



5.15 WASTEWATER

This section evaluates impacts of the proposed project on local and regional wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Information is based upon information from the City of Duarte and County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD).

5.15.1 REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

As authorized by the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) administers the NPDES permitting program and is responsible for developing NPDES permitting requirements. The SWRCB works in coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore water quality. The City is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB (LARWQCB).

Wastewater originating from the project site is treated at the LACSD's San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant, which has a design capacity of 100 million gallons per day (mgd). Water reclamation plants must comply with their current NPDES Permit, which regulates its discharges. The LARWQCB has issued the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Joint Outfall System, San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant and the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Joint Outfall System Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant.

Clean Air Act

In 1990, the Clean Air Act (CAA) was dramatically revised and expanded to give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) even broader authority to implement and enforce regulations reducing air pollutant emissions. The CAA also gives the EPA authority to limit emissions of air pollutants coming from such as utilities, among others.

In order for the LACSD to conform to CAA requirements, the design capacities of its facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); refer to *Section 7.1*, Growth-Inducing Impacts. Specific SCAG regional growth forecast policies are incorporated into the clean air plans prepared by air quality management districts. The project site is located within jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which prepared the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to improve air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. Any expansion of LACSD's facilities must be sized and service phased in a manner that will be consistent with SCAG's regional growth forecast for the County of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial. The available capacity of treatment facility, therefore, is limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG.



REGIONAL

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)

The LACSD is authorized by the *California Health and Safety Code* to charge a fee for the privilege of connecting (directly or indirectly) to its sewerage system or increasing the strength or quantity of wastewater attributable to a particular parcel or operation already connected. This connection fee is a capital facilities fee that is imposed in an amount sufficient to construct an incremental expansion of the sewerage system to accommodate a proposed project. Payment of a connection fee is required before a permit to connect to the sewer is issued.

As noted above, LACSD must conform to the requirements of the CAA with regard to design capacities of its wastewater treatment facilities.

LOCAL

City of Duarte Municipal Code

Pursuant to *Duarte Municipal Code* Section 6.12.010, Adoption of County Ordinance, the City has adopted by reference the *Los Angeles County Code, Title 20, Utilities, Division 2, Sanitary Sewers and Industrial Waste Ordinance* as the sanitary sewer and industrial waste ordinance of the City of Duarte, except as it is amended locally.

Pursuant to *Duarte Municipal Code* Section 16.04.015, Adoption of California Green Building Standards Code, the City has adopted by reference the *2016 California Green Building Standards Code* as set forth in *Title 24 Part II* of the *California Building Standards Code* of the *California Code of Regulations*.

5.15.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

WASTEWATER FACILITIES

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)

The project site is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District No. 22 of the LACSD. LACSD has issued a can and will serve letter for The Residences at Duarte Station development under the proposed project; the letter is contained in Appendix C1.

Wastewater flow originating from the project site discharges to local sewer lines before it is conveyed to LACSD's main trunk sewer. The trunk sewer that serves the project area is the Buena Vista Trunk Sewer, located in Three Ranch Road west of Duncannon Avenue. The trunk sewer line is 12 inches in diameter with a design capacity of 1.7 million gallons per day (mgd). The Buena Vista Trunk Sewer had a peak flow of 0.6 mgd when last measured in 2015, according to the LACSD's can and will serve letter.

Wastewater originating from the project site is treated at LACSD's San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant. The San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 100 mgd of wastewater. Currently, the San Jose Creek Water



Reclamation Plant processes an average flow of 63.8 mgd (according to LACSD's can and will serve letter), leaving 36.2 mgd of remaining capacity.

City of Duarte and County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District

Local sewer lines are owned by the City. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LACDPW) Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the local sewers within the City of Duarte.

The following local sewer lines are located adjacent to the project site:

- An 8-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP) sewer exists within the Evergreen Street right-of-way and south along Glenford Avenue. This line has a minimum slope of 0.4 percent east to west from Highland Avenue to Glenford Avenue. The 8-inch sewer line within Evergreen Street receives flows from the north via an 8-inch line.
- An 8-inch VCP sewer exists within the Business Center Drive right-of-way. This line has a minimum slope of 0.64 percent. It picks up lines from the north along Denning Avenue, Glenford Avenue, and Fairdale Avenue.
- A 12-inch sewer line is contained within Highland Avenue and appears to receive flows from the development to the east along Business Center Drive and from the north from across I-210. The line has a minimum slope of 0.6 percent. The 12-inch sewer line continues south to the trunk sewer in Duarte Road, where it flows westerly with a slope of 1.208 percent. The sewer along East Duarte Road is on the south side of the Metro railroad right-of-way.

