



NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Date: July 14, 2017
To: California Office of Planning and Research Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Other Interested Parties
Lead Agency: Orange County Sanitation District
Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Program Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting for the Orange County Sanitation District Biosolids Master Plan, Project No. PS15-01

Notice of Preparation

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) as the Lead Agency has prepared an Initial Study (available for review on OCSD's website at <https://www.ocsd.com/ceqa>) and has independently determined that there are potentially significant impacts associated with implementation of individual projects identified in the proposed Biosolids Master Plan (BMP), and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Because the proposed facilities include a series of actions, and these actions can be characterized as one large program to be implemented over 20 years, the OCSD is preparing a Program EIR (PEIR) pursuant to Section 15168 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. OCSD has prepared this Notice of Preparation in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15082).

OCSD is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies to assist in the development of the scope and content of the environmental information to be studied in the PEIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the project description that includes a program of proposed facilities and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The PEIR will be used by OCSD when considering approval of the proposed program.

NOP Comment Period: In accordance with CEQA, comments to the NOP must be received by OCSD no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. The review period for this NOP is from July 14, 2017 to August 13, 2017. **We request that comments to this NOP be received no later than August 13, 2017 at 5:00 PM.** Please include a return address and contact name with your comments and send them to the address shown below or email to CEQA@ocsd.com

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Document Availability: The program description, location, and potential environmental effects are described herein. Copies of the NOP have been transmitted to the California State Clearinghouse and to applicable responsible and trustee agencies. Copies of this NOP, the Initial Study, and future environmental documents prepared in conjunction with the program will be available for public review on OCSD's website at <https://www.ocsd.com/ceqa>, and at the following locations. You will be notified when the Notice of Availability of the Draft PEIR is published for public review.

- OCSD, Administrative Office Bldg., Engineering Planning Department – 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
- OCSD, Plant No. 2, Ops Center – 22212 Brookhurst Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
- Huntington Beach Central Library – 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
- Huntington Beach Banning Library – 9281 Banning Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
- Fountain Valley Public Library – 17635 Los Alamos Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

