Notice of Preparation
Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
Multi-Use Facility Project
Sepulveda Dam Basin
Los Angeles County, California

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) other Federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and Corps' policies. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the Proposed Action, as no other agency is involved in implementing the Proposed Action.

The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be provided for agency and public review to solicit input on the Proposed Action and will be made available for 30 days. Comments received will be considered in determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required or whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be issued.

The Sepulveda Dam Basin (Basin) is located on the upper Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley about 17 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The Basin is bordered on the south by the Ventura Freeway (U.S. Highway 101) and on the east by the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405). The Proposed Action would occur within the diked Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (Tillman or Tillman Plant), located in the northeastern portion of the Basin, north of Burbank Boulevard and east of Woodley Avenue.

The Corps proposes to amend an existing lease (Proposed Action) between the Corps and the City of Los Angeles through its Bureau of Sanitation that would authorize the construction of an approximately 18,200 square foot Multi-Use Facility in the southwestern area of the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (Tillman or Tillman Plant) within the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin (Basin), Los Angeles County, California.

The new permanent structure would house exhibit space currently within the Plant's Administrative Building and provide office space and amenities for the staff and docents working at the Japanese Garden. The Multi-Use building would also provide a gift shop and conference rooms to support the Garden and fulfills a need to educate the public about the importance of wastewater treatment, water reclamation, and associated environmental issues, as well as educate the public on the history and meaning of a Japanese Garden, such as the one at Tillman.

Comments should be received no later than close of business on 27 December 2012 by:

Deborah Lamb
Environmental Coordinator
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US Army Corps
of Engineers

SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN

Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Multi-Use Facility Project

Los Angeles County, California

Draft FONSI and ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
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December 2012

DRAFT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
DONALD C. TILLMAN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
MULTI-USE FACILITY PROJECT
Sepulveda Dan Basin
Los Angeles County, California

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) that has been prepared for approval of Supplement # 7 to the lease between the United States Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) and the City of Los Angeles through its Bureau of Sanitation (Lease). The supplement would authorize the construction and operation of an approximately 18,200 square foot Multi-Use Facility in the southwestern area of the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (Tillman or Tillman Plant) within the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin (Basin), Los Angeles County, California. The Tillman Plant is located on approximately 95 acres within the Basin which is a 2,132-acre Federally-owned flood control facility under the management of the Corps. The Basin is an integral part of the comprehensive plan for flood control in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA). The Tillman Plant, which began operations in 1985, is an integral part of the City's wastewater system, in particular the infrastructure associated with the Hyperion Service Area. The Tillman Plant provides hydraulic relief for major interceptor sewers in the San Fernando Valley, as well as the North Outfall Sewer, the La Cienega-San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer tunnel through the Santa Monica Mountains, and downstream portions of the Hyperion system including the Hyperion Treatment Plant.

The No Action Alternative is the non-approval of the Supplement # 7 to the Lease. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed project, although it was carried forward for comparison purposes.

The Proposed Action would authorize construction of a permanent structure that would house exhibit space currently within the Tillman Plant's Administrative Building and would provide office space and amenities for the staff and docents working at the Japanese Garden located at Tillman. The Multi-Use Facility would also provide a gift shop and conference rooms to support the Garden and would fulfill a need to educate the public about the importance of wastewater treatment, water reclamation, and associated environmental issues, as well as educate the public on the history and meaning of a Japanese Garden, such as the one at Tillman.

I have determined that implementation of the Proposed Action, which is the Agency's Preferred Alternative , with the incorporation of the Environmental Commitments identified in Section 4 of this EA, incorporated herein and made a part hereof, is in compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders as described in this EA.

I have considered the available information contained in the EA, and it is my determination that there are no significant adverse impacts on the quality of human

environment resulting from the approval of the Preferred Alternative. There are no unresolved environmental issues. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement , therefore, is not required.

_____ _____

Date R. Mark Toy, P. E.
Colonel, US Army
Commander and District Engineer

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Appendices

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Section 1
Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality regulations published at 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 1500, other environmental laws, Executive Orders, and Corps' regulations. The purpose of the EA is to provide sufficient information on the existing environmental conditions within the area of the Proposed Action and the potential environmental effects of the No-Action Alternative and various alternative actions so decision makers can determine the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

For the purposes of this document and pursuant to guidelines for implementing NEPA, the baseline used for the impact analysis reflects conditions at the time of the preparation of this report. No other Federal agency has been designated as a cooperating agency (40 CFR 1501.6).

1.1 Proposed Action

The Corps proposes to amend an existing lease (Proposed Action) between the Corps and the City of Los Angeles, through its Bureau of Sanitation, that would authorize the construction of a Multi-Use Facility in the southwestern area of the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (Tillman or Tillman Plant) within the Sepulveda Dam Basin (Basin), Los Angeles County, California.

1.2 Area of the Proposed Action

The Basin is approximately 17 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Basin is located in the central area of the San Fernando Valley immediately northwest of the Interstate 405/Highway 101 interchange, as shown in **Figure 1-1, Project Location**.

The Sepulveda Dam and Basin are owned by the Federal government and operated and managed by the Corps. The Dam and Basin are an integral part of the comprehensive plan for flood control in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA).

Within the 2,132-acre Basin are several distinct areas, including the approximately 95.7-acre Tillman Plant and the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area including the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, three golf courses, a recreation lake, ball fields , and picnic area as shown in **Figure 1-2, Sepulveda Flood Control Basin and Recreation Area**.

The Tillman Plant is located on 90 acres leased from the Corps in the northeast corner of the Basin, as shown in **Figure 1-3, Tillman Site Plan**. The Plant is an integral part of the City's wastewater system – in particular, the infrastructure associated with the Hyperion Service Area. The Plant provides hydraulic relief for major interceptor sewers in the San Fernando Valley, as well as the North Outfall Sewer,

