

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project**

Project No. 19-049-01

Project Manager: Emely Lopez

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$500,000 to the City of Long Beach to construct a water treatment facility and two acres of surrounding green space that will include a one-acre wetland and trails that connect two parks and provide an inland connection to the California Coastal Trail, in the Willmore neighborhood of Long Beach, and adoption of findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**LOCATION:** Long Beach, Los Angeles County

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Integrated Coastal and Marine Resources Protection

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*EXHIBITS*

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Site Photos](#)

Exhibit 3: [Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program](#)

Exhibit 4: [Project Designs](#)

Exhibit 5: [Project Letters](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the City of Long Beach (“the grantee”) to construct a water treatment facility and two acres of surrounding green space that include a one-acre wetland and trails that connect two nearby parks and provide an inland connection to the California Coastal Trail in the Willmore neighborhood of Long Beach.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgment of Conservancy funding.
4. In implementing its project, the grantee shall comply with all mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting requirements for its project that are identified in Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment project Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (see Exhibit 3) and in any permits, approvals or additional environmental documentation required for the project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) adopted by the City of Long Beach on July 31, 2017 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.”

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize disbursement of \$500,000 to the City of Long Beach (the City) to construct the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Project. The project involves the construction of a centralized water treatment facility, and the creation of a green space featuring educational signage, a one-acre brackish wetland, and landscaped trails connecting to the California Coastal Trail. The project is in the Willmore neighborhood of Long Beach, which is a severely disadvantaged community. The City has completed project designs and engineering and will be ready to proceed immediately with the construction of the project upon approval of funding (Exhibit 4).

The project is needed to address poor water quality that adversely impacts safe coastal access, and to provide green space in the City of Long Beach. The City is a highly urbanized municipality with approximately 470,000 residents located at the bottom of the Los Angeles (L.A.) River watershed. The L.A. River receives pollutants from the many communities and land uses that drain into it along its 51-mile journey from the San Gabriel Mountains to the sea. Urban pollutants include trash, nitrogen compounds, metals, bacteria, and high levels of pesticides. These urban pollutants accumulate at the Lower L.A. River Watershed and discharge into the Pacific Ocean.

Additionally, various reaches within the lower Los Angeles River Watershed are on the 2016 CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The problem of urban pollutants heightens during the wet season and affects beach health. For instance, most of the beaches in Long Beach plummet to D's and F's (using Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card grading scale) in wet weather when they are typically A's and B's in the dry weather. The LB-MUST project is expected to reduce the days that the beach is posted for impaired water quality and to help the City achieve the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards. The project will also create a one-acre wetland in Southern California, a region that has lost 90 percent of its wetlands.

The project will remove the approximately 32,220-square foot Malibu Ceramics Works industrial facility and approximately 87,800-square feet of pavement. In their place, the project will construct a centralized water treatment facility and create a one-acre wetland. The wetlands will be adjacent to the water treatment facility and will utilize water treated by the facility. The wetland will function as a storage basin and provide additional water treatment, such as water quality polishing. Additionally, the wetlands will provide a continuation of an existing open green space with a trail between two existing City parks in a community that is severely disadvantaged. The trail will connect the community to the California Coastal Trail via the L.A. River Bicycle Path to expand community recreation and beach access. The City will incorporate an educational component at the treatment facility and the wetlands through programs, signage, and other features discussed below.

The advanced centralized water treatment facility system will utilize two pump stations to divert stormwater before it enters the L.A. River. The water treatment system is expected to treat approximately 41% of the City of Long Beach's urban area and will have an initial capacity to treat approximately two million gallons per day with an expected future capacity of 4 million gallons per day. The treatment facility will treat both dry weather runoff and a percentage of the first-flush storm flows generated within the City. The system will treat non-brackish and brackish influent flows separately, without blending at any stage in the process train. The treated water will flow into the wetland, be utilized for irrigation at nearby City parks, and/or eventually flow to the Pacific Ocean. The goal of the project is to both enhance water quality in the City's beaches and the L.A. River, and reclaim and reuse captured water.