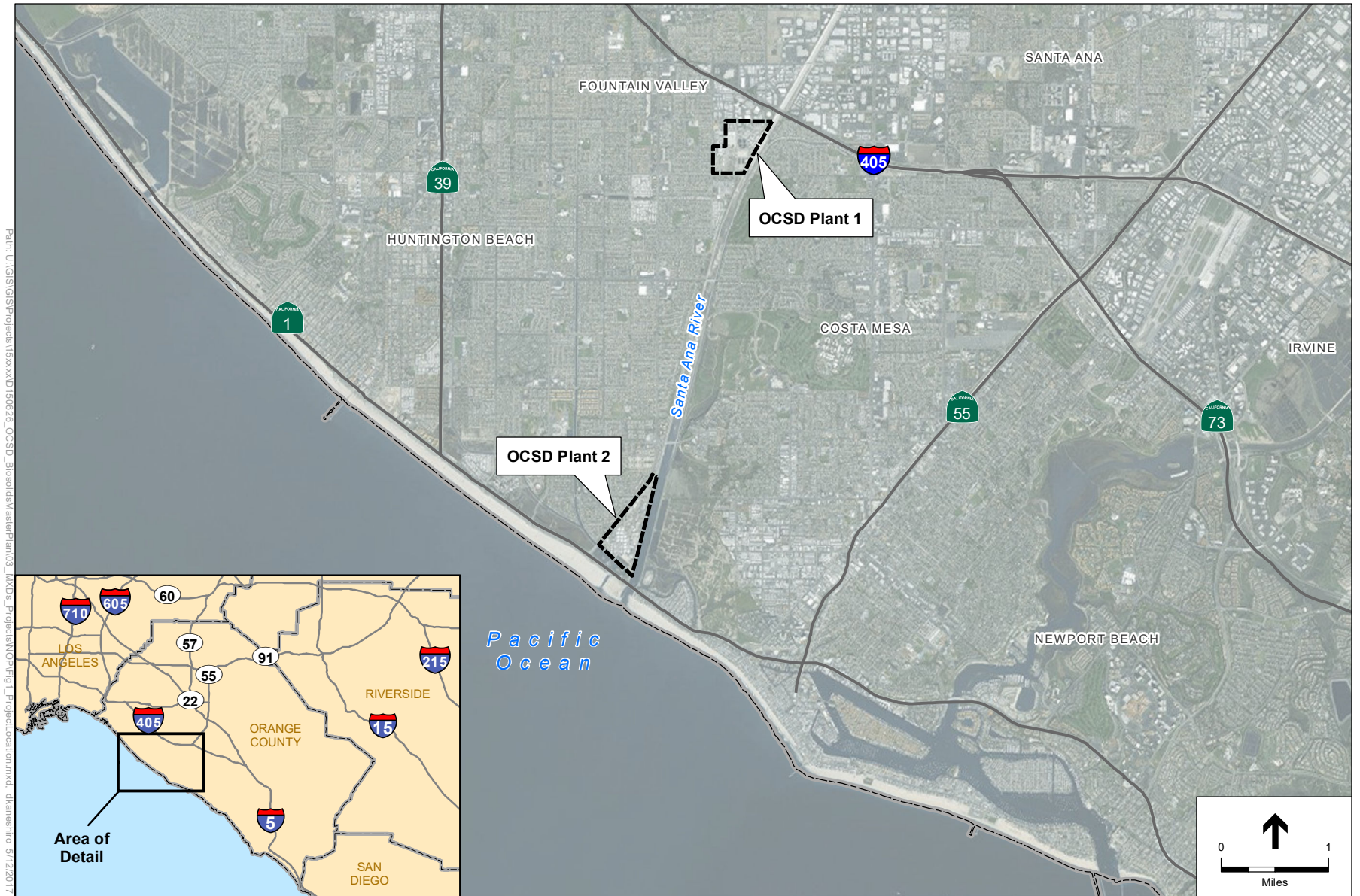
Notice of Scoping Meeting

This Notice of Public Scoping Meeting has been prepared because the proposed project meets the CEQA Guidelines criteria of a statewide, regional or area-wide project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15206). The project meets these criteria because the Biosolids Master Plan could cause significant impacts outside the Cities of Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley where the individual projects of the Master Plan are proposed such as the cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach. The Public Scoping Meeting will be held to receive public comments and suggestions on the environmental issues associated with implementation of the Biosolids Master Plan that will be addressed in the PEIR. At the Public Scoping Meeting, a brief presentation and overview of the facilities proposed in the Biosolids Master Plan will be provided. After the presentation, oral and written comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the PEIR will be accepted. Written comment forms will be made available for those who wish to submit comments in writing at the Public Scoping Meeting. The Public Scoping Meeting will be open to the public and held at the following location:

Date: Monday, July 31, 2017
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Orange County Sanitation District Plant No. 2
Ops Center Training & Conference Room
22212 Brookhurst Street
Huntington Beach, California 92646