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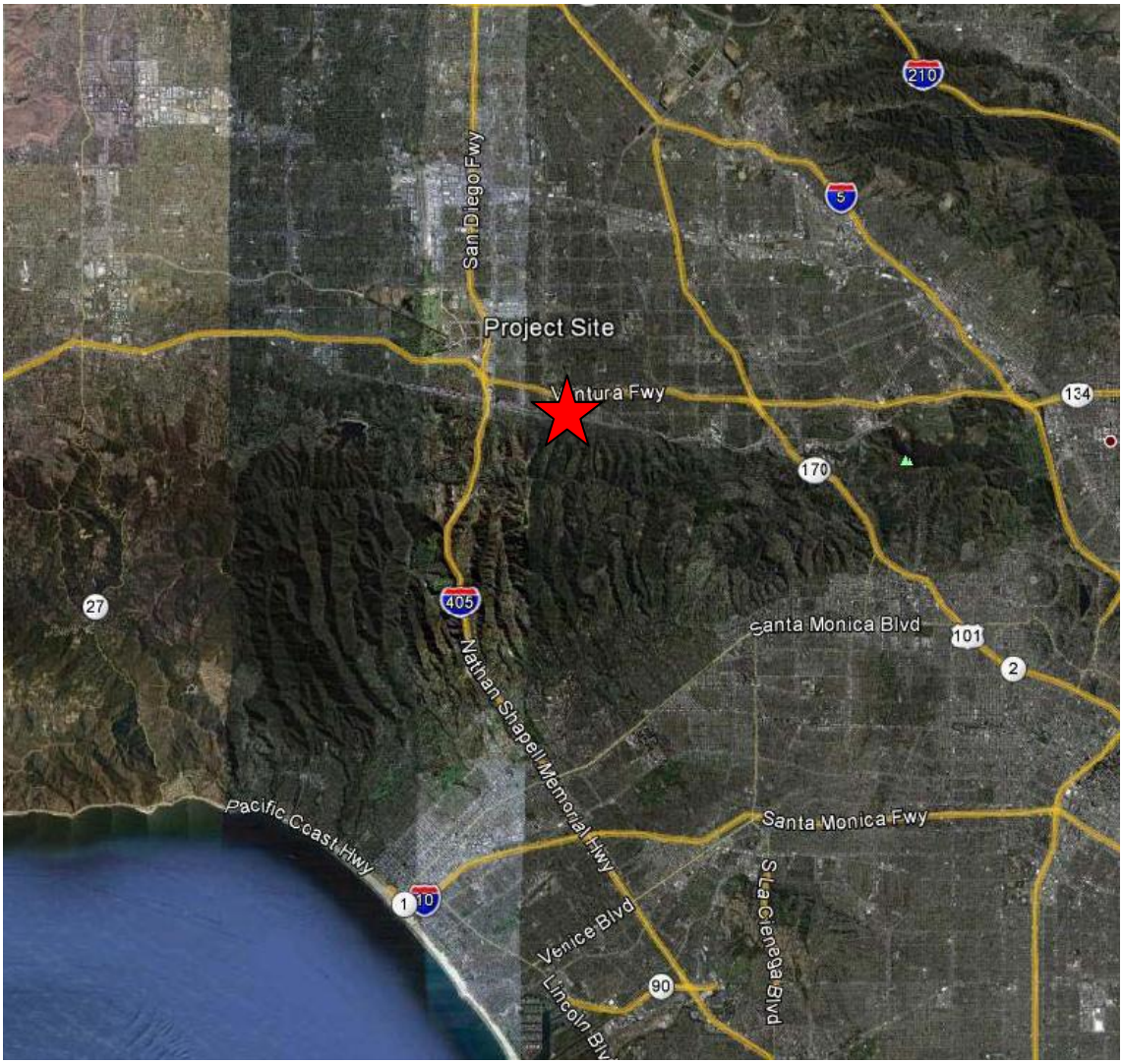

Figure 1-1. Project Location

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Figure 1-2. Sepulveda Flood Control Basin and Recreation Area

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Figure 1-3. Tillman Plant Site Plan

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the La Cienega-San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer tunnel through the Santa Monica Mountains, and downstream portions of the Hyperion system including the Hyperion Treatment Plant (HTP or Hyperion).

1.3 Authority

The Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Project was authorized in part by the Flood Control Act (FCA) of 1936 (Public Law (P.L.) 74-738), as amended. The FCA of 1938 (P.L. 75-761), provided for the acquisition by the United States of land, easements, and right-of-ways for dam and reservoir projects, channel improvements, and channel rectification for flood risk management. The Corps acquired lands behind the Sepulveda Dam and related structures to hold storm water.

Section 4 of the FCA of 1944 (P.L. 78-534), as codified in 16 U.S.C. 460(d), authorizes the Corps to grant leases of lands, including structures or facilities thereon, at water resources development projects for such periods, and upon such terms, and for such purposes as [the Secretary of the Army] may deem reasonable in the public interest. Pursuant to that authority, the Corps authorized construction of the Tillman Plant and the adjacent Japanese Garden on land in the Sepulveda Dam Basin owned by the Federal government pursuant to a lease, DACW09-1-72-3, between the City of Los Angeles and the United States (Lease). By its terms, the Lease ends on October 31, 2019.

1.4 Background

The primary function of the Tillman Plant is to provide wastewater treatment, but also includes a recreational and educational component for City residents. Located on the western side of the Tillman Plant is the Japanese Garden (Garden). The Garden, when originally constructed, was the final stage in treating wastewater however, with more modern technology, tertiary treatment is provided elsewhere. The Garden is currently fed by reclaimed water captured through the wastewater treatment process at Tillman. The Garden, designed by Dr. Koichi Kawana, was constructed between 1980 and 1984. The Garden was officially dedicated on June 18, 1984. The layout is shown in **Figure 1-4, Japanese Garden.**

To protect the Tillman Plant from the risk of flooding, the City (1) built a combination concrete flood wall/ earthen dike around the Plant, (2) removed 567,000 cubic yards of soil from fields adjacent to the Tillman Plant to compensate for the Basin capacity displaced by the dike, and (3) extended the Tillman Plant effluent outfall pipeline to below the Dam spillway into the Los Angeles River. Extension of the Plant outfall made it unnecessary to discharge the Plant's effluent into the sewer system during flood events.

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Figure 1-4. Japanese Garden

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South of the Garden and north of the Tillman parking area are two temporary trailer structures. These structures currently house Garden staff, the volunteer docents, and a gift shop. The trailer structures are the starting and ending point for docent-led educational walking tours of the Garden, when space permits. Docents conduct educational sessions for visitors in these structures prior to leading walking tours of the Garden. Monday through Thursday, as well as on Sundays, the Garden and gift shop are open for either docent-led tours or self-guided walking tours. After completing the walking tour, docents lead visitors back to the trailers.

Visitors to the Garden, currently estimated at 30 to 40 visitors per day (Monday through Thursday as well as on Sunday), also have the opportunity to view educational exhibits within the existing Administrative Building at the Plant Monday through Thursday, as well as visit the Garden gift shop.

The Garden is staffed by four full-time and three part-time administrators as well as four full-time gardeners and one supervisor. Two part-time specialized tree pruners are employed to prune the Garden's 123 black pine trees.

