

5.15 WASTEWATER

This section evaluates impacts of the proposed project on wastewater facilities within the City. Information in this section is based upon information from the City of Duarte and County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

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).

The Municipal Storm Water Permitting Program regulates storm water discharges from municipal separate storm sewer (drain) systems (MS4s). Most of these permits are issued to a group of co-permittees encompassing an entire metropolitan area. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Duarte along with 83 other incorporated cities therein (Permittees) discharge pollutants from their MS4s. Storm water and non-storm water enter and are conveyed through the MS4 and discharged to surface water bodies of the Los Angeles Region. These discharges are regulated under countywide waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2012-0175 (NPDES Permit No. CAS004001, Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges Within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4), which was adopted November 8, 2012. The MS4 Permit Order provides the revised waste discharge requirements for MS4 discharges within the Los Angeles County watersheds, which includes the City of Duarte. The MS4 Permit Order became effective December 28, 2012.

Water reclamation plants (WRP) must comply with their current NPDES Permit, which regulates its discharges. The LARWQCB adopted the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Joint Outfall System, San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant (Order No. R4-2009-0078 and NPDES No. CA0053911) and the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Joint Outfall System Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plan (Order No. R4-2009-0077 and NPDES No. CA0053716) on June 4, 2009.

Clean Air Act

In 1990, the Clean Air Act (CAA) was dramatically revised and expanded to give the 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.

Wastewater originating from the project site is treated at the Districts' San Jose Creek WRP, and the Whittier Narrows WRP, which have design capacities of 100 million gallons per day (mgd) and 15 mgd, respectively. In order for the Districts to conform to CAA requirements, the design capacities 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 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (2012 AQMP) to improve air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. Any expansion of the Districts' 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, among the others. The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facility is, therefore, limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG.

REGIONAL

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

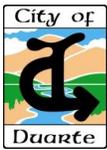
The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) are authorized by the *California Health and Safety Code* to charge a fee for the privilege of connecting (directly or indirectly) to the Districts' sewerage system or increasing the strength or quantity of wastewater attributable to a 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.

In order for the Districts to conform to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the design capacities of the Districts' wastewater treatment facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Specific policies included in the development of the SCAG regional growth forecast are incorporated into clean air plans, which are prepared by the South Coast and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management Districts in order to improve air quality in the South Coast and Mojave Desert Air Basins as mandated by the CAA. All expansions of Districts' facilities must be sized and service phased in a manner that will be consistent with the SCAG regional growth forecast for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial. The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facilities will, therefore, be limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG.

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 amended, as a sanitary sewer and industrial waste ordinance of the City of Duarte, except as it is amended.



Pursuant to *Duarte Municipal Code* Section 16.04.015, Adoption of California Green Building Standards Code, the City has adopted by reference the *2010 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 County¹

The project site is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District No. 22 of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

Wastewater flow originating from the project site discharges to local sewers before it is conveyed to the Districts' trunk sewers. The trunk sewers that serve the project area include the Buena Vista Trunk Sewer, located in Three Ranch Road west of Duncannon Avenue, and the Duarte Trunk Sewer, located in Highland Avenue between the I-210 Freeway and Duarte Road. The sewers are 12-inches in diameter with a design capacity of 1.7 mgd. The Buena Vista Trunk Sewer has a peak flow of 0.5 mgd (last measured in 2010). The Duarte Trunk Sewer has a peak flow of 1.0 mgd (last measured in 2009).

Wastewater originating from the project site is treated at the Districts' San Jose Creek WRP, or the Whittier Narrows WRP. San Jose Creek WRP, located at 1965 Workman Mill Road in unincorporated Los Angeles County, provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 100 mgd of wastewater. Currently, the San Jose Creek WRP processes an average flow of 76.6 mgd. Whittier Narrows WRP, located at 301 N. Rosemead Boulevard in the City of El Monte, provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 15 mgd of wastewater. Currently, the Whittier Narrows WRP processes an average flow of 8.0 mgd.

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 sewer lines are adjacent to the project site, and are accepting flows:

- An 8-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP) sewer occurs along Evergreen Street (formerly Central Avenue) 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 along Evergreen Avenue receives flows from the north via an 8-inch line.