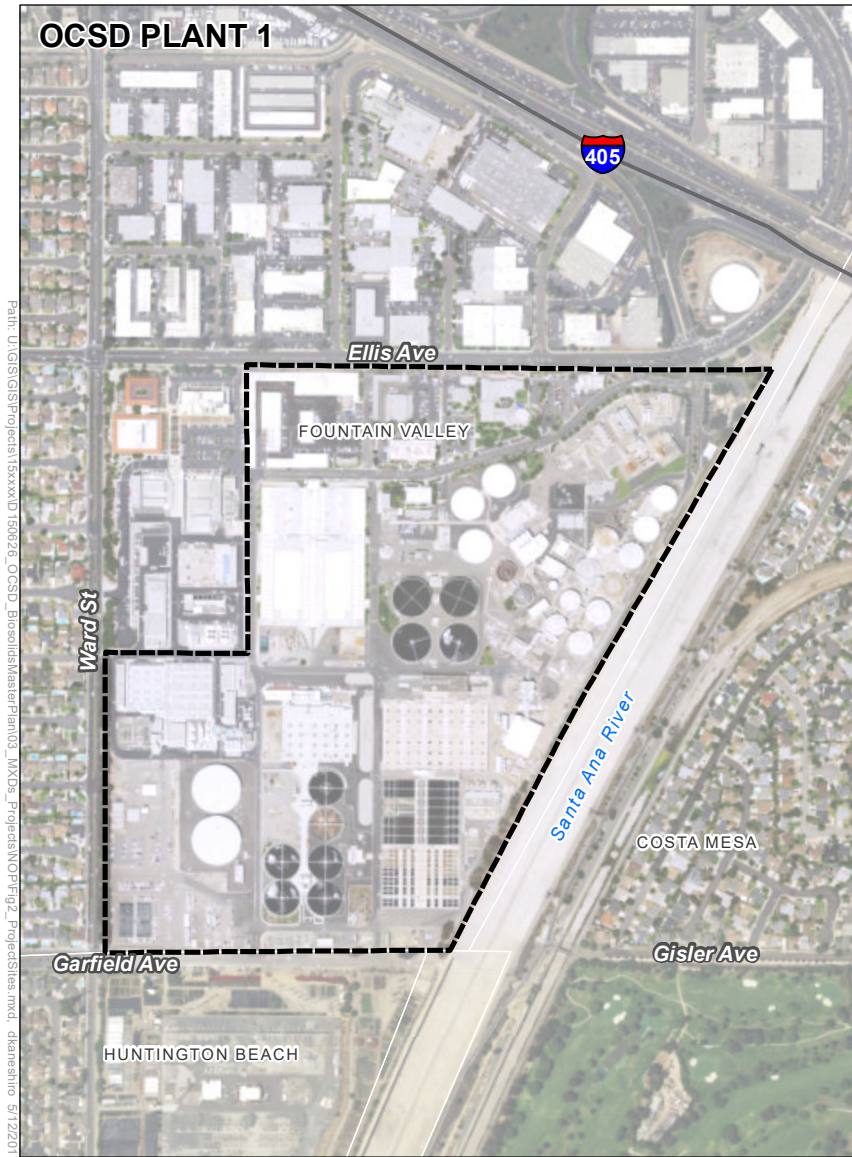
Proposed Program

Project Location: OCSD facilities are located in northwestern Orange County, California as depicted in **Figure 1, Project Location**. All proposed projects would be located within OCSD Plant No. 1 and No. 2 boundaries. Therefore, for purposes of the PEIR, the “project area” includes Plant No. 1 and No. 2 and is illustrated in **Figure 2, Project Area**. Plant No. 1 is located at 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 and bound by Ellis Avenue to the north; Ward Street to the west; Garfield Avenue to the south; and the Santa Ana River (SAR) and SAR Trail to the east. Residential neighborhoods are located west of Ward Street and east of the SAR. Plant No. 1 is located within the City of Fountain Valley.



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SOURCE: ESA, ESRI. OCSD Biosolids Master Plan . 150626
Figure 1
Project Location



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SOURCE: ESA, ESRI.

OCSD Biosolids Master Plan . 150626

Figure 2
Project Area

The majority of the proposed program components would be constructed entirely within the existing Plant No. 2 property, located at 22212 Brookhurst Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. The proposed facilities would be implemented within the southwest corner of Plant No. 2 adjacent to the existing biosolids handling facilities. Plant 2 is bound by residential located approximately 375 feet north of the intersection of Baybreeze Drive and Brookhurst Street to the north, and Brookhurst Street and residential to the west; Brookhurst Street runs adjacent to the property in a northwest to southeast manner. East of the project area is the SAR and SAR Trail; to the south of the project area is Talbert Marsh, Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and the Pacific Ocean.

Program Background: OCSD has previously identified the need to perform process equipment and structural rehabilitation on the aging 18 digesters to maintain reliable operation of digesters at Plant No. 2. OCSD has had concerns with the structural deterioration of the digester domes, as the digesters date back from 1959 through 1979 and were constructed either without protective liners or liners with failure history. Anticipating the need for structural improvements, including dome replacements for multiple digesters, OCSD moved forward with various structural/seismic hazard evaluation studies.

OCSD identified that the digesters at Plant No. 2 were in need of significant rehabilitation. Prior to commencing rehabilitation projects, OCSD initiated a study (SP-186) that identified liquefaction and structural deficiencies of existing infrastructure. Assessments concluded that a seismic event could lead to several inches of settlement and structural failure for several digesters. The SP-186 study also evaluated and compared the cost associated with rehabilitating versus constructing new digesters to mitigate these seismic risks. As a result, OCSD selected to replace the existing digesters and associated facilities. The purpose of the BMP is to evaluate and select the future digestion process and associated new infrastructure to replace the existing facilities.

In addition to addressing the structural integrity of existing biosolids handling facilities at Plant No. 2; the BMP provides a roadmap and framework for sustainable biosolids management options over a 20-year planning period.

Program Objectives: The primary objectives of the proposed program are to:

- Mitigate the structural and seismic risk for onsite biosolids structures over time;
- Phase-out the diversion of biosolids organics as an alternative daily cover for landfills;
- Transition from Class B to Class A biosolids quality at Plant No. 2 to increase biosolids management diversity for end users of biosolids; and
- Receive pre-process food waste (source separated organics) for co-digestion to assist in diverting organics from landfills and to increase digester gas production used as a renewable energy.

