

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: November 3, 2021

TO: Vince Bertoni, Director
Los Angeles City Planning

FROM: Barbara Romero, Executive Director
LA Sanitation and Environment



SUBJECT: 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE E.I.R – UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS COMMENT RESPONSE

Thank you for the opportunity to allow LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) to provide a response to the comment received on the Department of City Planning's General Plan Draft EIR for the City's Housing element.

Please see the response below on the topics relating to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant and wastewater treatment and conveyance capacity as well as solid waste diversion.

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant and Wastewater Treatment and Conveyance Capacity:

HWRP is the City's oldest and largest water reclamation plant in Los Angeles. HWRP treats wastewater from a tributary area of approximately 515 square miles and also receives and treats process residual flows from Donald C. Tillman WRP, Los Angeles/Glendale WRP, the Burbank Water Reclamation Plant (BWRP), and the Los Angeles Zoo Treatment Facility (LAZTF).

The influent sewage source into the plant is currently approximately 90 percent municipal and 10 percent industrial. HWRP is sized and permitted to treat an average flow of 450 mgd and a peak wet weather flow of 850 mgd. The preliminary treatment process at the plant designed to hydraulically handle an influent flow of up to 800-900 mgd, but has historically handled flows up to 1,100 mgd during wet weather events.

With the success of water conservation and substantially decreased sewer flows, average flows in 2016 were 250 mgd. Currently, HWRP is operated as a full secondary treatment facility and after treatment, a majority of the effluent is discharged to Santa Monica Bay through a 5-mile-long outfall, terminating at a depth of 200 feet. The remaining effluent is pumped to WBMWD for additional treatment dependent upon reuse demand.

On the afternoon of July 11, Hyperion's headworks facilities experienced a catastrophic backup, resulting in untreated wastewater flooding first the headworks facility and ultimately much of the entire plant. Although our understanding of this incident continues to evolve, there has been no indication on or since July 11, 2021 that the average flow or design-capacity of the plant has any bearing on the event.

LASAN uses the same data as LADWP's 2015 UWMP, in conjunction with SCAG census data, to project a growth of an additional 493,200 people within the City by 2040. Based on the design capacities and the projected future flows, HWRP has sufficient capacity to manage the wastewater flows.

Also, LASAN's Sewer Capacity Availability Review (SCAR) program is designed to evaluate the local sewer flow levels to determine the current flow condition and identify any available capacity that could exist. SCARs are typically requested for the following types of projects:

- New construction or modification to an existing structure if it will generate additional flow higher than approved by the Sewer Facilities Charge.
- Industrial Waste Users
- Construction dewatering efforts associated with groundwater remediation projects and/or construction projects

SCAR assesses sewer capacity availability for a proposed property development as part of the approval process and provides the appropriate actions that are to be taken based on the results of such assessment.

Solids Handling and Zero Waste:

LASAN collects detailed information regarding the collection of solid waste, recycling, and organics from the City operated residential curbside collection program and the commercial recycLA program. Through the recycLA Facility Certification Program the City will be able to track the actual amount of recyclables recovered at each blue bin processing facility. This detailed measurement will be used to track disposal reduction compliance, beginning in calendar year 2022.

The City's goal of achieving 90% diversion by 2025 remains unchanged. Although there have been challenges with implementing organics recycling due to the Covid-19 crisis, the landfill reduction goal of the recycLA contracts remain unchanged. The recycLA landfill reduction goal, in addition to future residential organic waste expansion, will help the City achieve its diversion goals. A study completed several years ago by UCLA has credited the City at 76.4% diversion.

Senate Bill 1383 set methane emissions reduction targets for California in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). The City is preparing a plan to meet the 2025 organic reduction goals and other components of the new regulations adopted by CalRecycle.

For additional information regarding LASAN programs, please contact Azya Jackson at azyajackson@lacity.org or (323) 342-6268.

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