¹ Adriana Raza, Customer Service Specialist, Facilities Planning Department, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, May 9, 2013, and County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, *Wastewater Facilities*, <http://www.lacsd.org/wastewater/wwfacilities/default.asp>, accessed May 30, 2013.



- An 8-inch VCP sewer occurs within Business Center Drive. 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 occurs along Highland Avenue and appears to receive flows from the development to the east along Business Center Drive and from the north from across the 210 freeway. 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.

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 the 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:

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; and/or
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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 typical generation factors.

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

Facility Description	Acres	Building Area (SF)	Rooms	Dwelling Units	Flow Factor	Units	Average Flow (gpd)
Existing							
Manufacturing/Warehouse	19.08				1,700	gpd/acre	32,436
Proposed							
Retail		12,000			578	gpd/ksf	6,936
Office		400,000			15.3	gpd/emp	40,800
Hotel			250		54	gpd/guest	13,500
Residential				475	270	gpd/unit	128,250
Proposed Total							189,486
Net Change							+157,050
Notes: sf = square feet; gpd = gallons per day; ksf = 1,000 square feet; emp = employee.							

As indicated in *Table 5.15-1*, the proposed project is estimated to generate 189,486 gpd of wastewater or 157,050 additional gpd of wastewater when compared to existing conditions.

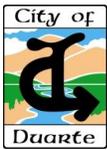
To determine peaking rates, a conservative value of 2.5 was multiplied to the 189,486 gpd of wastewater for a result of 473,715 gpd or 329 gallons per minute (gpm). The peak rate for the additional average flow rate of 157,050 gpd results in 392,625 gpd or 272.7 gpm.

Sanitary 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 be transferred to existing sewer pipelines that surround the Plan Area. The 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. *Exhibit 5.15-1, 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 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 the Districts, at which time an “area study” is conducted to determine the available capacity of local and regional sewer lines and the Districts’ 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).

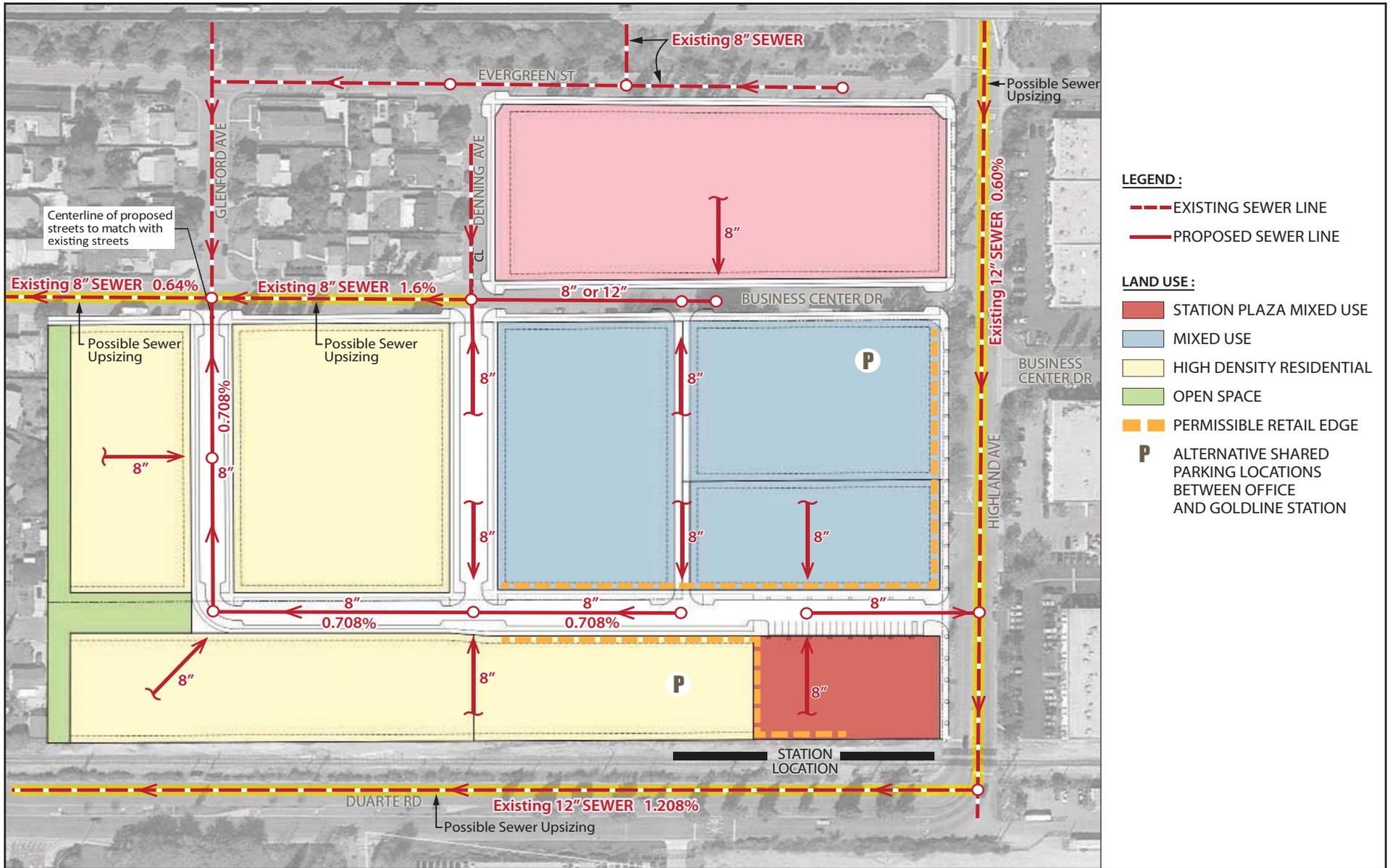
The City charges new developments a fee to upgrade or extend local sewer lines which would be necessary to accommodate new developments. Additionally, the LACDPW reviews new developments and assesses fees based on the maintenance of local sewer lines, which would also be necessary to accommodate new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