Periodically throughout the year, festivals and special exhibits take place at the Garden. Examples of such events include the Origami Festival, the Japanese Heritage Celebration and other special exhibits. Attendance is limited to 250 people at any one time for these events. Additionally, the Garden is available for rent for special events, including weddings, photo shoots, movie filming, fundraisers, and business meetings. Attendance for these events is limited to 84 guests.

1.5 Purpose and Need

The City has identified that the existing trailers do not provide sufficient space or facilities to support either the activities at the Japanese Gardens or the Tillman Plant. Docent led tours occur regularly at the Japanese Gardens with each tour attendance frequently exceeding 20 people when including school groups and large tourist groups. The existing trailers do not provide space for more than 20 people or for easy access to onsite exhibits, which are currently within the Administrative Building.

Five full-time employees that support the Japanese Garden are currently working out of one of the two trailers, but require designated workspace/office space, as their responsibilities have grown. Four Plant employees would also utilize office space in the Multi-Purpose Use Facility. Docents do not have fixed space in either trailer often require office/work space to prepare event calendars, update tour information, mailing lists, and other work..

Showers, locker rooms and break rooms for employee and docent use would also be installed. Lockers for storage of clean clothes, emergency supplies and showers for workers may have to stay in an emergency and exposure to waste water is always a potential when walking around the plant, necessitating the need for showers and lockers.

A request to expand conference rooms and inclusion of a plaza and stage are being requested to provide a full service facility that would allow the public to have onsite meeting and special event space for cultural and educational activities. Current facilities limit participation to cultural events in the Garden to 250 people and meetings and Special events to 84 people. The City has identified that the public desires to have events for up to 450 attendees. Increasing requests for event space for larger groups has also caused the City to request construction of a plaza and stage with appropriate facilities to provide for large events.

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Section 2
Alternatives Considered

This EA analyzes the likely effects of the Proposed Action by comparing a No Action Alternative with the Preferred Alternative and with other alternatives deemed to be reasonable, practicable, and feasible. The alternatives considered are limited to alternatives that would meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative for comparison purposes.

2.1 Alternatives Considered but Not Evaluated Further

Following is a description and discussion of the project alternatives that have been considered but eliminated from further evaluation.

2.1.1 Off-Site, Out of BasinAlternative

This alternative would involve the construction of a Multi-Use Facility off-site of the Tillman Plant and outside of the Basin. This alternative would result in the construction of a similar sized building that would provide the same functions as the proposed facility. In order to provide exhibit and educational space for exhibits and events relating to the Garden and Tillman Plant, as well as to provide permanent office space for Garden staff and docents, a building within close proximity to the Garden would be necessary. The City of Los Angeles does not have surplus land within the immediate proximity of the Tillman Plant outside of the Basin and would have to purchase land for the proposed facility.. Therefore, this alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and was eliminated from further consideration.

2.1.2 Off-Site, In Basin Location Alternative

This alternative would involve the construction of a Multi-Use Facility off-site of the Tillman Plant, but within the Basin. The area surrounding the Tillman plant is also under lease to the City of Los Angeles for recreation purposes. The area immediately surrounding the Plant is developed as Woodley Park I and II for passive recreation such as picnicking and open fields for cricket. The Wildlife Area is located to the southeast. These areas are heavily used at all times, including special events in Woodley Park I. The impact to recreation resources would be significant if the Multi-Use Facility complex was to be constructed outside the dike area. Therefore, this alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and was eliminated from further consideration.

2.2 Alternatives Evaluated in this EA

Tthe Multi-Use Facility Alternative, a Reduced-Size Facility Alternative, and the No Action Alternative are discussed in detail below.

2.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the trailers would remain in place and continue to function as currently, housing the Garden staff and docents as well as the small gift shop. Under the No Action Alternative, the exhibits would remain within the Tillman Plant's Administrative Building; visitor access to these exhibits would continue to be restricted on Sundays. The existing operations would continue in conjunction with and within the existing trailer structures. Special events would continue to be limited to 84 guests and cultural fairs currently held within the Garden would continue to remain at 250 individuals.

2.2.2 Multi-Use Facility Alternative

This alternative would involve the removal of the current trailers, the construction of an approximately 18,200 square foot multi-use facility and open plaza area with stage adjacent to the Japanese Garden, and the reconfiguration of the parking area south of the Garden, as shown in **Figure 2-1, Site Plan**.

The new facility would provide space for the existing rotating exhibits to be relocated from the Administrative Building and housed within a permanent exhibit hall. It would also provide permanent space for meeting rooms and conference facilities, office space for the Garden's staff and docent volunteers, as well as the gift shop, as shown in **Figures 2-2a and 2-2b, Conceptual Plan.** The facility would be designed in accordance with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria to incorporate sustainable design features.

Adjacent to the new building would be an open-space plaza area with a stage and attached restroom and dressing room facility. The stage would be approximately 20 feet by 48 feet in size, and the dressing room and restroom facility would be approximately 960 square feet in size, accommodating a sound room, two dressing rooms, and two restrooms, as shown in **Figure 2-3, Stage and Dressing Room Facility Site Plan**.

Construction of the facility would occur over an approximate 18-month period, including relocating an existing underground electrical substation to a site further to the interior of the Plant area within the diked area of the Plant (see **Figure 2-4, Electrical Underground Substation Relocation**). Staging and construction lay-down areas, as well as construction worker parking, would be provided in the southern half of the existing parking area south of the Garden. The northern portion of the parking lot would be occupied by the footprint of the new facility. Construction activities would affect the entire parking lot and require parking for Garden visitors and employees of the Tillman Plant at other on-site and off-site locations. Following completion of construction, the remaining parking area would be reconfigured to accommodate 111