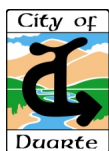
EXISTING WASTEWATER GENERATION

Based on a wastewater generation factor of 1,700 gallons per day per acre (gpd/acre) for industrial uses, the existing average wastewater flow from current on-site uses is estimated at 32,436 gpd. To determine peaking rates, a conservative value of 2.5 was multiplied to the average flow rate of 32,436 gpd, for a result of 81,090 gpd or 56.3 gallons per minute (gpm).

5.15.3 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The issues presented in the Initial Study Environmental Checklist (Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*) have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if it causes one or more of the following to occur:

- Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; and/or
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.



Based on these standards, the effects of the proposed project have been categorized as either a “less than significant impact” or a “potentially significant impact.” Mitigation measures are recommended for potentially significant impacts. If a potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of mitigation, it is categorized as a significant unavoidable impact.

5.15.4 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE AND TREATMENT FACILITIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD GENERATE WASTEWATER THAT EXCEEDS THE CAPACITY OF CONVEYANCE AND TREATMENT FACILITIES SERVING THE PROJECT AREA.

Impact Analysis: Implementation of the proposed project would result in increased wastewater generation requiring conveyance and treatment. *Table 5.15-1, Estimated Project Wastewater Generation*, quantifies the proposed project’s estimated wastewater generation using LACSD’s 2019 typical generation factors.

**Table 5.15-1
Estimated Project Wastewater Generation**

Facility Description	Acres	Building Area (SF)	Dwelling Units	Flow Factor	Units	Average Flow (gpd)
Existing						
Manufacturing/ Warehouse	19.08			1,700	gpd/acre	32,436
Proposed						
Retail/Restaurant ¹		12,500		662.5	gpd/ksf	8,281.25
Office		100,000		200	gpd/ksf	20,000
Residential			1,400	156	gpd/unit	218,400
Proposed Total						246,681.25
Net Change						+214,245.25
Notes: gpd gallons per day ksf thousand square feet 1 Generation factors for restaurant of 1,000 gpd/ksf was averaged with generation factor for shopping center of 325 gpd/ksf for 662.5 gpd/ksf.						

As indicated in 5.15-1, the proposed project is estimated to generate 246,681.25 gpd of wastewater, or 214,245.25 additional gpd of wastewater when compared to existing conditions. To determine peaking rates, a conservative value of 2.5 was multiplied to the 246,681.25 gpd of wastewater for a result of 616,703.125 gpd or 428 gallons per minute (gpm).



Sewer Procedural Manual and the Standard Plans

Wastewater Conveyance

New sewer lines within the Specific Plan area would be constructed to serve the proposed development and would be constructed at the minimum slopes identified in the LACDPW *Sanitary Sewer Procedural Manual and Standard Plans*.

Sewer generated within the plan area would discharge into existing sewer pipelines. Existing on-site sewer lines currently connect to the off-site local and regional lines in Evergreen Street, Business Center Drive, Highland Avenue, and Duarte Road. As future development occurs within the plan area, it can utilize existing connection points to off-site lines, as well as modify or add connection points, depending upon the site plan. *Figure 5.15-1, Sanitary Sewer Plan*, provides a preliminary sewer plan; however, refined sewer layouts would be submitted as part of site plan submittals for individual development projects.

