

Public Hearing Transcripts

Letter T1. Signatory – Van Nuys Transcript

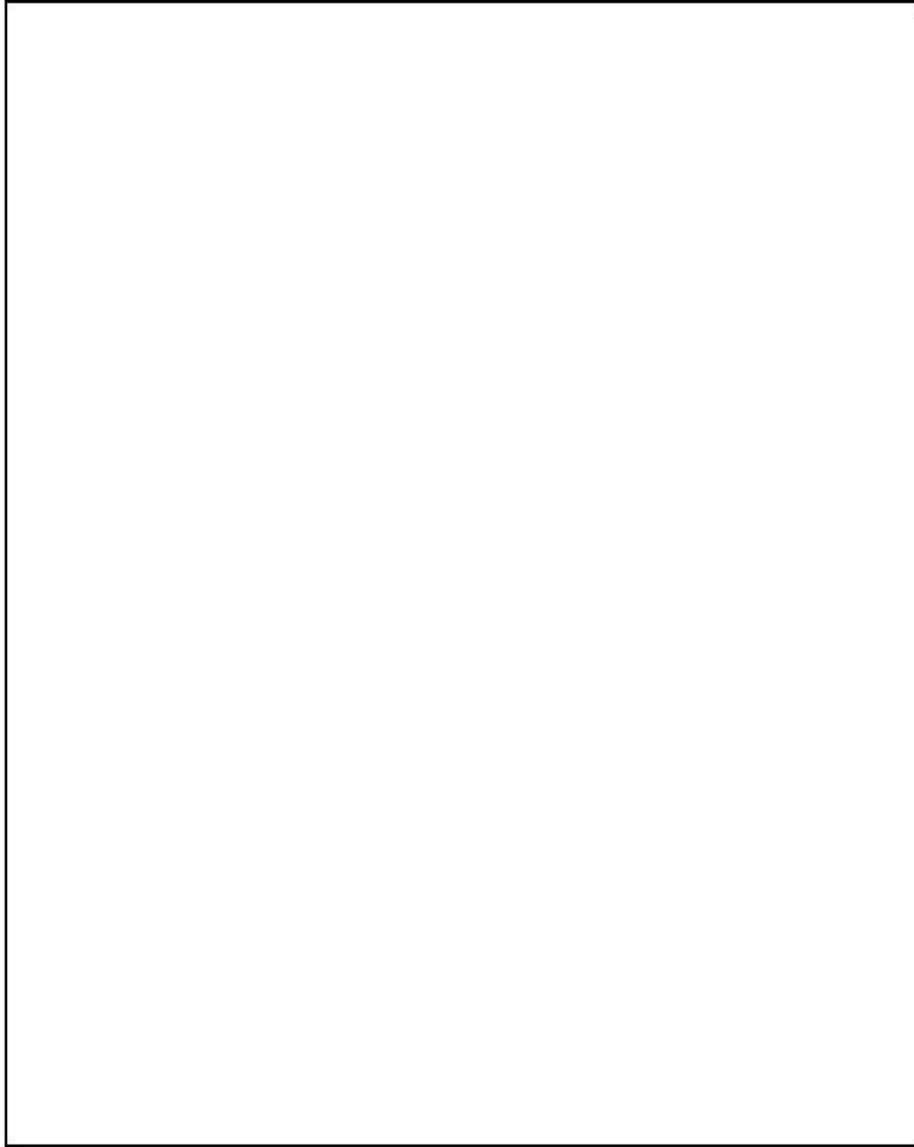
DISCLAIMER

The transcripts of the City of Los Angeles' four public hearings -- held January 4 at Van Nuys City Hall, January 7 at the Council District 11 Field office in Westchester, January 11 at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's office downtown, and January 12 at the Witherbee Auditorium -- are now available for viewing on the City's website: www.lacity-irp.org . The transcripts were prepared by certified court reporters and have been accepted by the City as reasonably accurate records of the public hearings. The City is not soliciting comments on the transcripts. The City is making the transcripts available through its website in the spirit of sharing information with those who have a common interest in the Integrated Resources Plan and its Draft Environmental Impact Report.

NEXT STEPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

The public comment period will close on March 31, 2006 and the City's environmental documentation team will begin the process of preparing the Final Environmental Impact Report. All comments -- written in letters and emails, or voiced at one of the four public hearings -- will be carefully reviewed and considered. The comments and responses to the comments will be published as a part of the Final EIR. The public will be notified as soon as the Final EIR is available.

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING**



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1 VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2006

2 -OOO-

3
4
5 THE PUBLIC HEARING TOOK PLACE AS FOLLOWS:
6

7
8
9 MR. DOTY: Good evening. My name is Jim Doty.
10 I'm an environmental supervisor with Bureau of Engineering,
11 City of Los Angeles, and I'll be the hearing officer for
12 tonight.

13 I want to thank you all for attending, in spite of
14 other distractions. I can tell you that as of a few
15 minutes ago, Texas was ahead 16 to 7 with two and a half
16 minutes left in the second quarter.

17 This is the first of four hearings the Integrated
18 Resources Plan Environmental Impact Report, the IRP EIR.

19 Simultaneous translation in Spanish is available
20 for those that need it.

21 SPANISH INTERPRETER: There is no one.

22 MR. DOTY: Okay. I hop you signed in on one of
23 the sheets near the door so we can keep you informed of
24 future developments. Also, I hope you picked up an agenda.

25 After this brief introduction, there will be a

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1 presentation of an overview of the IRP and the EIR. And
2 after that, it will be your turn to speak and our job to
3 listen.

4 Yellow speaker cards are available in the back.
5 You can fill them out if you'd like to speak, and place it
6 in the box back there or and hand it to any of the IRP Team
7 that are here.

8 IRP Team members, I'd like to you now introduce
9 yourselves. Let's start over here and proceed around the
10 room.

11 STAFF MEMBER: Enrique Gasca.

12 STAFF MEMBER: Q. Pourkazemi

13 STAFF MEMBER: I'm Jawahar Shah. I'm the EIR
14 Coordinator.

15 STAFF MEMBER: Judy Miller.

16 STAFF MEMBER: Nick Demos.

17 STAFF MEMBER: Bill Van Wagoner.

18 STAFF MEMBER: Debbie Pham.

19 STAFF MEMBER: Patty Cruz.

20 STAFF MEMBER: Louis Utsumi.

21 MR. DOTY: Okay. I'm glad to see there's more
22 members of the public here than the City Staff. You are
23 the important part of this hearing.

24 We also have forms for submitting written comments
25 back in the table. If you have a comment you would like us

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1 to consider, but do not necessarily want to speak, and if
2 later on during the proceedings you decide that you would
3 like to say something and have not filled out a speaker
4 card, you can do so at that time.

5 The City of Los Angeles' Department of Works and
6 Department Of Water and Power have worked for quite a while
7 with leaders from many organizations and agencies in
8 developing alternatives and setting priorities for the
9 City's Integrated Resources Plan.

10 This has given us the opportunity to interact
11 closely with stakeholders at many informal public meetings
12 and workshops.

13 Tonight's public hearing is different from those
14 meetings; this is a formal process. Everything said
15 tonight is being recorded by our court reporter over here,
16 and will be part of the formal record in the preparation of
17 the final environment impact document.

18 Public participation is an essential part of the
19 CEQA process. The purpose of review of EIRs include:

- 20 Sharing expertise,
- 21 disclosing agency analyses,
- 22 checking for accuracy,
- 23 detecting omissions,
- 24 discovering public concerns, and.
- 25 soliciting counter proposals.

1 We hope you will focus on whether the EIR
2 sufficiently identifies and analyzes the IRP's possible
3 environment impacts and ways in which the significant
4 effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated.
5 Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional
6 specific alternatives or mitigation measures to would
7 provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant
8 environmental effects.

9 At the same time, keep in mind that the adequacy
10 of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonably
11 feasible, in light of factors such as the magnitude of the
12 project at issue, the severity of its likely environmental
13 impact, and the geographic scope of the project.

14 CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct
15 every test or perform all research study and
16 experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters.

17 Commenters should explain the basis for their
18 comments, and should submit data or references offering
19 facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert
20 opinion supported by facts. An effect will not be
21 considered significant in the absence of substantial
22 evidence.

