



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Subject to: (Select only if applicable)

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusionary Housing (Sec. 315)         | <input type="checkbox"/> First Source Hiring (Admin. Code) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs Housing Linkage Program (Sec. 313) | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Requirement (Sec. 314) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Park Fee (Sec. 139)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                             |

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## Planning Commission Motion No. 17734

HEARING DATE: October 30, 2008

*Hearing Date:* October 30, 2008  
*Case No.:* 2005.0159E  
*Project:* Water System Improvement Program  
*Zoning:* N/A  
*Block/Lot:* N/A  
*Project Sponsor:* San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
1155 Market Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
*Staff Contact:* Diana Sokolove - (415) 575-9046  
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### ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE CERTIFICATION OF A FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

MOVED, that the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") hereby CERTIFIES the Final Program Environmental Impact Report identified as Case No. 2005.0159E for the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), including a series of facilities improvement projects, in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties (hereinafter "Project"), based upon the following findings:

1. The City and County of San Francisco, acting through the Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") fulfilled all procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, hereinafter "CEQA"), the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Admin. Code Title 14, Section 15000 *et*

*seq.*, (hereinafter "CEQA Guidelines") and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code (hereinafter "Chapter 31").

- A. The Department determined that a Program Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "PEIR") was required and in accordance with Sections 15063 and 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Department prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR and conducted scoping meetings (see Draft PEIR, Appendix A). The NOP was circulated to local, state, and federal agencies and to other interested parties on September 6, 2005, initiating a public comment period that extended through October 24, 2005. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15083, the San Francisco Planning Department held five public scoping meetings, one each in Sonoma, Modesto, Fremont, Palo Alto and San Francisco, between October 5, 2005 and October 19, 2005. The purpose of the meetings was to present the proposed WSIP to the public and receive public input regarding the proposed scope of the Program EIR analysis. A scoping report was prepared to summarize the public scoping process and the comments received in response to the NOP, and the main body of the report is included in Appendix A of the Draft Program EIR.
  - B. On June 29, 2007, the Department published the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "DPEIR") and provided public notice in a newspaper of general circulation of the availability of the DPEIR for public review and comment and of the date and time of the Planning Commission public hearings on the DPEIR; this notice was mailed to the Department's list of persons requesting such notice and other interested parties.
  - C. Notices of availability of the DPEIR and of the date and time of the public hearing were posted near the project site at O'Shaughnessy Dam in Tuolumne County by Department staff on July 25, 2007, and posting of the Notice of Availability were made by Department staff at a public library in each of the counties potentially affected by the Program (i.e., Alameda, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties) in July 2007.
  - D. On June 29, 2007, copies of the DPEIR were mailed or otherwise delivered to a list of persons requesting it, to those noted on the distribution list in the DPEIR, and to government agencies, the latter both directly and through the State Clearinghouse. The DPEIR was posted on the Department's website.
  - E. Notice of Completion was filed with the State Secretary of Resources via the State Clearinghouse on June 29, 2007.
2. The DPEIR was circulated to local, state, and federal agencies and to interested organizations and individuals for review and comment on June 29, 2007 for a 90-day public review period. The public review period was subsequently extended and closed on October 15, 2007, for a total of 108 days. Six duly advertised public

hearings on the Draft PEIR to accept written or oral comments were held in Sonoma, Modesto, Fremont, Palo Alto, and San Francisco (two hearings) between September 5, 2007 and October 11, 2007. All of the public hearings transcripts are in the Project record.

3. The Department prepared responses to comments on environmental issues received at the public hearings and in writing during the public review period for the DPEIR, prepared revisions to the text of the DPEIR in response to comments received or based on additional information that became available during the public review period, and corrected errors in the DPEIR. This material was presented in a Draft Comments and Responses document, published on September 30, 2008, distributed to the Commission and all parties who commented on the DPEIR, and made available to others upon request at Department offices and on the Department's website.
4. A Final Program Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "FPEIR") has been prepared by the Department, consisting of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report, any consultations and comments received during the review process, any additional information that became available, and the Comments and Responses, all as required by law.
5. Project files on the FPEIR have been made available for review by the Commission and the public. These files are available for public review at the Department offices at 1650 Mission Street, and are part of the record before the Commission. Linda Avery is the custodian of records. Copies of the DPEIR and associated reference materials as well as the C&R document are also available for review at public libraries in each of the following counties: Alameda, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne.
6. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Project Sponsor, has indicated that the presently preferred program is the Phased WSIP Variant, which is described and analyzed in the FPEIR.
7. The FPEIR added new information to the DPEIR, as detailed in the Department Staff Memorandum dated October 16, 2008. This additional information does not involve a new significant environmental impact, a substantial increase in the severity of a significant environmental impact, or a feasible alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed that would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the Program and that the Project Sponsor declines to adopt. No information indicates that the DPEIR was inadequate or conclusory. Therefore, recirculation of the PEIR is not required or necessary because: (1) no new significant environmental impact would result from the Program (the Phased WSIP Variant as well as the originally preferred Program) or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented; (2) no substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result; (3) no feasible program

alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the Phased WSIP Variant, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it; and (4) the Draft PEIR was not so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature so that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

8. The Commission, in certifying the completion of said FPEIR, hereby does find that the Phased WSIP Variant described in the FPEIR and preferred by the Project Sponsor, will have the following significant and unavoidable effects on the environment.