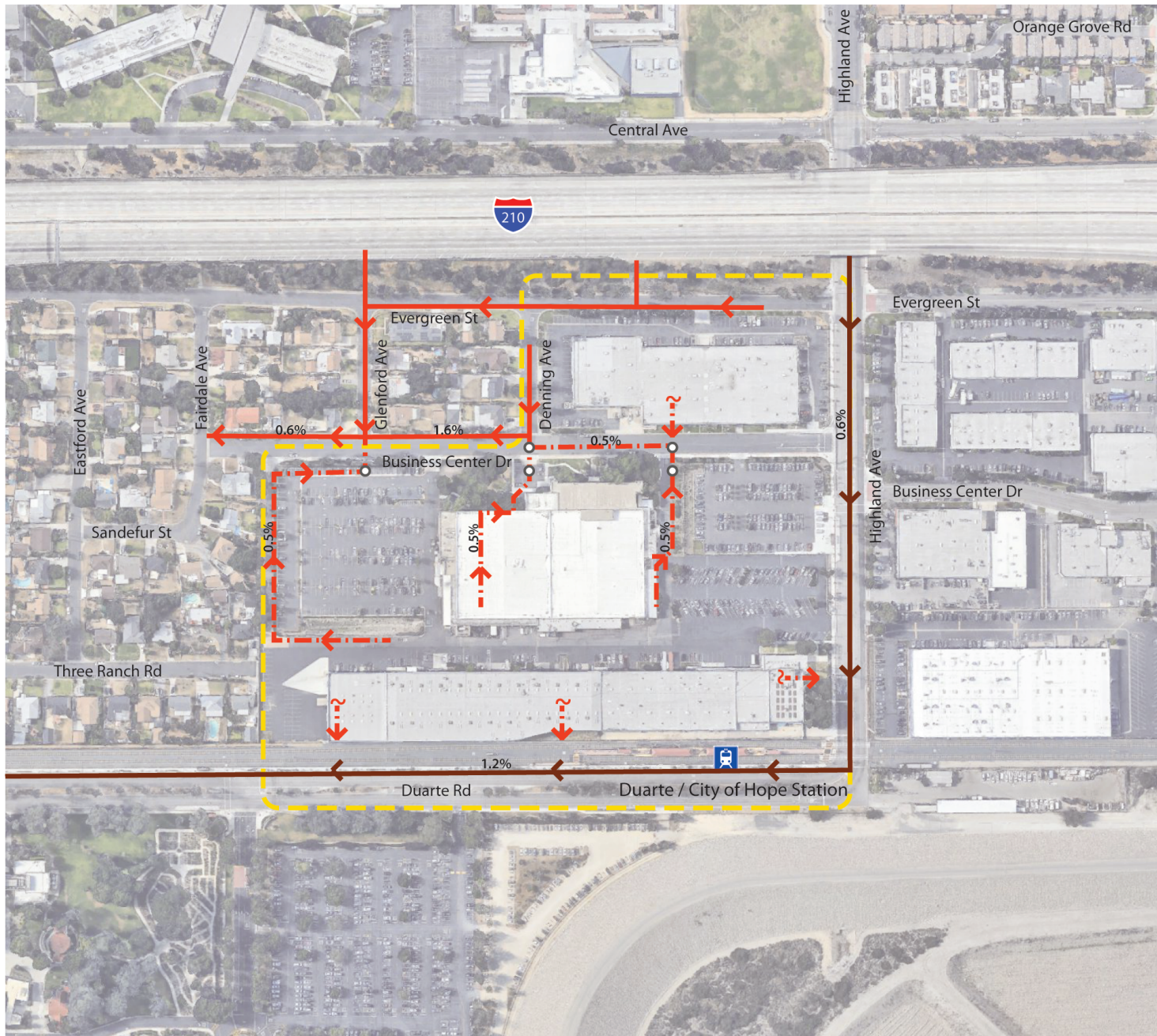
Development of the proposed amended Specific Plan would occur in phases, based on market demand; thus, any increase in demand for wastewater services would occur gradually as additional development is added to the area. However, the increase in flows associated with the proposed project has the potential to require upsizing of both the local and regional lines surrounding the site along Business Center Drive, Highland Avenue, and Duarte Road.

All new development within the Specific Plan area would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis by the City of Duarte, LACDPW, and LACSD, at which time an “area study” would be conducted to determine the available capacity of local and regional sewer lines and LACSD’s facilities to accommodate effluent from new development (refer to Mitigation Measure WW-1). Construction of any new sewers would be required to comply with the LACDPW *Sanitary Sewer Procedural Manual and Standard Plans* prior to acceptance into the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District (refer to Mitigation Measure WW-2).

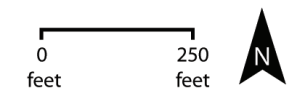
The City charges new developments a fee to upgrade or extend local sewer lines which would be necessary to accommodate new developments. Additionally, LACDPW reviews new developments and assesses fees based on the maintenance of local sewer lines, which would also be necessary to accommodate new development.