23 Reviewing organizations should include with their
24 comments the name of a contact person who would be
25 available for later consultation if necessary.

1 This public hearing is your opportunity to tell us
2 what you think. Our job is to listen. Tonight we will
3 receive your oral comments on the draft EIR and then move
4 on to the next speakers.

5 We will not respond to your comments tonight but
6 we will respond in writing in the final EIR. We greatly
7 appreciate your time and thought that you are putting into
8 this effort.

9 And now I would like to introduce Louis Utsumi,
10 who will provide a technical overview of the IRP and the
11 EIR.

12 MR. UTSUMI: Okay. My name is Louis Utsumi. I am
13 part of the Integrated Resources Plan Team that has worked
14 on the Environmental Impact Report.

15 What I'd like to do today is provide a brief
16 overview of alternatives that are included in the
17 Environmental Impact Report, as well as a summary of some
18 of the key impacts that we have identified in the EIR.

19 One of the unique processes or one of the unique
20 features of the Integrated Resources Plan is that the
21 alternative planning process was stakeholder driven.
22 Various community members formed a steering group which was
23 actively involved in the development of the alternatives.

24 The City of Los Angeles is expected to grow by
25 2020 by up to 800,000 persons. This poses some challenges

1 from, both, a Waste Water Management standpoint, as well as
2 recycled water, from a water provision standpoint.

3 In addition, runoff is increasingly becoming
4 regulated. So all of the IRP alternatives that were
5 developed by the stakeholders meet the future needs, as
6 well as regulatory requirements.

7 Some of the benefits of the IRP alternatives
8 include cleaner rivers and cleaner water within the river,
9 as well as oceans and beaches, and these are expected to
10 result and improve public health and safety situations.

11 The IRP alternatives also increase the amount of
12 recycled water that is used, as well as runoff that's been
13 officially reused. So we expect an increase and some
14 sustainability over time as the IRP alternatives are
15 implemented.

16 That being said, each of these alternatives are
17 actually complex packages of elements. And each
18 alternative is comprised of a different mix of various
19 waste water, recycled water, and runoff elements.

20 The waste water elements all involve capacity
21 expansions of the treatment plants, as well as new sewers
22 to meet the future needs and prevent sewage overflows.

23 And again, with the additional 800,000 people over
24 the next 20 years or so, it becomes important to adequately
25 and safely manage waste water.

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1 The recycled water elements will increase recycled
2 water usage to offset the need to import regular water. I
3 think right now about 85 percent of the City's water is
4 imported from areas or regions outside the City of Los
5 Angeles.

6 The runoff elements include features that would
7 capture and beneficially reuse runoff to reduce pollution,
8 as well as to provide additional water resources.

9 A typical half-inch storm in the City right now
10 generates over two and a half billion gallons of water, and
11 that basically flows to the ocean. So the runoff
12 components are intended to manage a portion of that runoff
13 within the City.

14 The Environmental Impact Report analyzes five
15 alternatives, four of the build alternatives, and these
16 alternatives were developed with the stakeholder group.

17 Alternative 1 is based on the expansion of
18 treatment capacity at the Hyperion Treatment Plan.

19 Alternative 2 is based on treatment capacity
20 expansion at both the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and
21 the L.A./Glendale Water Reclamation Plant.

22 Alternatives 3 and 4 are both based on expansion
23 at the Tillman Plant. And the difference being Alternative
24 3 manages less runoff than Alternative 4.

25 And Alternative 5 in the Environmental Impact

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1 Report is the no project alternative, which is specifically
2 required by California Environmental Quality Act.

3 We'd like to just point out that many of the
4 features and components are common to all of the
5 alternatives, and they include capacity expansions again at
6 one or more of the treatment plant; 3 new sewers,
7 large-diameter interceptor sewers that extend roughly from
8 Eaglerock area up to the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant;
9 storage, waste water storage at the Tillman Plant; various
10 recycled water elements, as well as dry weather and wet
11 weather runoff management features.

12 So those are common to all of the alternatives.

13 This slide is intended to show or focus in on the
14 three new sewers that are a portion of the waste water
15 improvements. We have the Northeast Interceptor Sewer
16 Phase 2. Let me back up.

17 The three new sewers are basically represented by
18 that yellow line that extends just under the L.A./Glendale
19 Water Reclamation Plant, over to the Tillman Plant.

20 The Northeast Interceptor Phase 2 represent the
21 portion of the line -- let me go over here.

22 These two, from this area to just pass the
23 L.A./Glendale Water Reclamation Plant. The
24 Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer extends from just past
25 the L.A./Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, roughly to

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1 midpoint, straight up, and that's the Toluca Lake Area.

2 And then Valley Spring Lake Interceptor Sewers extends from
3 the Toluca Lake Area over to the Tillman Reclamation Plant.

4 And we wanted to point this out because some of
5 the impacts that are common to all of the alternatives are
6 really related to one or more of these sewers.

7 Some of the differences between the alternatives
8 -- again, Alternative 1 focuses its capacity, treatment
9 plant capacity expansion at the Hyperion Plant, and it
10 would increase Hyperion's capacity from its current 450
11 million gallons per day capacity, to 500 million gallons
12 per day.

13 It would also involve a moderate level of recycled
14 water usage, I believe about 42,000 acre feet, up to 42,000
15 acre feet per year.

16 Alternative 2 would, instead, focus its treatment
17 capacity expansion more upstream within the waste water
18 system at, both, the Tillman Plant and the L.A./Glendale
19 Plant. And this alternative would involve a much higher
20 level of recycled water usage, with up to 53,000 acre feet
21 of recycled water use.

22 Alternative 3 and 4, again, both focus its
23 capacity at Tillman. Alternative 3 only involves a
24 moderate level of recycled water usage with up to 43,000
25 acre feet of water per year.

1 Alternative 3 also manages a lower level of both
2 dry water and wet weather runoff than the other 3
3 alternatives. Alternative 3 manages 26 percent of the dry
4 weather runoff, whereas the other alternatives manage
5 42 percent. And for wet weather, Alternative 3 manages
6 39 percent of runoff generated in the City, where
7 Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 all manage 47 percent.

8 And then lastly, Alternative 4, again, focuses its
9 capacity expansion at Tillman, but it uses a high level of
10 recycled water with about 56,000 or up to 56,000 acre feet
11 of water per year.

12 So that's a quick overview of the alternatives
13 that are within the EIR; granted, each of these
14 alternatives is a lot more detailed than I just mentioned,
15 and if you really want to really get more information,
16 Section 2 in the Environmental Impact Report is where
17 you'll find that information.

18 Right now I'd like to talk a little bit about
19 environmental determinations within the EIR.

20 The governing law that the City must comply with
21 is the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA. And
22 CEQA requires that decision-makers consider the
23 environmental effects of their actions, prior to making any
24 project approval or approving their actions.

25 So in the case of the IRP, City Council needs to

1 identify what those impacts are, consider them before they
2 select the project to implement.

3 When a project has a potential to cause
4 significant impact like the IRP does, then Environmental
5 Impact Reports are required to be prepared, and that's why
6 we prepared the Draft EIR that this hearing is about.

7 This next slide identifies at a glance what the
8 environmental evaluations in the EIR cover. And Section 3
9 of the EIR includes detailed evaluations in all of these
10 resource areas, from the air quality, to hazardous
11 material, to traffic and cumulative impacts.

12 This next slide introduces some of the key
13 significant impacts that the EIR has found, and the first
14 is air quality.

15 The EIR identifies a significant air quality
16 impact, both, during construction and operation. And this
17 is because construction-related emissions and operational
18 emissions exceed the emission level or the threshold levels
19 that are established by the Air Quality Management
20 District. That is considered a significant impact.

21 The EIR also identifies potentially significant
22 odor impacts at Hyperion due to increased waste water
23 treatment, as well as odor impacts at air treatment
24 facilities for the various new sewer lines.

25 And that would -- air treatment facilities

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1 basically draw air from the sewer, filter out the odor
2 compounds, and then release treated air into the
3 atmosphere. But because the sewer gases are sulfur-based
4 compounds and have a very low detection level, and closed
5 in or buried in the near vicinity to the air treatment
6 facilities, there could be odors. And because of that, the
7 EIR identifies significant odor impacts associated with air
8 treatment facilities.