Program Description: The proposed program consists of nine different projects that are necessary to upgrade Plant No. 2 solid handling facilities in order to align with OCSD's goals and objectives. These nine projects would be implemented over the next 20 years. **Table 1** summarizes the individual BMP projects. The BMP identified Project Numbers for each of the projects and some of the projects also have an OCSD Funding Number. Both numbers are provided to ensure a clear understanding which project is discussed.

**TABLE 1
OCSD BMP PROJECTS**

OCSD Funding No.	Project No.	Project Name	Description	Construction Years
P2-125	P2-501	Plant 2 Southwest Perimeter Screening	P2-501 would improve or replace the perimeter screening to provide a visual buffer for all proposed facilities and associated construction activities along Brookhurst Street and Talbert Marsh. The perimeter screening would be extended up to approximately 550 feet in length along Brookhurst Street and up to approximately 1,030 feet along Talbert Marsh.	2019 to 2020
P2-124	P2-502	Interim Food Waste Receiving Facility	An interim food waste facility with a capacity up to 250 wet tons per day will be built as an initial co-digestion program. The food facility would include two, 20,000 gallon tanks and ancillary facilities such as pumps and odor control treatment. The interim food waste facility will be replaced with an ultimate food waste facility (P2-506).	2018 to 2020
P2-126	P2-503A	Plant 2 Warehouse Relocation	The existing 21,000 sq. feet, above-grade warehouse would be demolished and then reconstructed at a new location on Plant No. 2 approximately 1,600 feet north of the existing facility.	2021 to 2023
P2-127	P2-503B	Plant 2 Collections Yard Relocation	The existing 38,000 sq. feet collections yard (parking lot) would be relocated, potentially to Plant No. 1. The specific location is not known at this time. The relocated collections yard would provide adequate space and truck paths to and from Plant No.1 or Plant No.2, similar to the existing footprint.	2021 to 2023
P2-128	P2-504, 504A, 504B	Temperature Phased Anaerobic Digestion (TPAD) Digester Facility at Plant 2	<p>This project would construct six 110-foot diameter, 40-foot tall (above ground) digesters designed to operate in either mesophilic or thermophilic operation, and TPAD sludge cooling facilities which include a pump station, ultrafiltration/nanofiltration facilities, sludge cooling heat exchangers, and a power building.</p> <p>All new digesters (pairs) would share an electrical control room that would house various pumps, fans, pipelines, and other ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Six, 400,000-gallon, 37-feet above ground Class A batch tanks would be constructed to produce Class A biosolids per Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 503 regulations through batch holding over a specified time and temperature. The Class A batch tanks would require other ancillary equipment such as pumps, heat exchangers and grinders.</p> <p>The proposed new 33-foot diameter, 30-foot high (above ground) Digester Feed Facility (DFF) would replace the existing Sludge Blending Facility where primary sludge and scum is blended and fed to the digesters.</p>	2025 to 2030

			The DFF would include thickened sludge tanks, and ancillary facilities such as fans, grinders, pumps, and carbon and bioscrubbers.	
P2-129	P2-504C, P2-505	Digester P, Q, R, and S Replacement	P2-504C would relocate the existing ferric facility, which currently feeds three digester segments. The new structure would be 38 by 51 feet. The relocation will include all of the match pumps, tanks, and existing equipment.	2038 to 2040
			P2-505 would consist of the demolition of four existing digesters (P, Q, R, and S) and Power Building C. Digesters P, Q, R, and S will be rebuilt in place, two at a time. Digesters P, Q, R and S would have an inner diameter of 105 feet and height of 38 feet above ground.	2028 to 2033
P2-506	P2-506	Ultimate Food Waste Receiving Facility	<p>Following operation of the interim food waste receiving facility (P2-502), P2-506 will allow for expansion of the Source Separated Organics (SSO) receiving program through construction of a larger capacity food waste receiving station to replace the interim facility.</p> <p>The ultimate food waste facility would include a total of four, 12-foot diameter, 30-foot tall 20,000 gallon tanks, recirculation and digester feed pumps, and odor control treatment carbon canisters.</p>	2035 to 2037
P2-507	P2-507	Replace Digesters I, J, K (Relocate Digester Holders)	<p>P2-507 would consist of the demolition of seven digesters (I, J, K, M, N, O, and T) and relocation of three digesters (I, J, and K) with a diameter of 84 feet and height of 37 feet (above ground). These new digesters would serve as mesophilic digesters and holders capable of operation as mesophilic digesters.</p> <p>An above-grade equipment room would be built between each pair of digesters. The equipment rooms would house ancillary facilities such as fans, pumps and pipelines. Each equipment room would be 40 feet by 50 feet and up to 40 feet in height above ground.</p>	2033 to 2038
P2-508	P2-508	Digester Demolition	P2-508 demolishes the six remaining digesters, Digesters C, D, E, F, G, and H, to free up site footprint for future treatment process facilities.	2035 to 2040