Not only is the water treatment facility expected to improve water quality, but the facility incorporates an innovative green design and is expected to run for 80-100 years. The treatment facility is designed to qualify for both LEED Silver and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure Envision Certification Platinum level award. To qualify for LEED and Envision certifications, the treatment facility incorporated multiple sustainable features into the design. These features include bicycle facilities, reduced parking footprint, electric vehicle charging stations, rainwater and stormwater management, light pollution reduction, urban stormwater runoff treatment, low-VOC emitting materials, and use of regionally sourced materials.

After the facility's construction and project completion, the City plans to launch a second phase of the project to improve additional conveyance pump stations within the City to not only enhance water quality but also to irrigate City parks and greenspace with 100 percent recycled water. The City will embark on phase two as funding becomes available.

The LB-MUST project will add approximately two-acres of green space and connect two parks, Cesar Chavez and Drake Parks, in a severely disadvantaged community. The greenspace will include the one-acre wetland and landscaped trails. The trail will connect to the L.A. River Bicycle Path, which leads to California Coastal Trail. The California Coastal Trail is approximately 0.7 miles from the project site and is accessible by bike or on foot. This project's land-use conversion is anticipated to create native habitat, including approximately 85 trees, 1,505 shrubs, 86 vines, and 16,072 plugs. The project will increase greenspace and beach access through connecting trails while incorporating educational components into both indoor and outdoor spaces. The initial phase will include interactive displays demonstrating stormwater treatment technology and interpretive signage in the wetlands describing the project. Visitors and the community will be able to enjoy the outdoor deck, a garden, and L.A. River views. Post project construction and subject to funding availability, the City will proceed with, phase two, the integration of educational features in the water treatment facility and operations. These educational features may include hands-on classroom opportunities, a gallery exhibit for the treatment process, guided public educational tours of the treatment plant processes, and information on the low external impact development features. The LB-MUST project is expected to create jobs in both the treatment facility and dedicated educational spaces.

LB-MUST is a multi-benefit project that will address long-term liability for stormwater and urban runoff, improve water quality of runoff draining into the Pacific Ocean, expand and improve public open space, create native habitat, and provide an educational opportunity.

**Site Description:** The L.A. River corridor is home to more than one million people and more than 390,000 housing units. The entire L.A. River runs 55 miles through urban Los Angeles and several other cities. The City is located along the L.A. River and has a watershed footprint of approximately 1,610 square miles. The project site is located adjacent to the lower L.A. River, where the runoff of this large tributary area empties into the L.A. River, Long Beach Harbor, and, ultimately, the Pacific Ocean.

The City owns the proposed project site, which is bounded by the L.A. River and associated L.A. River Bicycle Path to the west. The L.A. River bike path connects to the California Coastal Trail, which is 0.7 miles from the project site. The project area is approximately 3.3-acres, consisting of two parcels of land: 1) a 1.3-acre parcel where the LB-MUST treatment facility will be constructed, and 2) a two-acre parcel where the wetland and greenspace will be constructed. The only developed resource on the wetland parcel is the Malibu Ceramics Facility. The area is denuded of vegetation.

The two parcels are zoned Light Industrial. The LB-MUST Treatment Plant parcel is bordered to the north by Light Industrial land use, to the south by Shoemaker Bridge, to the east by DeForest Avenue and an adjacent parcel of land for the constructed wetland, and to the west by the L.A. River. The wetland parcel is bordered to the north by Drake/Chavez Soccer fields, to the south by West Chester Place and a bus maintenance facility, to the east and northeast by residential development, and to the west by DeForest Avenue and an adjacent parcel of land for the LB-MUST Treatment Plant.

**Grantee Qualifications:** The City has managed various state grants for projects located in Long Beach, including Conservancy grants. The City currently manages state grant funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the LB-MUST project itself. The City is familiar with the State of California funding and reimbursement policies and processes. The Assistant City Engineer is the current project manager for the project with support from Stantec, an engineering consulting firm, to help execute the project. The City successfully completed a similar project known as the Los Cerritos Channel Sub-Basin 4 Stormwater Capture Facility.