9 The EIR also identifies significant impacts to
10 cultural resources; namely, archeological and
11 paleontological resources, which are basically buried
12 resources, which locations are currently unknown. So the
13 only way to find these resources is if they are
14 encountered, most likely during construction. And if
15 construction does damage to those resources, that is
16 considered to be a significant impact.

17 Other significant impacts are related to geology
18 and soils. Southern California is prone to earthquakes
19 because of the numerous faults that exist in the region.

20 One of the earthquake faults in the Northeast L.A.
21 Area is the Hollywood Raymond Fault, and Northeast
22 Interceptor Sewer Phase 2 is actually going to cross that
23 fault. And because of that, there's a potential for
24 earthquakes to damage or rupture this sewer, and that's
25 identified as a potential significant geology-related

1 impact.

2 There's also a potential for new sewers to cause
3 settlement at the surface as the sewers are being
4 constructed underground and as the tunneling machine
5 advances. And that, again, is identified as a significant
6 impact in the EIR.

7 There are numerous construction sites associated
8 with NEIS and GBIS that are proposed for recreational areas
9 or in recreational areas, and those constructions sites
10 would reduce the amount of recreational area that is
11 available during construction, and that's considered to be
12 a significant impact.

13 There's also permanent facilities, such as our
14 treatment facilities, that are proposed for recreational
15 areas, because they would result in a reduction in area and
16 probably use of a recreational area; that's considered to
17 be a significant environmental impact.

18 The remaining 2 impacts that are identified as
19 significant after mitigation in the EIR are parking impacts
20 at the Los Angeles Zoo, as well as ground water quality --
21 potential ground water quality impacts.

22 One of the construction sites, as proposed for,
23 both, NEIS II and GBIS would occur in the parking lot of
24 the Los Angeles Zoo. And if that indeed is selected, then
25 there could be a reduction -- there would be a reduction in

1 parking spaces at the L.A. Zoo on the order of about 225
2 spaces. That's during construction, but that's still
3 considered to be significant.

4 And from a water quality standpoint, because of
5 the seismic activity in the area, there's always a
6 possibility that these sewers could break during an
7 earthquake, and if that occurs and if waste water gets into
8 the ground water, that's considered to be a potentially
9 significant impact to ground water quality.

10 So this basically summarizes what the significant
11 environmental impacts are that are identified in the EIR
12 after mitigation.

13 Section 3 of the EIR contains a lot more detailed
14 information than what I just presented right now in all of
15 the resource areas that were mentioned earlier. So if you
16 have an interest, I urge you to pay attention and review
17 the information in Section 3 of the EIR.

18 Okay. What are the next steps?

19 In addition to this public hearing, there are 3
20 additional public hearings. The first one is in West Los
21 Angeles on Saturday, January 7th, at the Council District
22 11 Offices. The next one would be in Downtown at the
23 Department The Water and Power auditorium on Wednesday,
24 January 11th. And the last would be at the L.A. Zoo in the
25 auditorium on Thursday, January 12th.

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1 Comments on the Draft EIR are due on February
2 27th; that's a little over a month and a half from now.
3 All of the comments that are submitted, the City will
4 formally respond to those in writing, and incorporate those
5 into the Final EIR, which is expected in Spring of 2006,
6 and then Staff is expected to make a recommendation, to
7 City Staff, to certify a Final EIR and to recommend an IRP
8 alternative for implementation and approval in Summer of
9 2006.

10 Just a reminder, comments on this Draft EIR are
11 due February 27th. You can send it through the US Postal
12 Service to Jawar Shau at that address, or you can also
13 submit comments by e-mail to the e-mail address at the
14 bottom of the slide.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DOTY: Thank you, Louis.

17 Now it is your turn to speak and our turn to
18 listen. First, a few ground rules. We will go through the
19 speaker cards, and I have quite a few here. If you have
20 not submitted a card, you may do so at any time prior to
21 the close of the hearing. When you are called upon to
22 speak, please begin by stating your name, and if you are
23 representing an agency or group, please tell us the name of
24 the group. Please speak clearly so your concerns can be
25 recorded accurately, and please limit your comments to

1 around 3 minutes. Speakers can return, time permitting,
2 after all the other speakers have been accommodated.

3 Okay. The score is now Texas 16, USC 10, and I
4 believe they're in a half break.

5 We have a chair and microphone set up here so we
6 can make sure that everyone can be heard. I apologize, the
7 microphone cords were a lot shorter than what we would have
8 liked. So the microphone could only get over to this
9 corner here. I apologize to you folks who are sitting on
10 the other side of the room.

11 Our first speaker is Mr. Gerald Silver.

12 SPEAKER 1: Good evening. I'm Gerald Silver,
13 President of Homeowners of Encino, Post Office Box 260205,
14 Encino, California.

15 I've submitted a copy of our formal comments in
16 writing, so I'm not going to go over those; I assume
17 they'll become part of the record. But I just want to
18 stress several specific points; maybe they are not well
19 covered in that or need to be looked at.

20 First, I want to say that the Sepulveda Basin is
21 the worst possible choice to do the expansion, and that's 3
22 out of your 4 alternatives.

23 Clearly, we in The Valley, many of our residents,
24 would support expansion at Hyperion, if expansion is going
25 to take place. We think it's much less of a problem.

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1 And that brings me to the fact that the Steering
2 Committee was very, very biased in our opinion, because it
3 has substantial number of residents from the south of the
4 Santa Monica Mountains, and the result is that they were
5 quick to make a recommendation that all the development
6 should be done upstream. I realize that these are not
7 environmental issues, but I just want them for the record.

8 The second point I want to make is with respect to
9 marginal costs. A lot of this project involves a lot of
10 expansion. I realize you're looking at the environmental
11 consequences, not economic consequences.

12 But in our view, that the additional costs, the
13 marginal costs for the extra water process -- acre foot or
14 what, should be borne by the new user. It's simply unfair
15 to have a large expansion of the system and then distribute
16 the costs equally to all the rate payers.

17 We feel that bringing in huge amounts of
18 development, new users on the line should be the ones to
19 pay that larger costs.

20 Third, we would not like to see a statement
21 overriding considerations issued at the end of this
22 process. If you've already outlined a number of
23 environmental impacts that are unavoidable as a result of
24 this, and our view is an expansion is not an appropriate
25 process; it brings in more users onto the system, and we

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Response to Comment T1-1

The IRP does not include reservoirs as a component. Security at Hyperion, Tillman and LAG is discussed in Section 3.15 of the Draft EIR. Additional discussion regarding security concerns can be found in the response to the Homeowners of Encino (O7-15). Comment noted.

1 would not favor -- after going through this whole
2 environmental process, to say, Oh, well, we can't do
3 anything about it, so we're just going to accept the
4 problems with the overriding considerations.

5 Another point I want to bring forth is that
6 there's a gross lack of security discussion in this entire
7 document. That's because the whole thing was developed and
8 cast prior to 911. And as we kind of look at this and
9 consider the vulnerabilities of the system, everywhere from
10 the obvious resources, such as reservoirs, but there's
11^{T1-1} really no discussions. For instance, a terrorist attacking
12 one of the sewer lines, even some of the new lines being
13 proposed between the Valley and Hyperion, for example, they
14 could basically shut down virtually every toilet that might
15 flush in the Valley or overflowing and so on. That needs
16 to be addressed; it was totally overlooked, and I realize
17 that's because this came up after this process was started.

18 Finally, I want to say -- this is the 5th point,
19 other than the points in the documents -- and that is,
20 there is a -- first, I want to compliment the Public Works
21 by saying this is a new approach. Because in the past
22 20 years ago, Public Works just decided what to do and they
23 went ahead and did it without consulting the public. This
24 is a new approach. You've reached out with multiple
25 meetings of different levels, and that's very positive.

Response to Comment T1-2

1 However, I do not feel -- our group does not feel
 T1-2
 2 -- that there's been adequate public outreach. We're
 3 talking about major multi billion dollar expansion of the
 4 system. We've got about -- several dozen people in this
 5 room, maybe less that are speakers, maybe more that are
 6 public employees.

7 But what I'd like to see avoided is another
 8 debacle such as toilets to tap. That's where we went
 9 through all the steps, we did it all legally and proper and
 10 eight people showed up, and the City went ahead and spent
 11 \$55 million and put a pipeline in, and then the sewage hit
 12 the fan. And as you know, now we've got a pipe that's not
 13 being used.