Environmental Evaluation

The following environmental topic areas will be addressed in the PEIR, as summarized below and described in detail within the Initial Study: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils and Seismicity; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Transportation/Traffic; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Utilities, Service Systems and Energy.

Aesthetics: The proposed facilities would be constructed within the existing Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 properties. The project area is not officially designated as a scenic vista. However, Plant No. 2 is located within the City of Huntington Beach’s Coastal Zone and is adjacent to visual resources, facilities, and assets that contribute to the aesthetic characterization of the Coastal Zone. The proposed structures could potentially affect the existing adjacent coastal views and visual quality of the area. Further, the proposed

facilities may also increase light and glare sources on the project sites and could potentially cause light and glare spillover onto neighboring sensitive receptors. These issues will be further evaluated in the PEIR. If it is determined that the proposed facilities could result in significant aesthetic impacts, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Air Quality: The proposed facilities would be constructed within the existing Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 properties, in the cities of Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, respectively. These cities are within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Construction of various structures proposed in the BMP would generate emissions from construction equipment exhaust, earth movement, construction workers' commute, and material hauling. Operational activities associated with the proposed facilities could generate air pollutants from employee commuting, truck deliveries and stationary equipment. The Program EIR will evaluate the generation of air pollutants during construction and operational activities associated within the proposed biosolids handling facilities. Conflicts or obstructions with the implementation of the SCAQMD Air Quality Plan will also be discussed in the PEIR. Furthermore, pollutant concentration that could expose sensitive receptors will be addressed along with potential objectionable odors. If it is determined that the proposed facilities could result in significant air quality impacts, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Biological Resources: Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 contain buildings, wastewater treatment facilities, and paved passageway and parking areas. As a result, the project area lacks suitable habitat for biological resources. However, the Santa Ana River and Talbert Marsh are adjacent to Plant No. 2. Potential sensitive biological resources within these areas could be impacted by activities proposed under the BMP. Program implementation may also interfere with the use of the local California least tern/western snowy plover nesting sites, located at the beach, south of Plant No. 2. Further, implementation of the proposed program could conflict with the City of Huntington Beach General Plan Policy ERC 2.1.10, regarding the protection of biological resources within the project area. These issues will be further evaluated in the PEIR. If necessary, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce potential impacts, where feasible.

Cultural Resources: The proposed facilities associated with the BMP will include excavation activities. These excavations could uncover previously known or unknown historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources or unknown human burial resources. The PEIR will assess the potential effects of the proposed facilities on cultural resources in the project area. If it is determined that the proposed facilities could have significant impacts to cultural resources, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Geology, Soils and Seismicity: The project area is located in a seismically active region. The proximity of the San Andreas fault, San Jacinto fault, Whittier-Elsinore fault, Palos Verdes fault, and presence of active splays of the Newport-Inglewood fault within the Plant No. 2, places the project area at risk for potential geological hazards. Construction and operation of proposed facilities could be subject to potential seismic hazards including surface fault rupture, strong seismic shaking, soil liquefaction, and geologic hazards such as subsidence, soil erosion, ground collapse, and expansive soil. The PEIR will further evaluate the potential seismic and geologic hazards that could occur on the proposed facilities. If it is determined that the proposed facilities could have significant impacts associated with geology, soils, and seismicity, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: In addition to air emissions, the facilities associated with the proposed BMP