Figure 2-1. Site Plan

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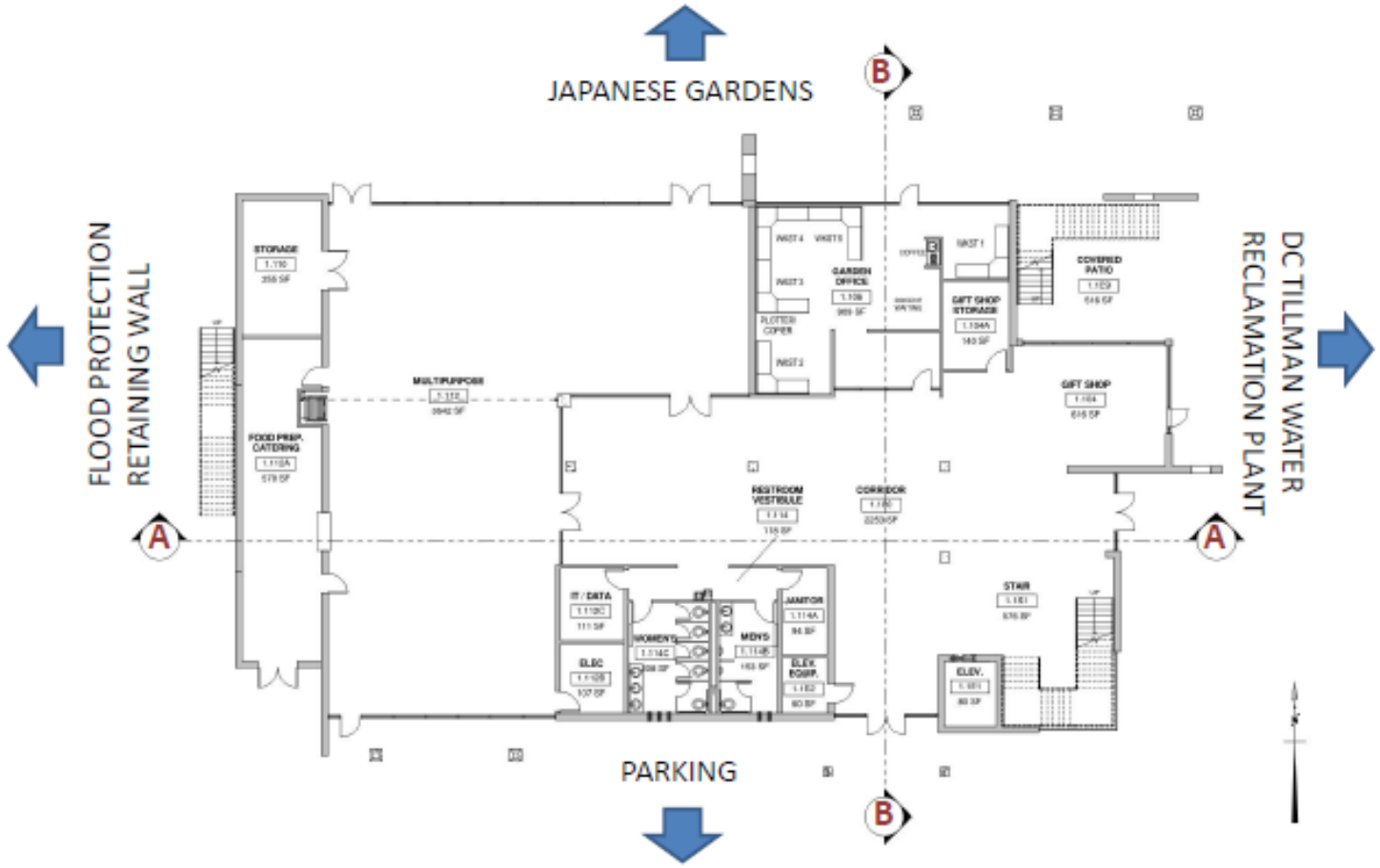

Figure 2-2a. Conceptual Building Layout – First Floor

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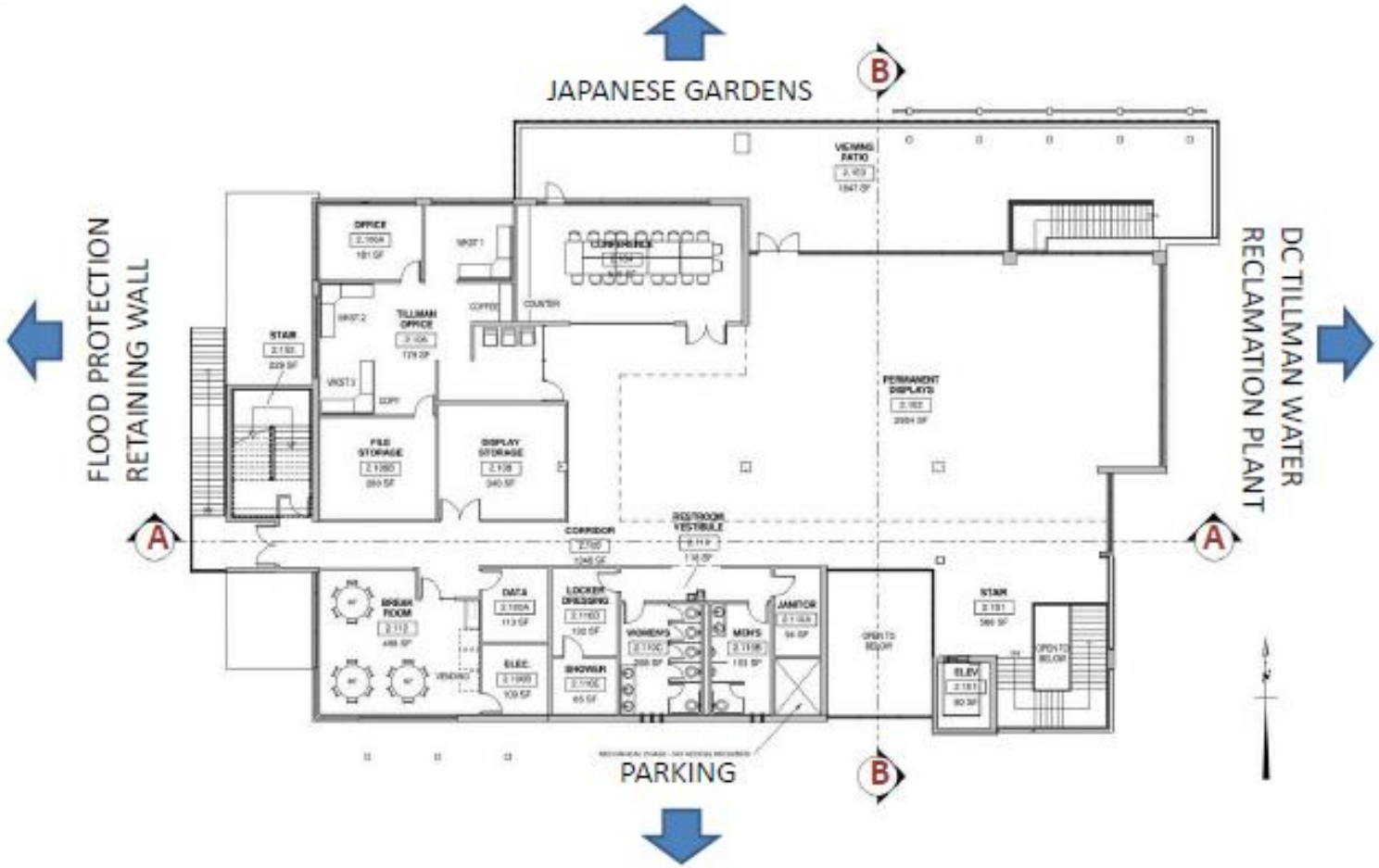