14 And I think before you become too secure in
 15 feeling that the process is adequate and complete, that
 16 there needs to be much more public exposure, and that means
 17 paid advertising, if need be, in the newspaper that
 18 explains the huge impacts, for example, that would take
 19 place in the Sepulveda Basin.

20 Because what you would not want to see is a large
 21 turnout of residents around the basin, that years later,
 22 when the whole process is finished, that says, wait a
 23 minute, we don't want to see a 60 million gallon tank in
 24 the basin, and whatever disruptions for these pipelines and
 25 so on.

Comment noted. As described in detail in Section 1.6 of the Draft EIR, the City of Los Angeles has undertaken an extensive public outreach and coordination effort prior to and during the preparation of both the Facilities Plan and the Draft EIR. For instance, a notice announcing the availability of the Notice of Preparation of the EIR was published in the *Los Angeles Times*, on July 29, 2004. In addition, a public scoping meeting was held. Since the release of the Draft EIR, several forms of public notification occurred, as well as four public hearings were held throughout the City of Los Angeles. For details of public outreach associated with the Draft EIR refer to Section 1.2 of this Final EIR.

Response to Comment T1-2(B)

Regarding a response to your concerns over the GBIS North Alignment, refer to response to the City of Burbank comments – AJ1, AJ13, AJ22, AJ30, AJ31, AJ32, and AJ36. In addition, the City has combined the two GBIS alignments to reduce concerns about potential impacts associated with either GBIS alignment (as expressed in comments submitted on the Draft EIR), has selected this alignment as preferred, and is recommending it for approval (see Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR). Comment noted.

1 Our comments are in this document, and if you need
2 an extra copy, I have them available.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DOTY: Thank you very much.

5 Rodney Anderson?

6 SPEAKER 2: Good evening. My name is Rodney
7 Anderson. I represent the City of Burbank. City Council
8 has sent me here tonight. And the address is 275 East
9 Olive Avenue, Burbank, 91510.

10 I was sent by the City of Burbank, City Council,
11 to speak to you tonight, we are putting together a detailed
12 comment letter on the Draft EIR.

13 I'm not at liberty right now to go through all the
14 detailed points of that letter, since our City Council has
15 not reviewed it.

16 MR. DOTY: You have time.

17 RODNEY ANDERSON: Yes. And we have put together
18 the draft, and we are going before our City Council the
19 17th of this month to go over those details. But they have
20 given me instructions to make the overall message clear.
21 And the message they have sent is: The north alignment of
22 the Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer should be rejected.

23 There are many more environmental impacts on the
24 north alignment of the Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer
25 than on the south alignment. And it's interesting that

T1-2(B)

Response to Comment T1-3

Regarding a response to your concerns over the GBIS North Alignment, refer to response to the City of Burbank comments – AJ1, AJ13, AJ22, AJ30, AJ31, AJ32, and AJ36. In addition, the City has combined the two GBIS alignments to reduce concerns about potential impacts associated with either GBIS alignment (as expressed in comments submitted on the Draft EIR), has selected this alignment as preferred, and is recommending it for approval (see Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR). Comment noted.

1 these impacts are almost entirely felt by Burbank residents
2 on an L.A. project.

3 And our City Council wants to make it clear that
4 we adamantly oppose the north alignment, and believe the
5 southern alignment would have much less impacts and would
6 accomplish the same purpose that the north one would.

7 Again, we will be putting together a detailed
8 letter and we'll be submitting that shortly; but I can
9 assure you that that will be the thrust of it.

10 That we believe the Final EIR should reject the
11 north alignment and declare it environmentally
12 unacceptable.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

15 Sonia Boyd.

16 SPEAKER 3: Good evening. I am a resident of the
17 Burbank Rancho Area, and I wrote something that I would
18 like to present, which is possibly not as factual in nature
19 as might be presented, but is more of an emotional
20 presentation, but I would like to read it anyway.

21 "My strongly held conviction
22 that the proposed route for
23 the necessary sewer system be
24 placed on the south side of
25 the 134 Freeway is for many

1 reasons. The most compelling
2 is based on a lifestyle and a
3 unique community where I live,
4 the Rancho District, a
5 community that is truly unique
6 in the Southern California
7 Area. Residents who include
8 men and women of all ages,
9 children, horses, dogs, cats,
10 and even a few stray coyote,
11 live in a 'country-fied'
12 environmental where the sound
13 of clip-clopping of horses'
14 hooves can be heard most times
15 of the day and sometimes in
16 the evening. A place many of
17 the above end up coming to is
18 the area known as the
19 Pollywog, where horses are
20 exercised and ridden, children
21 learn to ride, dogs run and
22 sniff, and adults walk. I
23 have lived across from the
24 Pollywog in this wonderful way
25 of life for 40 years in the

T1-3

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1 same home, and know that it
2 has a longer history than
3 that. It would be a terrible
4 shame to change all of this
5 for the Rancho forever by
6 digging in the area, breathing
7 constant dirt in the air,
8 having constant noise, and
9 placing a huge plant in this
10 Pollywog, which by
11 acknowledgment of the
12 Environmental Study by the
13 South Coast Quality Management
14 District, would exceed the
15 threshold for all area
16 pollutants and odor and
17 completely change a way of
18 life that doesn't have to
19 happen if the south side of
20 the freeway is used as the
21 necessary path of the sewer
22 system. It may be true that
23 during the digging of the
24 system in that area, some
25 entities will be

T1-3

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1 inconvenienced; however, at
2 the end of the project, there
3 will not be a noticeable
4 change in the way of life on
5 that side of the freeway.
6 There will not be a disruption
7 in traffic or in the commerce
8 that takes place. The place
9 will remain the same. That
10 cannot be said if the other
11 route on the north side is
12 used. A change will occur
13 that would be devastating to
14 hundreds of inhabitants
15 changing a life-long dream in
16 a unique piece of Southern
17 California. The changes that
18 would occur include another
19 meaningful and unfortunate
20 factual impact which is loss
21 real estate values to the
22 Rancho Area, and would, of
23 course, not happen if the
24 route was on the south side of
25 the freeway.

T1-3

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1 Please view the whole
2 project in the manner which
3 allows a really wonderful way
4 of life to continue for
5 hundreds of grateful and
6 deserving Burbank residents
7 and their descendants. I also
8 would like to submit a
9 document which was sent as a
10 carbon copy to you by Eric
11 Esparia, and it does list the
12 differences in terms of the
13 entities that would be
14 affected.

15 Construction at the southern
16 alignment would increase noise
17 levels by 5 DBA or more, at
18 approximately 88 single-family
19 residents, 19 multi-family
20 residential buildings, 2
21 schools, 2 churches, 4 parks,
22 and one other sensitive
23 receptor, but I'm not sure
24 what that refers to.

25 The northern alignment is as

T1-3

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Response to Comment T1-4

Comment noted. Refer to response to comment O21-1 regarding concerns related to use of Woodbridge Park. As detailed in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the City is recommending the Caltrans Maintenance Yard as the western terminus of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment.

1 follows:

2 This alignment would increase
3 noise levels by 5 DBA or more
4 at approximately 175
5 single-family residences, as
6 opposed to 88, 47 multi-family
7 residential buildings, as
8 opposed to 19, 2 schools, 1
9 church and 5 parks.

10 And we do hope that you will
11 take that into consideration
12 and I thank you very much for
13 your time. Thank you."

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

16 Christopher Olsen?

17 SPEAKER 4: Hi, my name is Christopher Olsen. I'm
18 representing the Office of L.A. City Council Member Wendy
19 Greuel, from the Second Council District.

20 Our comment tonight is limited to the
21 Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer Alignment, either of the
22 alignments, that would involve a proposed shaft site
23 constructed at Woodbridge Park.

24 There are 2 alternatives that have been prosed.
25 One is construct the shaft site at Woodbridge Park; the

1 other at the Caltrans yard in North Hollywood.

2 Council Member Greuel strongly opposes using any
3 recreational facility, including Woodbridge Park, for this
4 purpose, and would accordingly strongly support and work
5 with departments to favor the selection of the Caltrans
6 yard site, as it would not take away a very important
7 recreational resource for Studio City Council District and
8 the entire surrounding community, especially a park that
9 has recently been upgraded with Prop 8 funds and other
10 public funds to improve it, which would be lost by using it
11 as the shaft site.