would emit greenhouse gases from construction and operation activities. Construction activities could generate greenhouse gas emissions from equipment exhaust, construction workers' commutes, and material hauling. Operational activities could generate emissions from construction commuting, truck deliveries, and stationary equipment. The PEIR will evaluate the contribution of construction and operational greenhouse gas emissions to global climate change. The PEIR will evaluate the proposed BMP's consistency with state and local regulatory requirements and regulations. If it is determined that the proposed facilities associated with the BMP could have significant greenhouse gas emission impacts, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce impacts, where feasible.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: The proposed program would be implemented entirely within Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2. A database search of hazardous materials sites using the online Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) EnviroStor and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker databases identified Plant No. 2 as having eight permitted underground storage tank (UST), and six permitted UST and two closed leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cases at Plant No. 1. Excavation activities could uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a hazard to human health or the environment. In addition, operational activities associated with some of the proposed facilities could use hazardous materials as part of the operations of the facilities. The PEIR will assess the potential for encountering contaminated soils and hazardous materials as well as using, storing and transporting hazardous materials associated with the operation of proposed facilities. Further, the proposed program may result in increased truck load intensities that could increase traffic and physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan. If it is determined that the program could have significant impacts related to hazardous materials or safety hazards, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Hydrology and Water Quality: The implementation of the proposed facilities associated with the BMP could increase impervious surfaces within the project area and thus increase storm water runoff. These facilities could also impact groundwater quantity and quality as well as surface water quality and cumulative hydrological issues. The increase in surface water runoff could result in the exceedance of existing drainage facilities as well as potentially expose structures to flooding, mudflow, and seiches. The PEIR will evaluate these potential hydrology and water quality impacts of the proposed facilities on the existing facilities at Plant No 1 and Plant No. 2. If it is determined that the program could have significant hydrology and water quality impacts related to surface water hydrology or groundwater or water quality, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Land Use and Planning: The majority of the proposed facilities would be implemented within Plant No. 2. Plant No. 2 is located within the City of Huntington Beach's Coastal Zone and is subject to a Local Coastal Plan (LCP). The LCP includes a land use plan and policies to be used by decision makers when reviewing coastal-related issues and proposed development within the Coastal Zone boundary. The LCP also includes the zoning ordinances, zoning district maps, specific plans, and other implementing actions. The project area is designated under P (Public) land uses and is zoned for IL (Industrial Limited) and Residential Agriculture with an Oil Overlay (RA-O). The proposed facilities may have heights that would exceed the building height allowed in the IL zoning code. The PEIR will evaluate the proposed facilities' potential to conflict with the LCP and mitigation measures will be identified to reduce impacts, if necessary.

Noise: Construction and operation of the proposed facilities within the BMP would generate noise and vibration that could potentially affect nearby sensitive receptors. The PEIR will evaluate the proximity of sensitive receptors to the proposed facilities and the potential noise and vibration increases. If it is determined that the program will have significant impacts related to noise and vibration, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Transportation and Traffic: Construction activities associated with the proposed facilities could result in short-term disruption in traffic flow along local roadways such as Brookhurst Street adjacent to Plant No. 2. Additionally, there is the potential for increased truck traffic to impede adequate emergency access. Further, program development would result in increased truck trips that may result in traffic impacts which may conflict with an existing plan, policy, ordinance, and/or congestion management program (CMP). The PEIR will evaluate the construction and operation impacts of the proposed facilities on traffic and circulation. If it is determined that the program could have significant impacts to traffic and transportation, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Tribal Cultural Resources: Tribal cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources are not currently known to occur within the project area. Further, there are no known resources that would be considered significant pursuant to subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1 within the project area. However, the project area is considered highly sensitive for subsurface archaeological resources. Therefore, there is a potential for discovery of currently unknown tribal cultural resources and resources pursuant to PRC Section 5024.91 during ground-disturbing activities associated with the BMP. These issues will be further evaluated in the PEIR. If it is determined that the proposed facilities could result in significant tribal cultural resources, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Utilities, Service Systems, and Energy: The construction and operation of the proposed facilities could result in impacts to existing utilities. The proposed facilities would not require additional water or wastewater facilities beyond those identified in the BMP; however, development of the proposed facilities may modify potable water demand within Plant No. 2. This change in demand may impact the existing available water supplies. Further, the proposed facilities could require additional drainage facilities to accommodate increases in storm water runoff due to increases in impervious services. In addition, construction activities associated with the proposed facilities could increase construction waste that could be required to be placed in a landfill.

The proposed program could also require significant amounts of energy during construction and operation of the proposed facilities, resulting in the need for new sources of energy production or upgrades to the Plant No. 2 Central Generation Facility. The construction of new or expanded energy facilities could result in environmental effects. The PEIR will assess the potential impacts of the proposed facilities on existing utilities and energy use. If it is determined that the program could have significant impacts to utilities, service systems, and/or energy, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce the impacts, where feasible.

Environmental Determination

Based on the environmental evaluation provided in the Initial Study and summarized above, OCSD has determined that the preparation of a Program EIR is appropriate to adequately address the potential environmental effects of the proposed Biosolids Master Plan.