

Chapter 9.0, *References*. This chapter includes all citations for sources used in the preceding chapters.