12 Those are the comments. Thanks. And my phone
13 number is (818) 755-7676, offices at 6350 Laurel Canyon
14 Boulevard, Suite 201, North Hollywood, 91606.

15 Thanks.

16 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

17 Denise Taylor?

18 SPEAKER 5: My name is Denise Taylor and I live
19 probably 75 feet from the proposed Valley Heart shaft site,
20 future home of the air treatment facility plant.

21 I visited 5 of these plants today and I was pretty
22 shocked by what I saw. Esthetically, they do not fit in a
23 neighborhood surrounded by homes. This facility would be
24 next door to 2 homes, and it would be my view out of my
25 living room window. There was a horrid odor coming from

Response to Comment T1-5

Comment noted. Several engineering factors went into the siting of the proposed sewer shaft sites and aboveground structures (e.g., location related to area needing infrastructure, public vs. private rights-of-way, vacant parcels, access for construction and operation, etc.). Various issue and resource portions of Section 3 of the Draft EIR address in detail the potential impacts of the construction of shaft sites and the operation of aboveground facilities (i.e., ATFs) as it relates to the potential aesthetic (Section 3.2 of Draft EIR), land use (Section 3.12) and recreational impacts (Section 3.16) on adjacent land uses. Project features and mitigation measures (such as AES-MM-3, AES-MM-4, REC-MM-3 and REC-MM-5) have been included to reduce the impacts. In addition, refer to response to comment AJ1-4 regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed shaft site and ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment does not include a shaft site or ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog.

Response to Comment T1-6

Section 3.4 of the Draft EIR addresses potential odor impacts associated with wastewater infrastructure (i.e., treatment plants and ATFs). Refer to response to comment AJ1-6 regarding the potential odor effects associated with the proposed shaft site and ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog. Comment noted.

Response to Comment T1-7

Comment noted. The potential impacts associated with the construction (i.e. shaft sites) and operation (i.e., ATFs) of the sewer on adjacent land uses is described in detail in Section 3 of the Draft EIR, and where appropriate includes project features and mitigation measures to reduce impacts. Measures include constructing a 20-foot-high construction barrier and placing the shaft site furthest from residences and recreational uses as possible. Refer to response to comments AJ1-4, AJ1-15 and AJ36-10 for an additional discussion of the potential impacts associated with the Valley Heart Shaft Site, including vibration and equestrian impacts. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment does not include a shaft site or ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog.

1 these plants that could have knocked you down. I can't see
2 breathing every breath, that type of smell.

T1-6
31-7
3 Further, if we just back up and think about the
4 construction project, this neighborhood is heavily impacted
5 with horses and animals. I don't know how you explain to a
6 horse, who's in a very small backyard stall, what that
7 vibration is about, and then I don't know what the sound
8 will be either. As well as the safety of the animals that
9 have to be exercised and pass this construction site on a
10 daily basis.

11 The Pollywog field, which is known to you as the
12 Valley Heart shaft site, is a natural equestrian park. It
13 is where we look out our windows and we see horses, and we
14 see people stretching to go on their runs in the morning,
15 and we see dogs playing happily. And to think that that
16 would forever be taken away from us and replaced with an
17 unsightly air treatment facility, is just completely
18 unacceptable.

19 It belongs in the areas where I visited today and
20 saw these air treatment facilities. They were in
21 industrial areas, train yards were next door, the flood
22 control channel was there, there were bridges and freeways,
23 and not homes, not residences.

24 And I really don't choose to breathe that everyday
25 of my life.

Response to Comment T1-8

Comment noted. The potential for the proposed GBIS project component to impact adjacent land uses, including recreation, is detailed in Sections 3.12 and 3.16 of the Draft EIR, respectively. Measures have been included for the various issues and resources to reduce potential impacts during construction and operation, For instance, as detailed in Sections 3.2.4.4 and 3.16.2.3 of the Draft EIR, the potential impacts of the shaft sites and operational features (i.e., ATFs) related the proposed sewer alignments include various mitigation measures to reduce impacts on recreation and recreational users, such as the placement of the shaft site as far from residences and recreational uses as possible. Refer to response to comments AJ1-4 and AJ1-19 for an additional discussion regarding Pollywog. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment does not include a shaft site or ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

3 Lisa Dyson?

4 SPEAKER 6: Good evening. I'm Lisa; I'm a Burbank
5 resident. I'm just asking the City of Los Angeles to
6 support the southern alignment of the GBIS. The proposed
7 northern alignment's site, which has been referred to as a
8 dirt lot, and is known to the residents as Pollywog, is
9 actually a recreational area for a residential
10 neighborhood, for a lot of families with children that use
11 that area for playing, and kids are playing ball out there,
12 and people are walking their dogs in that area, and people
13 are exercising their horses there.

14 We're just asking to please consider placing it
15 where it will impact the fewest number of people, and that
16 would be the southern alignment.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

19 Connor Everts?

20 SPEAKER 7: Thank you. My name is Connor Everts.
21 I'm the Executive Director of the Southern California Water
22 Alliance. I'm glad to see that there is a turnout. I have
23 followed this issue for a long time, and I'm promoting the
24 full use of reclaimed water. I will submit written
25 comments, given more time to review all of it. I've heard

Response to Comment T1-9

1 some good strong comments about the south alignment here.
 2 But after participating in the potential for maximizing our
 3 reclaimed water usage, which if people don't realize, the
 4 alternative is the water is going to go down the river
 5 anyway, and the water is going to end up in the ocean
 6 anyway, so any opportunity we have to expand treatment,
 7 expand recharge, minimize both the dry weather and the
 8 storm water runoff, and think of the possibilities for
 9 making use of that water -- as we've seen in the last 5
 10 years, we've gone from our driest winter on record, to our
 11 wettest winter on record. This year we had a early wet
 12 October and then very dry, and these -- almost 2 inches all
 13 at once.

14 Given that we have these kind of flashy
 15 conditions, given the climate change makes it alter our
 16 water supplies, I think we really need to talk more about
 17 how we can increase our local water resources, and how to
 18 do that.

19 T1-9 Generally, I also think we should think how we can
 20 maximize conservation. I attended the meetings here, and
 21 there was water management plan. I know these are separate
 22 issues, and yet, they should be integrated more. I think
 23 there should be an opportunity for more discussion and
 24 education at these hearings, as well. We get people with
 25 different levels of knowledge, and this is an opportunity

The IRP presents four Project Alternatives to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020, while integrating recycled water and runoff systems. The benefit of water conservation, reuse and replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP (as described in Section 1.3 of Draft EIR), and several of the proposed program-level components are water conservation measures (i.e., smart irrigation and recycled water reuse); however, the emphasis of this project is wastewater. As described in Section 4.2.4 of the Draft EIR, the proposed infrastructure improvements of whichever alternative is chosen would be based on “trigger” flows that would drive the timing of the construction of the improvements. Water conservation efforts would help drive these trigger flows. Though the IRP components were based on an extensive facilities plan process, the components carried through as components analyzed in the Draft EIR do not limit or hinder the City from pursuing other alternatives or methods of water conservation or management. Comment noted.

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Response to Comment T1-10

Section 3.8 of the Draft EIR addressed Environmental Justice issues. In addition, as described in Section 4.2.4 of the Draft EIR, the proposed infrastructure improvements of whichever alternative is chosen would be based on “trigger” flows that would drive the timing of the construction of the improvements. Comment noted.

1 to discuss the issues further.

2 But really, I think there's a lot more we can do
3 with conservation, which would potentially reduce the
4 potential expansion needed. I don't think we can assume
5 that conservation won't continue to create a relatively
6 flat demand as it has since 1980.

7 However, I think the Sepulveda Dam Basin, and the
8 current recreations we get out of Lake Balboa and the
9 wildlife pond, birds that come through there, these are
10 residents of Encino, and I think that those can be
11 expanded, as well.

12 I think we should look at some other opportunities
13 for conservation, including dual meters for landscaping,
14 which would benefit residents of the Valley. They're
15 essentially charged a sewer rate based on what comes in
16 through their water meters. And if they are reusing water
17 on-site, or if we improve our water opportunities on-site,
18 we can make better use of that.