Figure 2-2b. Conceptual Building Layout – Second Floor

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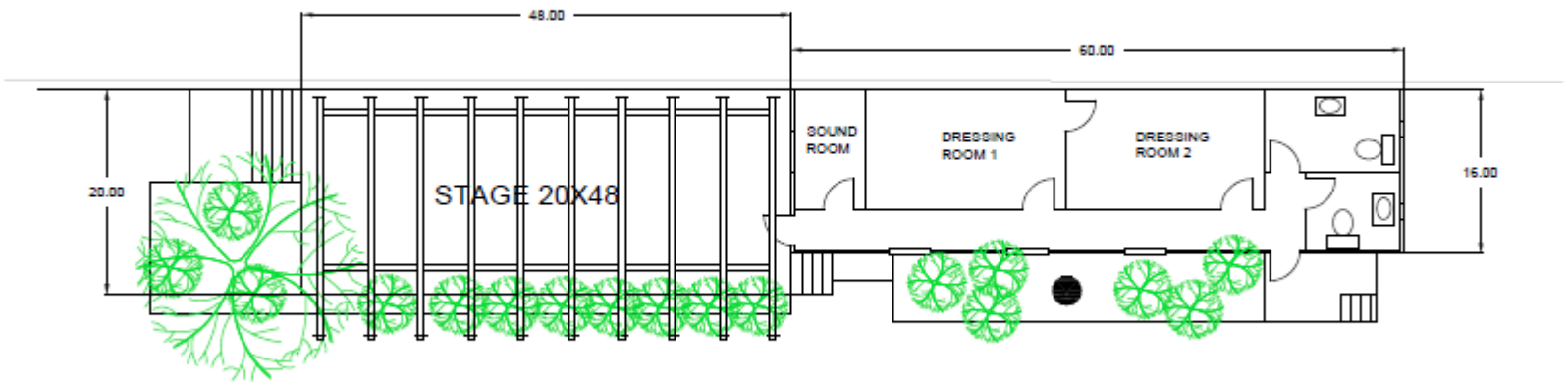

Figure 2-3. Stage and Dressing Room Facility Site Plan

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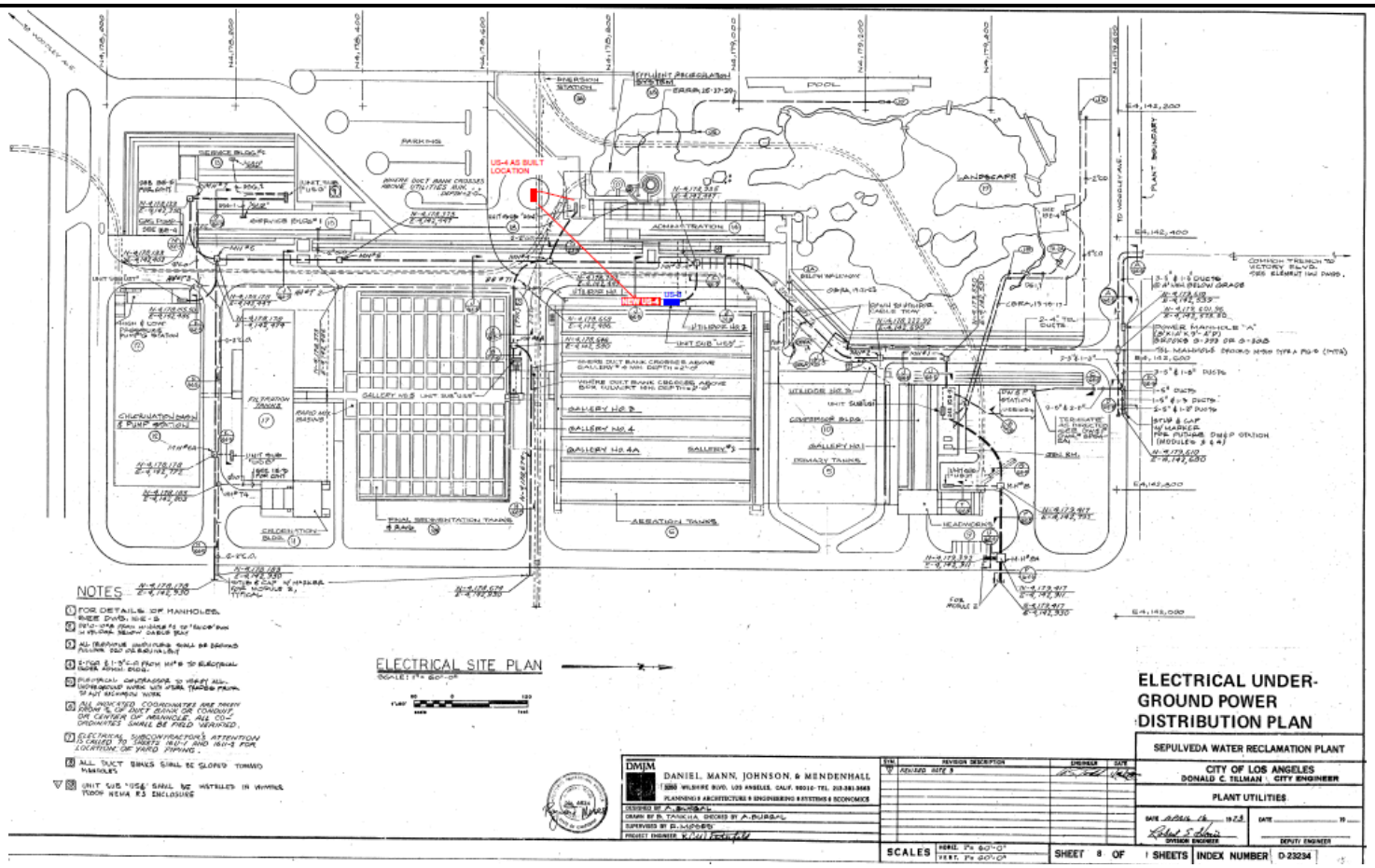

Figure 2-4. Electrical Underground Substation Relocation

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parking spaces, with 5 handicapped stalls and 10 stalls reserved for high efficiency vehicles. No permanent parking loss would occur from project implementation.

Events

Upon completion of the new facility and plaza area, the facility and Garden would continue to host cultural events, attended by a maximum of 450 guests. Similar to events currently held at the facility, future events would include educational and cultural exhibits, activities, fairs, and performances. Parking for special events would be arranged with either preferred parking by reservation or off-site parking elsewhere within the Basin or out of the Basin, with shuttling from the remote lots to the Tillman Plant and Garden. Coordination with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks would be conducted to identify appropriate parking opportunities when necessary.