**Project History:** The Conservancy has previously funded projects to address stormwater and urban runoff management issues on the Los Angeles River. In 2008, the Conservancy granted \$500,000 to the City of Los Angeles for the construction of parkway swales to capture and treat urban runoff from 14.6 acres of residential land into the Los Angeles River. This project also had a dual benefit of irrigating the parkway plants and infiltrating the runoff, thereby protecting the river from pollutants in the runoff. Additionally, the Conservancy provided a \$4 million grant to the City of Los Angeles in 2017 for the San Fernando Valley Stormwater Capture project, another project to enhance their larger stormwater management regime with the added goal of recharging the aquifer to improve self-reliance.

More specifically, in 2011, the Conservancy granted \$1.5 million dollars to the City of Long Beach for the DeForest Wetlands Restoration Implementation at the Lower L.A. River. The project developed the DeForest Park that included approximately two-miles of riverfront with wetlands and associated upland habitat, interpretive displays, a bicycle staging area and public access trails on a 39-acre site. The project also constructed a flood control detention basin, which is located approximately 5 miles north of the LB-MUST project.

These projects enhanced access and water quality along the Los Angeles River, benefitting a large population in L.A. County.

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
City of Long Beach	\$428,000
California Department of Transportation	\$28,000,000
Port of Long Beach	\$1,000,000
Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	\$2,000,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$31,928,000</b>

The expected source of Conservancy funds for this project is the fiscal year 2019-20 appropriation to the Conservancy pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1, Water Code section 79700 et seq.). Funds appropriated to the Conservancy derive from Chapter 6 (commencing with section 79730) and may be used “for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state.” (Water Code section 79731.) Section 79732 identifies specific purposes, which include protecting and restoring urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity and stormwater resource management (Water Code section 79732(a)(9) and reducing pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters (*Id.* section (a)(11)). The proposed project will address urban runoff and construct a one-acre wetland to improve water quality in an urban watershed. Improvements constructed under this grant provide ecosystem benefits greater than required by the City’s water quality compliance obligations.

The proposed project was selected through a competitive grant process under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines adopted in June 2015 (“Prop 1 Guidelines”) (See section 79706(a)). The proposed project meets each of the evaluation criteria in the Prop 1 Guidelines as described in further detail in this Project Financing section, the “Project Summary” and “Consistency with Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria & Guidelines” sections of this staff recommendation.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed project will be undertaken under Chapter 5.5 regarding improving and protecting coastal and marine water quality and habitats (Section 31220). Section 31220(a) permits the Conservancy to provide grants for coastal watershed and coastal water quality,

sediment management, and resource protection projects if the projects meet one or more of the objectives detailed in Section 31220(b). Consistent with Section 31220(a), the Conservancy has consulted with the State Water Board, which supports the project (See Exhibit 5).

Pursuant to Sections 31220(b)(1),(7), and (8), the Conservancy is authorized to award a grant for a project that reduces contamination of waters within the coastal zone or marine waters, reduces the impact of population and economic pressures on coastal and marine resources and provides for public access compatible with resource protection and restoration objectives. The LB-MUST project will construct a centralized water treatment facility and a green space with a one-acre wetland, that will serve as water storage basin, to treat urban pollutants and expand outdoor public access in a community that is severely disadvantaged. As such, the proposed project will help improve the water quality of coastal waters downstream and reduce the impacts of dense population on the Los Angeles River Watershed. Consistent with Section 31220(c), the project includes a monitoring program and is consistent with the L.A. River Watershed Management Plan, as discussed below.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN](#) GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S)**

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective D** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will fund the construction of a green space with an associated trail and facilities to increase coastal recreational opportunities and enable people to enjoy natural resources.

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective F** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the project will create approximately 0.2 miles of a new trail that is part of a regional trail system. The new trail will connect to nearby parks and to the L.A. River Bicycle Path that leads to the California Coastal Trail.