Significant and Unavoidable Water Supply/System Operations Impacts:

- The proposed water supply and system operations would reduce stream flows and alter the stream hydrograph along Alameda Creek below the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam in the Alameda Creek watershed in Alameda County and result in a significant and unavoidable impact on stream flow in Alameda Creek between the diversion dam and the confluence with Calaveras Creek;
- The proposed water supply and system operations would result in a potentially significant and unavoidable impact in the Peninsula watershed on fishery resources in Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County; and
- The Program would indirectly contribute to potentially significant and unavoidable environmental impacts caused by growth in the SFPUC service area, as identified in the planning documents and associated environmental documents for the affected jurisdictions.

Potentially Significant and Unavoidable WSIP Facility Improvement Project Impacts:

The WSIP may have significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment in the following ways based on programmatic information provided in the FPEIR about the WSIP facilities improvement projects. These impacts will be reevaluated in subsequent CEQA documentation based on site-specific, project-level information. Until more detailed project-level assessments are completed to determine the significance of impacts, these impacts are conservatively considered to be potentially significant and unavoidable. The impacts include:

Land Use and Visual Quality

- Temporary disruption or displacement of land uses during construction periods.

- Existing land uses could be displaced to accommodate proposed facilities at some locations.
- Removal of a large area of existing oak woodland cover as part of the Calaveras Dam Replacement project would permanently alter a scenic vista.

#### Cultural Resources

- Alteration or demolition of existing or potential historic facilities.
- Substantial adverse effects on existing or potential historic districts.

#### Noise and Vibration

- Excessive construction noise could occur in close proximity to sensitive receptors and audible construction noise could occur during the more noise-sensitive nighttime hours.
- Construction activities could generate vibration in proximity to sensitive receptors during the nighttime hours with implementation of some WSIP facility projects.

#### Biological Resources

- Multiple facility improvement projects in the Sunol Valley would have a potentially significant and unavoidable collective impact on biological resources because of the number of WSIP projects in this region and the extent of overlap in terms of construction activity timing and location.
- Potentially significant and unavoidable collective impacts on special-status plant species could occur during construction of the Crystal Springs/San Andreas Transmission Upgrade and Lower Crystal Springs Dam projects.

#### Impacts Due to Implementation of Multiple WSIP Projects (Collective Impacts)

- Temporary impacts on existing land uses near the Irvington Tunnel portal in Fremont could occur during construction if staging and access under both the New Irvington Tunnel and Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade projects overlap in this vicinity.

- Impacts on biological resources in Sunol Valley because of the number of WSIP projects in this region and the extent of overlap in terms of construction activity timing and location.
- Impacts on biological resources (special-status plant species) on the Peninsula during construction of the Crystal Springs/San Andreas Transmission Upgrade and Lower Crystal Springs Dam projects.
- Impacts on historical resources due to implementation of multiple projects in areas with water system facilities more than 45 years old.
- Truck traffic impacts due to the numerous potentially-affected roadways, including regional roadways.
- Multi-regional effects on air quality from ozone and particulate matter emissions during construction of multiple projects.
- Noise impacts from construction of multiple WSIP projects the San Joaquin, Bay Division, Peninsula, and San Francisco regions.

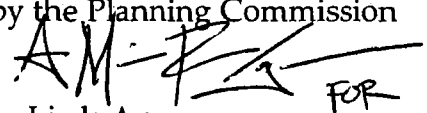
Impacts Due to Implementation of all WSIP Projects Combined with Non-WSIP Projects (Cumulative Impacts)

- Impacts on individual historic resources or on potential historic districts in the Sunol Valley and Peninsula regions.
  - Regionwide traffic impacts from construction-related traffic (e.g., increased travel times).
  - Regionwide air quality impacts due to the nonattainment status for ozone and particulate matter in both the San Francisco Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley Air Basins as well as the Program's contribution to construction-related diesel particulate matter emissions.
  - Construction-related noise impacts on local and regional roadways.
9. On October 30, 2008, the Commission reviewed and considered the FPEIR and hereby does find that the contents of said report and the procedures through which the FPEIR was prepared, publicized and reviewed comply with the provisions of

CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

10. The Planning Commission hereby does find that the FPEIR concerning File No. 2005.0159E, Water System Improvement Program, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City and County of San Francisco, is adequate, accurate and objective, and that the Comments and Responses document contains no significant revisions to the DPEIR, and hereby does CERTIFY THE COMPLETION of said FPEIR in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was ADOPTED by the Planning Commission at its regular meeting of October 30, 2008.

  
Linda Avery  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Olague, Miguel, Antonini, Borden, Moore, and Lee

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

EXCUSED: Commissioner Sugaya

ADOPTED: October 30, 2008