Flood Protection Improvements

As discussed in detail in the environmental analysis below, a total volume of 752 cubic yards of flood storage capacity within the Basin would be lost with construction of the proposed facility. To mitigate the loss of flood storage capacity, the removal of the 752 cubic yards (cy) of earth would be required, This removal would occur in the northeast area of the Tillman Plant lease area, located outside of the dike, as shown in **Figure 2-5, Flood Storage Mitigation Site**. Fill removed from this area of the Basin would be transported outside of the Basin for disposal at an appropriate facility.

2.2.3 Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

The Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would involve the removal of the existing temporary trailers adjacent to the Japanese Garden and the construction of an approximately 7,000 sq. ft. building to house the Garden staff, docents, and gift shop, as shown in **Figure 2-6, Reduced-Size Facility Alternative Concept Plan**. This new facility would not include exhibit space, as there would be no second floor of the building. Additionally, under this alternative, less meeting space would be provided within the new facility. The footprint of this new facility would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility, but under this alternative would only be one story, falling below the PMF elevation. Exhibits would continue to be housed within the Administrative Building at Tillman. As with the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, adjacent to the new building would be an open space plaza area with a stage and attached restroom and dressing room facility.

Similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, construction of the facility would occur over an approximate 18-month period. Staging and construction lay-down areas, as well as construction worker parking, would be provided in the southern half of the existing parking area south of the Japanese Garden. The northern portion of the parking lot would be occupied by the footprint of the new facility. Construction activities would affect the entire parking lot and require parking for Garden visitors and employees of the Tillman Plant at other on-site and off-site locations.

As discussed in detail in the environmental analysis that follows, a total volume of 442 cubic yards of flood storage capacity within the Basin would be lost with construction of the proposed facility within the Tillman Plant. To mitigate the loss of flood storage capacity within the Basin, a the removal of 442 cy of earth would be required. This removal would occur at a site in the northeast area of the Tillman Plant lease area, located outside of the dike, as shown in **Figure 2-5, Flood Storage Mitigation Site**.

Flood Storage Mitigation Site

Figure 2-5. Flood Storage Mitigation Site

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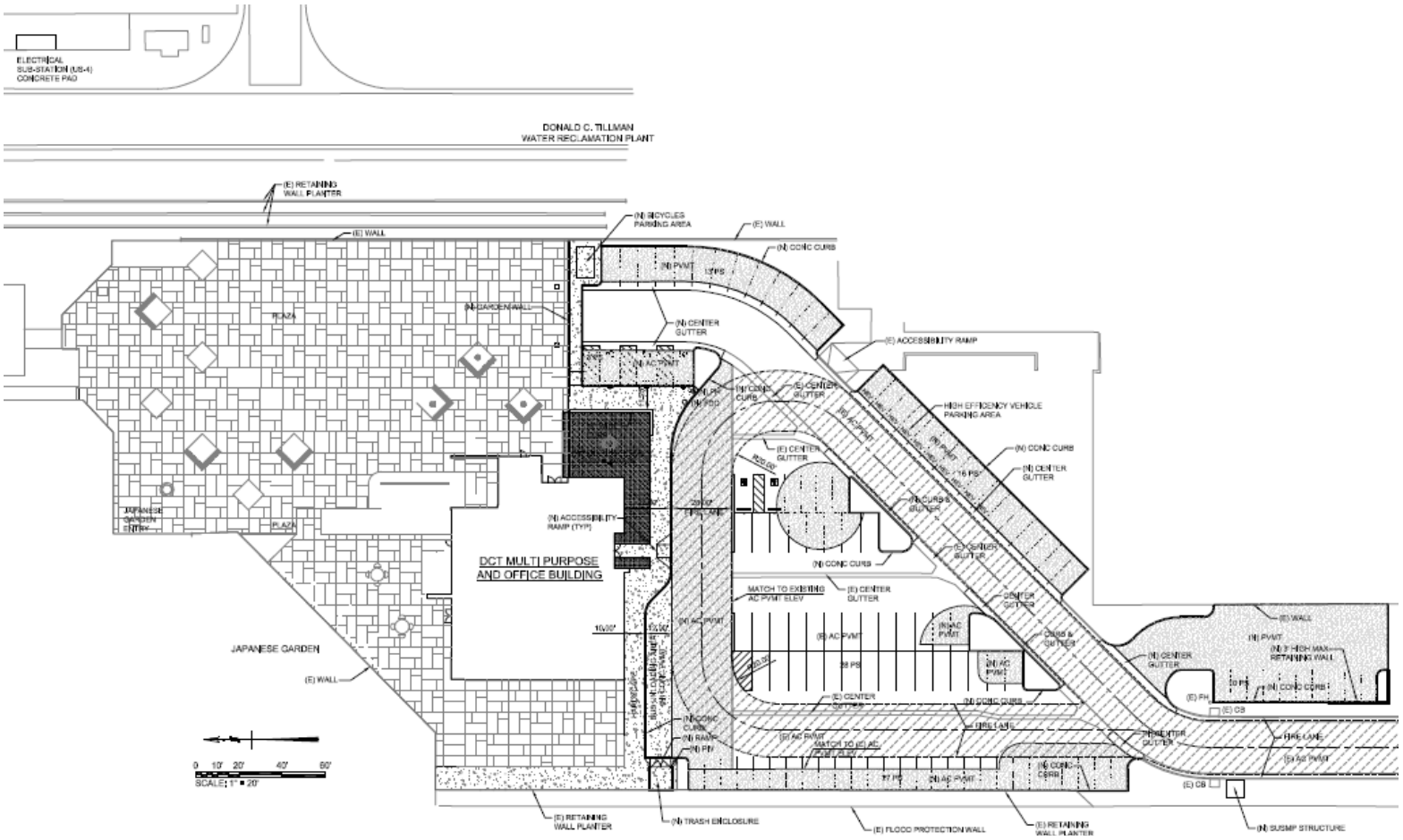

Figure 2-6. Reduced-Size Facility Alternative Concept Plan

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Section 3
Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

3.1 Land Use

Environmental Setting

According to the Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan, 2011, the portion of the Tillman Plant where the Japanese Garden is located is designated as "Recreation – Low Density."

As the focus of this EA is related to a proposed action on Federal land, land use issues would not be subject to state or city plans, but instead the Corps' Master Plan and Land Use Policy. The Corps' Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan, 2011 guides the orderly and coordinated development and management of land in the Sepulveda Basin and development projects on Corps land are subject to the agency's South Pacific Division (SPD) Regulation 1110-2-1, Land Development Proposals at Corps Reservoir Projects ("Land Use Policy").