Consistent with **Goal 4, Objective B** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the project will install an educational exhibit and signage related to coastal and watershed-resource education.

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective G** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will improve water quality to the benefit of coastal resources by addressing urban runoff that impairs the Lower Los Angeles River watershed.

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective A** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will develop a wetland and a safe landscaped trail to increase the resiliency of a community that is severely disadvantaged.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on October 2, 2014, in the following respects:

**Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:**
  - a. California Water Action Plan: The proposed project will help achieve California's Water Action Plan Action #2 by increasing regional self-reliance of local water supply through the wetland storage basin, water treatment facility, and the substitution of treated stormwater for potable water for use in irrigation.
  - b. California @ 50 Million: The proposed project will further the environmental goals of this policy report (Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 2015) by developing a water treatment facility that addresses urban run-off, helps urban areas thrive, and provides a clean environment through removal of an industrial facility. Additionally, the project will create a healthy and resilient natural system and a certified green water treatment facility.
  - c. CA Climate Adaptation Strategy/Safeguarding California, Reducing Climate Risk Plan, updated 2018: The proposed project aligns with this State plan by increasing the City's water supply resilience in a manner that reduces risks to public health and economic disruption. The project provides equitable green space and protection to one of the most vulnerable communities in the City. The LB-MUST facility will be built to withstand changing climate conditions while continuing to provide essential services.
4. **Support of the public:** The City engaged residents and community groups, including the Willmore City Heritage Association, as part of the planning process. The community's input was considered through multiple avenues, such as community meetings, workshops, outreach efforts, and public meetings.

The following public representatives and groups also support the project: Robert Garcia (Mayor, City of Long Beach), Lena Gonzalez (Former City of Long Beach Councilwoman/Current State Senator, City of Long Beach), Charlie Honeycutt (City Manager, City of Signal Hill), Gateway Water Management Authority, Gateway Cities Council of Government (See Exhibit 5).
5. **Location:** The proposed project is adjacent to the Coastal Zone located along the Lower L.A. River in the City. The proposed project will benefit the Lower L.A. River Watershed and will have beneficial impacts on water quality in the coastal watershed downstream.



6. **Need:** Conservancy funding is needed to implement the project in 2020. Without Conservancy funds, the proposed project will need to secure additional funds. Meanwhile, the opportunity to address urban runoff and the creation of the wetland will be postponed.
7. **Greater-than-local interest:** The impact of stormwater runoff on coastal water quality is of particular concern in arid regions such as southern California because, on an annual basis, almost all of the surface water runoff and associated pollution flows into the ocean during a few storms in the winter.<sup>1</sup> The LB-MUST project will address this stormwater runoff issue with the construction of an innovative water treatment facility that will have the capacity to treat 41 percent of the City of Long Beach’s urban runoff contributing to the L.A. River’s tributaries. This project will address not only coastal water health in general but also water quality at City Beach, which is visited by approximately six million residents and tourists annually.

Additionally, the State of California has adopted multiple plans and policies addressing the need to design for and restore resiliency against drought, climate change, and increased population pressure on water resources. As described above in Criterion 3, the proposed project serves to address urban runoff and promotes various state plans and policies to ensure the security of the state’s water future.

**Sea level rise vulnerability:** The project site’s location is not vulnerable to flooding, inundation, or erosion from sea-level rise according to the 2019 Long Beach Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The projected flooding areas shown for the City of Long Beach: Precipitation-Based flooding map (p. 11) indicates that the project site is not located in an area potentially vulnerable to flooding in a 100-year storm event. However, it is susceptible to flooding in a 500-year storm. The City of Long Beach Sea Level Rise Vulnerability: King Tide inundation map shows no risk of inundation from sea-level rise of up to 66 inches plus a predicted king tide.<sup>2</sup>

8. **Resolution of more than one issue:** LB-MUST is a multi-benefit project that will enhance water quality, public access, and climate change resiliency by creating a wetland, improving water quality of runoff draining into the Pacific Ocean, attenuating urban heat island effects with trees, and creating a green space that improves the quality of life for a community that is severely disadvantaged.
9. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section above.
10. **Innovation:** The LB-MUST facility is not a traditional solution to water quality treatment, and instead represents an innovative regional approach in addressing multiple watersheds and providing open space and water conservation benefits. The water treatment facility is

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<sup>1</sup> Reeves, R. L.; Grant, S. B.; Mrse, R. D.; Copil Oancea, C. M.; Sanders, B. F.; Boehm, A. B. Scaling and management of fecal indicator bacteria in runoff from a coastal urban watershed in southern California. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2004, 38, 2637-2648.