19 There's also a lot left to be done with commercial
20 industrial programs.

21 And in terms of the environmental justice impacts,
22 I think there's more work that can be done on that, and
23 certainly, we need to look at community-based organizations
24 and implementation mechanism to do water conservation, and
25 I have to give them credit as well.

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Response to Comment T1-10(B)

The IRP presents four Project Alternatives to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020, while integrating recycled water and runoff systems. The benefit of water conservation, recycled water reuse, and possible groundwater replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP (as described in Section 1.3 of Draft EIR) and are included in the Project Alternatives described in Section 2 of the Draft EIR. If the City decides to pursue groundwater replenishment in the future, use of the East Valley Water Reclamation facilities to distribute advanced treated recycled water (MF/RO/UV) will be considered at that time.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

3 Dorothy Green?

4 SPEAKER 8: My name is Dorothy Green. I'm
5 Secretary of Power Public Commissions for Water
6 Environmental Reform, and in that capacity I've chaired
7 major water policy conference in the state. This year was
8 the 15th year of this water policy conference.

9 MR. DOTY: Can you all hear?

10 SEATED PARTICIPANTS: No.

11 DOROTHY GREEN: I'm also President of the Los
12 Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, that's
13 concerned with water also on the Board of the California
14 Water Impact Network, the only nonprofit in the state
15 that's working solely on statewide water policy issues. I
16 also was privileged to serve on the Steering Committee for
17 the IRP Phase 1, and I really want to praise the Department
18 for organizing the way the Steering Committee was operated
19 and the work that was done by that Committee. All the
20 activists that could be found anywhere in the City were
21 invited to join, and we had over a hundred people that
22 represented a broad spectrum of the community, people from
23 every part of the City and from every walk of life, and
24 there were very few of us active environmentalists, I think
25 maybe 3 or 4 out of that hundred.

T1-10(B)

1 But yet, they came out with a plan that I think is
2 extraordinary. And I'm delighted to see that we're finally
3 beginning to implement what came out of that process.

4 I'm also just about finished writing a book on
5 water policy in this state with emphasis on how it's
6 managed here in the greater L.A. Area.

7 The one thing that has come through loud and clear
8 from putting this book together, just looking at how the
9 water system is managed, is two things, really clear.

10 First of all, none of our water supply systems can
11 deliver as promised. Every single one is compromised,
12 either for environmental reasons or for water quality
13 reasons. And as a result, we really do have to maximize,
14 using all of our local resources as much as possible. I
15 mean that thought of maximizing local resources comes from
16 every source, everybody who has looked that had to manage
17 water resources in this state, that's conclusion that has
18 drawn consensus, and I can give you a list of some of the
19 places in my written testimony.

20 The other idea that has developed total consensus
21 among everybody who's studied water policy or is involved
22 in it in the state, is that we really have to work at a
23 regional level and work cooperatively with other agencies,
24 and work in an integrated fashion. That's one of the
25 reasons why I'm so delighted with this total integrated

T1-10(B)

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1 planning process.

2 Maximizing our local resources means maximizing
3 the use of storm water. The Los Angeles and San Gabriel
4 Rivers Watershed Council has been working for a number of
5 years now, together with the City Sanitation Engineers.
6 There are ten participants in the study to see just how we
7 can do that and what impact, capturing rain where it falls,
8 and getting it into the ground to augment our drinking
9 water supply. What is that going to do to ground water
10 quality. That part of this study has now been completed,
11 and if anything, water quality's improved by going through
12 the soil. So the soil does act as an additional purifier
13 to anything that we can possibly use.

14 Conservation is critically important. As Connor
15 Everett said, we can reduce the amount of waste water that
16 the sewage treatment plant have to treat if we're really
17 serious about conservation, and that needs to be really
18 given a lot more attention than it has been.

19 And waste water reuse, we now have the technology
20 to clean it up with reverse osmosis and microfiltration, to
21 clean it up so that it's almost potable. To throw that
22 source of water away, after we've invested so much money in
23 cleaning it up just doesn't make either economic or
24 environmental sense.

25 We're reusing water all the time. What do people

T1-10(B)

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1 think is in the Colorado River water, one of the sources of
2 supply. The sewage from Las Vegas, the sewage from
3 Laughlin, the sewage from a lot of other cities that take
4 water from the river, treat it, and put it back in the
5 river.

6 The same thing happens in the Sacramento San
7 Joaquin Rivers Delta, all the cities around that delta take
8 water from it, treat the sewage, put it back in the delta.

9 So we're reusing water all the time, anyway. I've
10 heard it said that the Mississippi River is used and reused
11 7 times before it gets to the Gulf of Mexico.

12 So this whole toilet to tap nonsense really needs
13 to be dealt with and dealt with up front. We have the
14 technology to clean that water up, and using the ground as
15 the final treatment by spraying it, the East Valley Project
16 really needs to be turned on. It should have reverse
17 osmosis put on it. But then, by spreading it, allowing it
18 to go through the soil, into the ground water, the soil's
19 treatment, finishes the job of cleaning that up, and we
20 need that source of supply, to clean up our waste water and
21 then throw it away into the ocean just doesn't make sense,
22 either environmental or economically.

23 So I guess that's the end of my message. We do
24 need to use our local water resources to the maximum, and
25 those resources include storm water, waste water reuse,

T1-10(B)

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Response to Comment T1-11

Comment noted. Refer to response to comment O21-1 regarding concerns related to use of Woodbridge Park. As detailed in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the City is recommending the Caltrans Maintenance Yard as the western terminus of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment.

1 conservation, and ground water management.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 MR. DOTY: Tiffany Petrock.

4 SPEAKER 9: Hello, my name is Tiffany Petrock.

5 I'm at the 4180 Cleon Avenue, Studio City, 91602. And I'm
6 here representing the Studio City Residents Association, as
7 well as a concerned neighbor, as I'm 2 blocks from
8 Woodbridge Park, which is one of the proposed sites for
9 shaft air treatment facility.

10 I'm here to actually oppose Woodbridge Park as the
11 site for the shaft in favor of the Caltrans facility that
12 lies just to the east of Oakwood School. There's a number
13 of reasons.

14 No. 1 is, in your list of significant
15 environmental impacts odors of an ATF is a concern. And
16 given that Woodbridge Park is neighbored by single-family
17 residents, both in the west and to the south, multi-family
18 units north -- a church on the north, and a school on the
19 eastside, where as Caltrans is neighbored by the 101
20 Freeway to the east -- partly to the south -- the park's on
21 the south side, and part of the church parking lot on the
22 north side. The odor impact of the Caltrans facility will
23 be less on the neighborhood or less on the neighbors, shall
24 I say.

25 Also, construction noise is a concern for the

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1 neighbors, specifically at Woodbridge Park, given the
2 number of neighbors that -- well, for the park versus the
3 Caltrans site.

4 I also noticed in the executive summary here that
5 land use was listed as less significant as far as neighbor
6 community disruption, and I know that the recreational
7 impact of the park site was noted under recreational
8 impact, but I did want to also express that, in my opinion,
9 the community would be disrupted by the installation of the
10 shaft at Woodbridge Park versus the Caltrans site.

11 The park is used not only by the community, people
12 walk there daily and I usually walk there daily with my
13 dogs, and once I have my baby, I'm sure I'll be there more
14 frequently. And then, also by the school. The school uses
15 it for their gym activities, and also after school, many of
16 the parents stay around while their children play with
17 playground equipment.

18 And then finally, as Council Greuel's office
19 indicated, recently there was a large construction project
20 at Woodbridge Park using Prop K funds, as well as other
21 City funds, and it seems a shame to waste that work and
22 tear up the park once again for a facility that will
23 interrupt that recreational use.

T1-11
24 Thank you.

25 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

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Response to Comment T1-12

Potential impacts to Griffith Park are discussed in Section 3.16, Recreation, of the Draft EIR. Section 1.6 of the Draft EIR discusses the Steering Group involvement in the IRP alternatives development process. In addition, refer to Appendix B of the IRP Facilities Plan for a summary of the Steering Group process.

1 Nicola Ellis?

2 SPEAKER 10: My name is Nicola Ellis, and I'm from
3 the Burbank Rancho Area. I just have questions tonight
4 because I really don't understand.

5 I don't understand how long this has been going on
6 and how we don't know about it. I know you find it amusing
7 of the quite of people that turned up, but for a project of
8 this size, we should have hundreds of people coming out and
9 listening to you tonight. This is a serious impact on
10 everybody here.