Projects and actions proposed on land owned by the Federal government and managed by the Corps are also required to comply with the agency's Land Use Policy. The analysis contained in this EA will support completing the "Evaluation Criteria Checklist for Land Development Proposals."

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect on land use would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A permanent inconsistency with the Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan or the Corps' Land Use Policy.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Garden and Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse land use effects; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the proposed facility would be in compliance with the land use classification for the site included within the Master Plan (Recreation – Low Density.). The existing parking facility located south of the proposed building footprint would be used as a construction lay-down and staging area, as well as temporary construction working parking area. Per the objectives of the Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan, construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative satisfies an ever-increasing demand for recreational amenities by expanding the range of recreation activities available in the Basin by providing increased access to the exhibits and events

at the Garden and Tillman Plant. The construction of the two-story building would not exceed height limitations. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse land use effects; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse land use effects; no mitigation is required.*

3.2 Soils, Topography, Geology, and Other Factors

Environmental Setting

Regional Setting

The project site lies within the Sepulveda Basin which is within the Transverse Ranges Geomorphic Province in the San Fernando Valley (SFV). The SFV is an east-trending structural trough consisting of alluvial sediments unconformably deposited on Tertiary Marine Sediments which in turn are deposited over older, unconformable Tertiary rocks to as old as late Jurassic Santa Monica Slate (City of Los Angeles, 2012). These rocks do not outcrop within the study area. Alluvial deposition in the SFV are the result of sediment from washes draining the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Monica Mountains, and drainage from the Los Angeles River. The washes have deposited a broad alluvial fan composed of silt, sand, and gravel that have blanketed most of the area around the site. The site is underlain by Quaternary Alluvium (Qa) consisting of alluvial gravel, sand, and silty-clay derived mostly from the Santa Monica Mountains (City of Los Angeles, 2012).

Project Site

The project area is flat, located at an elevation of approximately 709 feet, and currently consists of an asphalt parking lot and landscaping. Borings were conducted at the site, as discussed in detail in the Geotechnical Evaluation prepared for the site. Fill materials were not observed in any of the borings and native soils encountered in the borings consisted primarily of moist and firm sandy lean clay to an approximate elevation of 678 feet, underlain by moist, medium dense to dense silty, clayey sand to an elevation of approximately 658 feet. In one boring, water seepage was encountered at a depth of 39 feet below ground surface and standing water was encountered at a depth of 41 feet below ground surface.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse environmental effect to soils, topography, and/or geology would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- Substantial effects to people or structures from geologic conditions, including expansive soils, liquefaction, earthquakes, landslides, substantial erosion, depletion of groundwater supplies, or interference with groundwater recharge.

- Direct or indirect destruction of unique geologic features, or unique geologic or mineral resources rendered inaccessible.

- Significant alteration of the physical or chemical quality of sediments or soils.
- Trigger or acceleration of erosion or sedimentation.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the project site and surrounding area would remain unchanged. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects on soils, topography, or geology; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Multi-Use Facility would occur on relatively flat ground within the diked area of the Tillman Plant. According to the Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared for the Proposed Action (City of Los Angeles, 2012), the project site and the soils beneath the site are suitable to accommodate the proposed structure. Construction of the facility at this site would not affect any unique geologic features. No mineral resources would be lost, and with implementation of the recommendations included in the Geotechnical Engineering Report, no erosion or sedimentation or effects to people or structures from geologic conditions would occur. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on soils, topography, or geology; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on soils, topography, or geology; no mitigation is required.*

3.3 Water Resources and Flood Risk Management

3.3.1 Water Resources

Environmental Setting

The Los Angeles River (River) flows into the Basin where the concrete channel becomes a natural soft-bottom channel for approximately 2.4 miles. Tributaries joining the River in the Basin include Bull Creek, Hayvenhurst Creek, Woodley Creek, Encino Creek, and Haskell Creek. A 52-acre portion of the Tillman Plant site, including the site of the proposed Multi-Use Facility building is bound by a dike on the south and east east and a flood wall on the west side protecting Tillman against floods. The flood wall on the west side of the Tillman Plant has an elevation of 715 feet above mean sea level (msl).

The Corps has defined the 100-year flood water surface elevation as 712.0 feet and the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) surface elevation as 716.7 feet. Therefore, during a PMF event, the dike will be topped and the facility will be flooded, inundating all facilities within the dike. Storm events with a return period of approximately100-years or less will not flood Tillman.

On-site stormwater is collected by on-site storm drains and discharged to the Plant's headworks for treatment. The City holds a discharge permit for the Plant through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which regulates the discharge of treated wastewater to the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. A portion of the treated effluent from the Tillman Plant is discharged to the Los Angeles River in accordance with the NPDES Permit, while the other portion is recycled. The excess effluent (beyond recycled water demands) is discharged to the Los Angeles River approximately 900 feet downstream from Sepulveda Dam. Overflows from the Garden, Lake Balboa, Bull Creek, and the Wildlife Area Lake also are discharged to the Los Angeles River. The NPDES permit for Tillman is number CA0056227, associated with Order No. R4-2006-0091 from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The current NPDES permit was adopted in December 2006 and became effective in February 2007. The recycled water requirements, Board Orders #R4-2007-2009 (WRRs) and R4-2007-2008 (WRDs), were adopted and became effective in January 2007.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse environmental effect to water quality would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- Discharges that create pollution, contamination, or a nuisance as defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code or that cause state or Federal regulatory standards to be violated, as defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the receiving water body.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant and Garden would remain in their existing condition; no change would occur. *A PMF event under the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects on water quality; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

For the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, a pollutant loading analysis was conducted comparing the No Action Alternative with this alternative to estimate the change in pollutant concentrations during a PMF when the proposed facility would become inundated. Details and calculations are included within Appendix A of this EA.

The comparison between pollutant loadings and concentrations of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and the No Action Alternative show that the changes are extremely small, and many loads and concentrations would actually be lower than the No Action Alternative under this alternative during a PMF due to the loss of approximately 25 parking spaces. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on water quality when compared to the No Action Alternative; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to

the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on water quality when compared to the No Action Alternative; no mitigation is required.*

3.3.2 Flood Risk Management

Environmental Setting

Inundation of the Basin

The Basin is affected by rain events over the entire drainage area. Local conditions may be deceptive and thus may pose risks to users within the Basin. The Basin is a fast-reacting basin; water levels can quickly increase and decrease. The current 10-year rain event water level is elevation 697.7 feet. Currently during rain events, the Corps notifies the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) when the water level within the Basin reaches the 680-foot elevation mark, thus allowing for the timely closure of roads in the Basin. The lowest elevation at Burbank Boulevard is where the roadway crosses the Los Angeles River, which is at elevation 687.2 feet. The lowest elevation along Balboa Boulevard is at 704.2 feet, near its crossing with the Los Angeles River. A list of elevations for major facilities in Basin and at the Dam is listed in **Table 3.3.2-1**.