<sup>2</sup> Schubel, J, City of Long Beach California Action Adaptation Plan 2019  
[http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/caap/lb\\_caap\\_slr-panel\\_ppt\\_as\\_-1-14-19](http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/caap/lb_caap_slr-panel_ppt_as_-1-14-19)

an integrated treatment system consisting of ceramic ultrafiltration (CUF) and Photo-Cat Ultraviolet Advanced Oxidation (UV/AOP). The facility will also incorporate a green building facility and target the LEED Silver certification and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure Envision Certification Platinum level award.

11. **Readiness:** The City has completed designs, engineering, and CEQA compliance. The City is in the process of obtaining final permits and will be ready to proceed once the Conservancy's board approves the project.
12. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See Project History section on page four of this report.
13. **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea level rise:** The project seeks to reduce extreme heat and the urban heat island effect anticipated with climate change by creating a wetland and increasing tree canopy using drought-resistant vegetation. The LB-MUST project will provide a net GHG benefit of 603 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. The calculation is from California Air Resources Board Quantification Methodologies and Calculator Tools for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and co-benefits. The carbon sequestration benefits only include those of the trees planted in the project. The project addresses the decline of urban forest resources, which is contributing to the urban island heat effects. Overall, LB-MUST will provide green space in a blighted urban area to make the community climate-resilient.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN/STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:**

The LB-MUST Project will help implement the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Plan (LLARWMP). As stated in the Project Description Section, the LLARWMP was developed to implement the requirements of the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on a watershed scale, specifically, NPDES Permit Nos. CA004001 and CA004003, respectively. Also, elements of the LLARWMP relating to TMDLs address requirements of SWRCB Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ (the Caltrans Stormwater Permit) for those TMDLs within the watershed area. Combined, these orders set forth waste discharge requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) discharges by Permittees such as the City of Long Beach. The LB-MUST project will result in water quality, open space, and habitat benefits that are beyond what is needed to comply with waste discharge requirements. However, the project does support the achievement of the MS4 discharge goals specified in the WMP as follows:

- Achieve applicable Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations that implement TMDLs
- Do not cause or contribute to exceedances of receiving water limitations
- Non-stormwater discharges from the MS4 are not a source of pollutants to receiving waters.

The project is consistent with the LARWQCB's Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (2014) in that it will enhance water quality, and thereby enhance the following beneficial uses identified for the L.A. River Estuary where it is located: commercial or recreational collection of fish, wildlife habitat, wetland habitat, preservation of marine ecosystems, supports rare and endangered species and supports habitat suitable for reproduction of marine fish

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

The City of Long Beach adopted the "Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Project Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Final IS-MND) on July 31, 2017, pursuant to CEQA (Exhibit 3). The Final IS-MND identifies potentially significant impacts of the project but determines that they will be mitigated to "less than significant" levels.

The major adverse environmental impacts of the project and the adopted mitigation measures that reduce impacts to a less than significant level are summarized below:

**Air Quality:** Construction of the project site would generate short-term air quality impacts. These potentially significant impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level by Mitigation Measure (MM) AQ-1. MM AQ-1 will implement dust control techniques (i.e., daily watering), limitations on construction hours and adherence to South Coast Quality Management District's Best Management Practices to minimize fugitive dust and particulate emissions, such as watering active construction areas, covering trucks hauling sediment, limiting the area subject to construction disturbance at any one time, and limiting traffic speeds on unpaved access roads.