11 I wonder how this is supposed to be impacting
12 Griffith Park. I'm hearing the major development --
13 Griffith Park planned and is this also to help support this
14 development.

15 I want to know who the stakeholder group is, who
16 are they and what's it made up of? I don't understand who
17 these people are who are making these decisions.

18 This gentleman here very kindly gave us some
19 serious impact concerns. I don't understand why we're
20 discussing it; it seems to be a no-brainer. It has a huge
21 impact on the environment, on the health and on the safety,
22 if we're worrying about earthquakes and seismic problems.

23 I understand that when ABC Disney built their
24 building there on Riverside Drive, off of the freeway's
25 exit at Buena Vista, they were building, doing the

Response to Comment T1-13

As described in detail in Section 3.10 of the Draft EIR, contaminated soil and groundwater is expected to be encountered during the installation of the proposed NEIS II and GBIS alignments. These affected areas are well delineated for groundwater contamination, which is currently undergoing cleanup by the EPA and other state agencies, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Although the construction of the NEIS II and GBIS components could require dewatering, which could expose the public or the environment to hazardous materials, this hazard would be reduced to less than significant by following applicable regulations (i.e., Health and Safety Plans, OSHA guidelines). In addition, if avoidance of contaminated soil and groundwater plumes (by going around or tunneling below in bedrock) is not feasible, water produced by dewatering will be tested and treated prior to discharge, and construction methods that minimize dewatering (such as earth-pressure-balance tunneling) will be used. All of these methods were successfully used during the recent NEIS-ERIS project. In addition, refer to response to comments AJ1-2, AJ1-28 through AJ1-30 and AJ1-33 for an additional discussion of the potential for groundwater contamination along the GBIS alignments. Comment noted.

Response to Comment T1-14

The City of Los Angeles is responsible for managing wastewater generated at residential, commercial, and industrial land uses in its service areas. Because no wastewater is generated in unpopulated areas, no wastewater infrastructure is proposed for unpopulated areas. In addition, as the proposed NEIS II and GBIS are intended to relieve the existing NOS, one of the most important considerations for the new sewer is that it be in proximity of the existing NOS and wastewater users. Comment noted.

1 subterranean garage and hit contaminated water. So they
2 had to stop, couldn't go down as far as they wanted to.
T1-13 3 You're actually planning on doing it in the exact same
4 area, contaminated water. It's been proven and it's in the
5 records. Why do you want to disturb that?

6 Why aren't you looking in unpopulated areas? If
7 you're spending this kind of money to build these sewer
T1-14 8 pipes, why didn't you represent it into putting it into
9 unpopulated areas?

10 I think you mentioned -- somebody mentioned that
11 we had our driest winter and our wettest winter on record.
12 Do you know why? You're impacting the environment; you're
13 imbalancing the environment; you're imbalancing Mother
14 Nature.

15 These hurricanes are actually Mother Nature's way
16 of disbursing water where water is needed. You cannot
17 change that, but you can impact it. You need to work with
18 Mother Nature; it is extremely important for the future of
19 this planet, not just Los Angeles.

20 As the lady said earlier, the University has
21 already told you that water can be cleaned through the
T1-15 22 soil, so I'm not understanding why we're not looking into
23 more of these kinds of opportunities.

T1-16 24 We're talking about waste water and the increase
25 in waste water; we really need to look at why it's waste

Response to Comment T1-15

Comment noted. The IRP Project Alternatives include the use of treatment wetlands and/or capture and percolation strategies to manage urban runoff. These components, described in Section 2 of the Draft EIR, would remove pollutants from urban runoff.

Response to Comment T1-16

The IRP presents four Project Alternatives to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020, while integrating recycled water and runoff systems. Although the IRP is mostly focused on the wastewater system, the benefit of water conservation, reuse and replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP (as described in Section 1.3 of Draft EIR), and several of the proposed program-level components are water conservation measures (i.e., smart irrigation and recycled water reuse), which would help indirectly in the reduction of a portion of the water that is treated by the wastewater system. Comment noted.

Response to Comment T1-17

The transcripts are available as part of this Final EIR.

Response to Comment T1-18

As described in Section 1.4 of the Draft EIR, the assessment of the City of Los Angeles' infrastructure and future needs is an ongoing process, which culminated with the IRP Facilities Plan process, which included an extensive public outreach. The EIR process has also been ongoing, with the first public outreach occurring July 20, 2004. In addition, as described in Section 1.2 of this Final EIR, an additional 32 days was provided to facilitate further public review of the Draft EIR. Comment noted.

1 water. I mean, I know I'm a homeowner and I have a
2 sprinkler system, but you know what? We can probably
3 implement a more efficient sprinkler system and make it
4 mandatory so they will be more responsible in that arena.

5 Truthfully, why do we need lawns? We're in a
6 desert. We really should be looking at more
7 environmentally friendly plants and trees and work with
T1-16 what we're supposed to be living and breathing here.

9 The other question is, I'm not quite clear, where
T1-17 do I get a transcript of tonight's meeting? I think it's
11 very important.

T1-18
12 I think it's also very important why we're not
13 going to be getting an outside consultant, environmental
14 consultant, that can also give us some insight into these
15 reports and findings. I think we've really need to discuss
16 this, rather than have this fast-track schedule seem to
17 have happened.

18 It doesn't leave very much time for any of us to
19 actually file our complaints and really have a serious look
20 at this; it seems to have happened by a group of people. I
21 think you really need to have more hearings and I think you
22 really need to look at this schedule. Why does it have to
23 be Spring of 2006? Because somebody wrote it down?

24 Sometimes it's more appropriate, it's more of a
25 leader to say, you know, we need more time, we've really

Response to Comment T1-19

The IRP is a joint project between the City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, and the Department of Water and Power. The Project Alternatives are intended to provide necessary public wastewater facilities to protect public health and safety, while also integrating the water resource needs of the City. The City is committed to meeting its responsibilities in a fiscally responsible manner.

1 need to look at this in more detail, we have more
2 questions, we have more concerns, we need to put this
3 decision back.

4 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

5 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

6 Vince Goraffolo?

7 SPEAKER 11: Good evening. I'm Vince Garafollo.

8 I live in Burbank, Post Office Box 7223. And as some
9 people around here know, I was here for another meeting
10 entirely, but I did pop in just to see what this is about.

11 And as I listened and as I heard, I would like to know from
12 individuals involved in this, is this project designed
13 improve the community or to spend money that you now have?
14 That's first of all.

15 And secondly, I ride the bus. And as I ride,
16 there were several areas where Tuxford and San Fernando
17 Road, for example, just reek. And that came from projects,
18 if you will, not unlike the ones that's proposed tonight.

19 I have a couple of points to make with regards to
20 this matter. Do the EIR's mean anything to the people
21 writing them or to the individuals involved? And I would
22 like those questions addressed, as well as made public, if
23 you will, to those who will either benefit or suffer from
24 this project.

25 Can you answer that tonight?

Response to Comment T1-20

The transcripts are available as part of this Final EIR.

1 MR. DOTY: Well, at the risk of breaking my own
2 ground rules -- you may have missed the introduction --
3 really, our intent here is to get your comments into the
4 record so that we can address them at another time --

5 VINCE: Well, those comments are germane. Those
6 comments have meaning with regard to either wasting tax
7 payers' money or increasing the now lacking --

8 MR. DOTY: To briefly answer 2 of your questions,
9 no, this is not an exercise to spend money. One of the
10 problems that we will have in the future is how to fund
11 these; we think we can do it. But this is not an exercise.
12 It's not like we have a big pot of money, and we'd sure
13 like to spend it somewhere --

14 VINCE: You will need money to take care of it
15 after the fact.

16 MR. DOTY: The second question, regarding does
17 anybody pay attention to what's in the Environmental Impact
18 Report, I can bet you that every City Staff Member and
19 consultant that's in this room right now sure does. And I
20 can tell you that in my career, about 25 years of writing
21 environmental documents, I sure do.

22 VINCE: How can I get a copy of this report?

23 MR. DOTY: There will be an announcement later
T1-20 24 that we will send out when it is available, telling you how
25 to get a hold of it.

Response to Comment T1-21

The IRP is intended to meet future wastewater needs of the City and contract agencies while also integrating future water resources needs, which includes water recycling, capture and reuse measures.