LACSD is authorized by the *California Health and Safety Code* to charge a fee to connect (directly or indirectly) to the sewerage system or increasing the strength or quantity of wastewater attributable to a particular parcel or operation already connected. The connection fee is a capital facilities fee that is imposed in an amount sufficient to construct an incremental expansion of the sewerage system to accommodate the proposed project. Individual development projects would be required to pay the connection fee before a permit to connect to the sewer is issued.

Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measures WW-1 and WW-2—along with payment of applicable fees to the City, LACDPW and the LACSD—would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.



- Existing 8" Sewer Line
- Existing 12" Sewer Line
- - - Proposed 8" Sewer Line
- Proposed Sewer Manhole
- - - Specific Plan Area



* Proposed sewer sizing and locations to be determined based on use and intensity.

Figure 5.15-1 Sewer Infrastructure Plan

Duarte Station Specific Plan Subsequent EIR



Wastewater Treatment

Development associated with the implementation of the proposed project would generate increased wastewater flows, placing greater demands on wastewater treatment facilities. The wastewater generated by the proposed project would be collected in LACSD trunk lines and conveyed for treatment to the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant.

In order for LACSD to conform to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the design capacities of LACSD's wastewater treatment facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by SCAG. All expansions of facilities must be sized and service phased in a manner that will be consistent with the SCAG regional growth forecast for the Los Angeles County, among others. The available capacity of treatment facilities would, therefore, be limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG. LACSD has expressed the intent to provide service up to the levels that are legally permitted.

As indicated in *Section 7.1, Growth-Inducing Impacts*, the proposed project, along with other future planned projects in the area, would exceed the growth projections anticipated by SCAG in the *2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*. However, as previously noted, LACSD reviews development projects on a project-by-project basis to determine if adequate capacity exists within the wastewater treatment facilities to serve the development and if LACSD facilities would be impacted. LACSD has issued a Can and Will Serve letter for The Residences at Duarte Station (see Appendix C1). The wastewater amount generated by the proposed project represents less than one percent of the remaining capacity at the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant and would not require the construction of new facilities. Therefore, because each development must obtain a can and will serve letter from LACSD documenting available capacity, project impact would be less than significant impact on the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant and would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB. Therefore, project implementation would result in a less than significant impact regarding wastewater treatment facilities.

Mitigation Measures:

- WW-1 Each development project applicant shall conduct a sewer flow monitoring study and submit the study to the City Engineer for review and approval prior to approval of building permits. The study shall review flows at selected off-site manholes, both upstream and downstream of the point of connection, to determine the capacity of the local and regional system to accept project-related flows. The project applicant shall be responsible to implement the recommendations in the study to ensure that off-site systems operate in accordance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County standards.
- WW-2 Each development project applicant shall design and construct on-site and off-site sewer lines in compliance with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department and County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County standards.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.



5.15.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND OTHER RELATED CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE AND TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Impact Analysis: Increased demand for wastewater conveyance and treatment resulting from development of the proposed project and other related cumulative projects could result in significant cumulative impacts. The degree of significance would depend upon the scale and location of the project and the timing of connection to the sewerage system. All future residential and non-residential development within the City would be reviewed on a project-by-project basis by the permitting agency and LACSD to determine the availability of adequate treatment capacity, along with the continuous assessment of capacity flows. Individual development projects would be required to verify that existing capacity exists to convey and treat the potential wastewater generated with the new development. Development projects would be subject to payment of fees prior to connecting to the City's or LACSD's facilities. Similarly, future cumulative development served by LACSD would be reviewed to ensure adequate conveyance and treatment capacity exists to serve the proposed development. Review through the LACSD's and City's development review process would reduce potential cumulative impacts to wastewater facilities to a less than significant level. The proposed project would not result in a significant cumulative impact to wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance: Less Than Significant Impact.

5.15.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant project and cumulative impacts related to wastewater conveyance and treatment during both construction and operation. As such, no significant unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the amended Duarte Station Specific Plan.

5.15.7 SOURCES CITED

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD), Will Serve Letter for the Highland Avenue Apartments. December 19, 2018.