**Biological Resources:** Based on the field review performed as part of the Biological Report, no special-status plant or wildlife species were observed within the study area. No endangered, rare, threatened, or special status plant species (or associated habitats) or wildlife species are known to occur within the boundaries of the project site. Potential impacts on nesting birds will be reduced to less than significant by implementation of MM BIO-1. MM BIO-1 requires pre-construction clearance surveys for nesting birds if ground-disturbance or vegetation removal is planned during nesting season. It also requires avoidance measures for any active nests found by the surveys. Potential impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S. or State will be reduced to a less than significant level by implementation of MM BIO-2. MM BIO-2 requires a jurisdictional delineation to define the extent of features within the project area, which consist of concrete-lined flood channels. MM BIO-2 also stipulates that impacts to jurisdictional features will be mitigated by creation or restoration of wetlands or waters at a minimum of 1:1 ratio, in consultation with federal and state regulatory agencies.

**Cultural Resources:** Multiple cultural resource studies for the project area did not identify any sensitive resources within the project impact area. Nonetheless, it is possible that ground disturbance will impact cultural resources that were not detected. Potential impacts to cultural resources will be reduced to a less than significant level by implementation of MM CUL-1. MM

CUL-1 stipulates that, if evidence of cultural resources is found during construction, construction shall cease, and a certified archaeologist will be consulted by the City.

Potential impacts to paleontological resources will be mitigated to less than significant by MM CUL-2. MM CUL-2 involves the implementation of a Paleontological Resources Management Plan, which will require paleontological resources awareness training for earthmoving personnel, and a protocol for spot-checking to determine when sediments suitable for fossil preservation have been reached in each location and when monitoring is necessary.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials:**

During project construction, there is a possibility of accidental release of a small volume of hazardous substances such as petroleum-based fuels or hydraulic fluid used for construction equipment. The construction contractor would be required to use standard construction controls and safety procedures that would avoid and minimize the potential for accidental release of such substances into the environment, as specified in MM HAZ 1-4. MM HAZ-1 requires the preparation of a Soils Management Plan before the issuance of a grading permit. MM HAZ-2 requires that a registered geologist or civil engineer inspect the site, determine the need for sampling to confirm the nature and extent of contamination and provide a written report to the project applicant, representatives of the LARWQCB and City of Long Beach stating the recommended course of action. MM HAZ-3 requires the preparation of a Construction Workers Safety Plan before issuance of a Dewatering Permit. MM HAZ-4 requires that, prior to site disturbance, a lead specialist conduct sampling activity to verify whether on-site traffic striping materials contain lead-based paints above regulatory thresholds.

**Noise:** Project may have a short-term impact due to construction-related noise. The project incorporates the following avoidance and minimization measures for noise impacts:

No construction noise between the hours of 8:00 PM and 5:00 AM on weekdays or federal holidays. No construction noise on Saturdays and Sunday. Construction noise may be permitted on a Sunday, but only after receiving a work permit from the Noise Control Officer.

**Traffic:** Project may result in a short-term increase in traffic due to construction mobilization, materials deliveries, and truck trips associated with fill disposal. This impact will be mitigated to a less than significant level by preparing and implementing a Traffic Management Plan, including measures to minimize potential safety impacts, as required by MM TR-1.

**Population and Housing:** No housing would be affected or displaced as a result of the proposed project. However, people who are homeless occupy portions of the project site and the homeless population existing within the construction impact area would be displaced. Impacts related to the potential displacement of the homeless would be minimized to a level below significance through the implementation of MM PH-1. MM PH-1 requires the City to provide support services to homeless individuals in the project area, including coordinated/proactive outreach, medical/psychiatric assistance, and provision of basic needs.

Staff has independently evaluated the Final IS-MND and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) adopted by the City of Long Beach on July 31, 2017, and concurs that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment. Staff, therefore, recommends that the Conservancy find that the project as mitigated avoids, reduces or mitigates the possible significant environmental effects to a level of less-than-significant and that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment as that term is defined by 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15382.

Upon approval of the project, the Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Determination.