Response to Comment T1-22

The stakeholder from Burbank was/is Rodney Anderson, who is a member of the Steering Group and participated in many workshops.

1 VINCE: Well, I think I have another question with
2 regard to this matter.

3 After the fact of the project, what's left behind
4 are disgruntled individuals, are a neighborhood that's been
5 uprooted, if you will. But what's left behind is not so
6 much, you know, to improve, but to just spend. And I want
7 to make that point clear tonight.

8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But we've got a growing
9 population and we have to take care of this growing --

10 VINCE: We certainly do, and as one of the gals
11 here said, we do have water. And the question is, how do
12 we better improve what we already have, as opposed to what
13 we can or cannot do?

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

16 For the sake of keeping an understandable record,
17 let's let the speakers speak. I understand your comments.

18 Mary Schindler?

19 SPEAKER 12: Good evening. Thank you for having
20 this meeting. I did have one question too.

21 I wondered who the stakeholders for Burbank were,
22 because it wasn't anybody from the Rancho.

23 My name is Mary Schindler and I live in the Rancho
24 Area and I'm particularly concerned with the GBIS, the
25 Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer.

Response to Comment T1-23

The proposed GBIS sewer (and associated facilities, such as ATFs) would ultimately relieve the aged NOS sewer, which would reduce odors and potential spills in the Rancho Burbank area. Comment noted.

1 Your question that you put forth in the beginning,
2 you said, if we had a better way to mitigate the problems
3 of the L.A. Sewer Project, and I would say the southern
4 alignment.

5 The Pollywog Area, which, of course, is a big
6 recreational area for the Rancho Area with people with
7 horses and dogs, and our daughters rode horses when they
8 were little, neighbors' horses. It's a very beautiful
9 unique equestrian neighborhood. That actually would be
10 right in the front yard, about 4 or 5 house that were built
11 just recently on South Reese; that would be their front
12 yard, would be the air sanitation facility, as well as the
13 shafts.

14 We do have a sewer on Riverside and Beechwood,
15 which stinks. And compared to what you want to put in --
16 down Valley Heart, Riverside, Betty Davis, all the way to
17 Lakeside -- that would be like a little car air freshener,
18 at what we have at Beechwood and Riverside, and that is
19 hard to take away the smell, especially in the summer, and
20 rainy season. It's really offensive. And people are
21 constantly working on it. So I don't see how the northern
22 alignment would suddenly not have to handle these things.

23 It tears up our neighborhood with the tunneling
24 and the digging and the dirt removal and the air and the
25 smells. But one thing that hasn't been mentioned is that

Response to Comment T1-24

Comment noted. As described in Section 1.3 of the Draft EIR, one of the objectives of the IRP projects is to meet projected wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles and contract agencies (i.e., City of Burbank), thereby maintaining infrastructure required for quality of life. Specifically, the proposed GBIS sewer (either North or South alignments) would ultimately relieve the aged NOS sewer, which would reduce odors and potential spills in the area currently serviced by the NOS, including the Rancho Burbank area; therefore, the new sewer would be an improvement to the areas infrastructure. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the City has combined the two GBIS alignments to reduce concerns about potential impacts associated with either GBIS alignment (as expressed in comments submitted on the Draft EIR), have selected this alignment as preferred, and is recommending it for approval.

1 in our neighborhood, the houses have -- their value have
2 gone up tremendously from when we bought our house 21 years
3 ago. It has increased about three times. And we've
4 actually have had houses selling now in our neighborhood
5 for over a million dollars.

6 So if this were to go into the northern alignment,
7 all of our house values would go through the floor because
8 no one wants to live by something that would smell. Like
9 behind Barrigan's Restaurant, if you park there and go you
10 in and you turn, with the restaurant behind you, you look
11 at a facility that cleans up the sewer and it stinks. At
12 least, you don't smell it in the restaurant, thank God. At
13 least, it's in an industrial area.

14 After hearing the gentleman who represents the
15 Encino residents, who recommends that L.A. not expand the
16 sewer system, I think that would be even better than the
17 southern alignment.

18 I would say thank you and thank you to Rodney
19 Anderson for coming out tonight and encouraging us all that
20 our City Council rejects the northern alignment, as do I.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

23 The last speaker card I have is from PC Cameron.

24 SPEAKER 13: Hello. My name is PC Cameron. I
25 live in Rancho. I have horses and I use Pollywog for my

Response to Comment T1-25

Comment noted. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment does not include a shaft site or ATF at Valley Heart/Pollywog.

1 horses, and I'm here basically to go on the record to
2 reiterate what the other Rancho residents have said.

3 The government spends millions of dollars to build
4 and establish and maintain recreational parks and
5 facilities for people to use. And Pollywog is an area that
6 costs the City nothing to maintain; it's just a field.
7 It's a very rustic, very simple type area, and it's used by
8 hundreds of people with horses, dogs, and children. And
9 it's just a little rural field that we all use and we
10 cherish.

11 But it seems that as population grows and progress
12 moves on, which is inevitable, people simply can't leave a
13 piece of land alone; they have got to build something on
14 it. And we in the Rancho have seen that every couple of
15 years we have to go to the ropes to protect this little
16 corner of the world that we have because somebody always
17 wants to get in on it, and we fight like banshees to keep
18 it, and that's why we still have it, because we do fight
19 for it. And we're going to fight for this one too, because
20 it's wrong.

T1-25
21 Putting this little plant in Pollywog makes
22 absolutely no sense -- it's not a little plant; it's huge.
23 But putting it in Pollywog doesn't make any sense. When
24 you have a viable alternative that impacts fewer people and
25 it doesn't permanently disrupt this very special area that

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Response to Comment T1-26

Comment noted.

Response to Comment T1-27

Comment noted.

1 we have. And it's better to go in the south route because,
2 not only because of our lifestyle and recreational issues,
3 but because of the property value issues, the odor, the
4 noise, and the safety issues.

5 The north alternative really doesn't seem like an
6 option. It doesn't make any sense to put it there.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

9 Steve Whittle?

10 SPEAKER 14: Steve Whittle, 1416 Morningside
11 Drive, Burbank. I just wanted to express my opposition to
12 the northern alignment. The southern route is the much
13 better alternative; it doesn't bother anybody; and the
14 other disrupts our life totally. That's all.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DOTY: Mary Whittle?

17 SPEAKER 15: Mary Whittle, Burbank Rancho resident
18 for 17 years. I was actually born in Burbank and have
19 lived there for 40 years. I love the City of Burbank and I
20 appreciate everyone who came out tonight to speak on this
21 issue of GBIS.

22 I'd like to reiterate what everyone has said. I
23 would really, really appreciate and hope that the City of
24 L.A. would adopt and implement the southern alignment, and
25 keep our Rancho resident the unique neighborhood it is for

1 all who live there now and have been living there for many
2 years, and all the future residents of the area.
T1-27

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DOTY: Thank you.

5 That's the last of the speaker cards.

6 Does anybody else wish to speak?

7 Okay. I see no one rising and waving their hand.

8 So that concludes the public comment portion of the
9 hearing. I want to thank everyone, again, for coming. The
10 public commentary will remain open until 5:00 P.M. on
11 Monday, February 27th. Until then, you may submit written
12 comments. Here's the address on the board or you can
13 submit them online or via e-mail. Please remember to
14 include your full name, complete address, including zip
15 code, telephone number and area code, and if you are
16 speaking on behalf of an organization, the name of the
17 organization.

18 This is the first of 4 public hearings. You do
19 not have to attend the next 3, but you are invited to do
20 so, and certainly encourage others to do so. I already
21 listed the times and locations, but you can get that
22 information in the back of the room.

23 Thank you very much. The public hearing is now
24 closed.
25

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(The Public Hearing concluded at 8:25 P.M.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, PATSY S. LARREA, Certified Shorthand Reporter
No. 12444, in and for the State of California, do hereby
certify;

That the said public hearing was taken before me
at the time and place therein stated and was thereafter
transcribed into print under my direction and supervision,
and I hereby certify the foregoing deposition is a full,
true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am not of counsel nor
attorney for either of the parties hereto or in any way
interested in the events of this case and that I am not
related to either of the parties hereto.

Witness my hand this 11th day of January, 2006.

PATSY S. LARREA
C.S.R. NO. 12444

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