The Districts are authorized by the *California Health and Safety Code* to charge a fee for the privilege of connecting (directly or indirectly) to the Districts’ 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 Districts’ would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

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 by the Districts and conveyed for treatment to the Districts’ San Jose Creek WRP or the Whittier Narrows WRP. In order for the Districts to conform to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the design capacities of the Districts’ wastewater treatment facilities are based on the regional growth forecast adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). All expansions of Districts’ 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.



Source: Dahlin Group, May 2013.

NOT TO SCALE

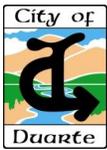


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DUARTE STATION SPECIFIC PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Sewer Plan

Exhibit 5.15-1



The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facilities would, therefore, be limited to levels associated with the approved growth identified by SCAG. The Districts have expressed their intent to provide service up to the levels that are legally permitted. As indicated in Section 7.1, Growth-Inducing Impacts, although the proposed project would contribute to the growth anticipated by SCAG, project implementation would not cause SCAG's 2035 household and population forecasts for the City to be exceeded. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with SCAG's population and household forecasts for the City. As previously noted, the Districts would review development projects on a project-by-project basis, in order to determine if adequate capacity exists within the Districts' wastewater treatment facilities to serve the development and if Districts' facilities would be impacted. Therefore, project implementation would result in a less than significant impact regarding wastewater treatment facilities.

Mitigation Measures:

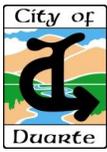
- WW-1 Each development project shall conduct a sewer flow monitoring study and submit to the City Engineer for review and approval prior to approval of building permits. The study shall review flows at selected off-site manholes, both upstream and downstream of the point of connection, to determine 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 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 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 individual City and the Districts 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 Districts' facilities. Similarly, future cumulative development served by the Districts, would be reviewed to ensure adequate conveyance and treatment capacity exists to serve the proposed development. Review through the Districts' and City's development review process, would reduce potential cumulative impacts



to wastewater facilities to a less than significant level. It is also noted that implementation of the proposed project would not cause SCAG's 2035 household and population forecasts for the City to be exceeded. Thus, the project would not conflict with SCAG's population and household forecasts for the City. 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 Duarte Station Specific Plan.

5.15.7 SOURCES CITED

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Adriana Raza, Customer Service Specialist, Facilities Planning Department, written correspondence, May 9, 2013.

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, *Wastewater Facilities*, <http://www.lacsd.org/wastewater/wwfacilities/default.asp>, accessed May 30, 2013.



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