Table 3.3.2-1 Sepulveda Basin and Dam Elevations

Elevation (ft)	Description
725 [a]	Top of Sepulveda Dam
716.7 [a]	Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)
712 [a]	Top of dike protecting Tillman Plant
712 [a]	100-year flood
709 [b]	Existing grade elevation
687.4 [a]	50-year flood
697.7 [a]	10-year rain event

[a] Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan, September 2011.

[b] Geotechnical Engineering Report, May 2012.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse change in flood risk would occur from construction and/or operation of the alternative or any action that, in the event of a PMF, would result in the following:

- A substantial increase in the potential to harm people or damage property, including introducing the potential for floatables or debris build-up that would increase flood risk, placing constraints on existing and future system flexibility, or negatively affecting flood storage capacity.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not result in any changes to the existing and future operational flexibility of the Basin, and therefore would not result in changes to the flood storage capacity in Basin. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse*

effects on the Basin during flood events as a result of floatables and debris build-up, system flexibility, flood storage; no mitigation is required.

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Floatables & Debris Build-Up

The Multi-Use Facility Alternative would be located in the area surrounded by a dike protecting the Tillman Plant from flooding during a 100-year storm event (elevation 712.0 feet). The dike would not prevent flooding during a PMF event (elevation 716.7 feet).

Items commonly found in commercial and office facilities would be stored on-site. During a PMF, items not secured within the building are liable to be released, if the building were to be inundated. Operation and maintenance guidelines would be developed for facility staff to minimize or eliminate the storage of any loose items outside. Removal of the existing temporary structure and construction of the facility would not change the procedure in which flood waters are released from the reservoir in order to protect the Basin rather than prevent flooding of the downstream system. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on the Sepulveda Basin during flood events; however operation and maintenance guidelines will be developed for facility staff to minimize or eliminate the storage of any loose items outside during flood events.*

Flood Risk Management & System Flexibility

The Tillman Plant currently has an evacuation plan and worker education program for all existing facilities and workers within the Plant. The evacuation plan takes effect when flood waters reach a certain elevation within the Basin. Construction of the proposed Multi-Use Facility would introduce a new structure within Tillman and the Basin. In order to maintain worker safety, prior to occupancy of the new building the evacuation plan would be updated, and worker education sessions would be held (see Environmental Commitments FLOOD-1 and FLOOD-2). *Thus, with implementation of mitigation, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse flood risk management and system flexibility effects.*

Flood Storage Capacity

Construction of the proposed facility would reduce available space for flood water, and flood surface elevation in the event of a PMF. To determine the potential loss of flood storage capacity, the volume of the proposed facility below the PMF was calculated. Additionally, the facility above-grade volume is compared to the existing trailer structure volume to determine the volume loss and whether or not this constitutes a significant impact to flood storage capacity.

Table 3.3.2-2 shows the difference in flood storage between the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and the No Action Alternative. The flood storage reduction caused by the building is calculated by multiplying the building footprint by the depth of the flood

water within the dike during a PMF event (10.6 feet). The existing temporary structure has a flood reduction volume of 26,500 cu. ft., and the proposed facility would have a flood reduction volume of 107,685 cu. ft. Therefore, construction of the proposed facility would result in a net decrease in flood storage volume of 81,185 cu. ft., or 0.61 million gallons. Note that this calculation overstates the amount of storage volume lost from the proposed structure because the air spaces within the structure would be filled with water if the structure were to be inundated by 10.6-foot deep water.

Table 3.3.2-2 Flood Storage Capacity for Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Parameter	**Value**
Existing grade elevation	706.1 feet
PMF elevation	716.7 feet
Height of PMF storage reduction	10.6 feet
Building footprint of existing trailer	2,500 sq. ft.
Existing trailer flood storage reduction	26,500 cu. ft.
Building footprint of Multi-Use facility	10,159 sq. ft.
Multi-Use facility flood storage reduction	107,685 cu. ft.
PMF event storage volume loss	**0.61 mg**
PMF flood storage volume	9,356 mg
Percent of PMF volume removal to total storage	0.020 percent
Change in PMF elevation	0.013 inches

The volume reduction would be 0.020 percent of the total PMF volume storage in Basin. It is anticipated that such a reduction in flood storage volume would be negligible. However, to mitigate the anticipated loss in flood storage volume associated with the proposed facility approximately 20,296 cu. ft. of earth would be removed from the identified mitigation site, located in the northeastern portion of the Plant, outside of the dike. To calculate the mitigation amount, it is assumed that 75 percent of the new facility, below the PMF, would be floodable. Therefore, 25 percent of the building volume, which accounts for wall space, furniture and other permanent fixtures within the building, would be mitigated for. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on flood storage capacitywith the removal of 20,296 cu. ft. of earth outside the dike.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Floatables & Debris Build-Up

Similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative is protected from flooding during a 100-year storm event, but the dike would not prevent flooding during a PMF event. Floatables under the Reduced-Size Facility would also be subject to the same operation and maintenance guidelines to minimize or eliminate the storage of any loose items outside in order to prevent build-up of debris. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on the Sepulveda Basin during flood events; no mitigation is required.*

Flood Risk Management & System Flexibility

Impacts of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be comparable to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, as discussed above. *Thus, with implementation of Environmental Commitments FLOOD-1 and FLOOD-2, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects to system flexibility.*

Flood Storage Capacity

Table 3.3.2-3 calculates the difference in flood storage between the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative with the No Action Alternative, similar to what was calculated for the Multi-Use Facility.

Table 3.3.2-3 Flood Storage Capacity for Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Parameter	**Value**
Existing grade elevation	706.1 feet
PMF elevation	716.7 feet
Height of PMF storage removal	10.6 feet
Building footprint of existing trailer	2,500 sq. ft.
Existing trailer flood storage reduction	26,500 cu. ft.
Building footprint of reduced-size facility	7,000 sq. ft.
Reduced-size facility flood storage reduction	74,200 sq. ft.
PMF event storage volume loss	**0.36 mg**
PMF flood storage volume	9,356 mg
Percent of PMF volume removal to total storage	0.012 percent
Change in PMF elevation	0.008 inches

The volume reduction associated with the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be 0.012 percent of the total PMF volume storage in Sepulveda Basin. However, to mitigate the anticipated loss in flood storage volume associated with the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative approximately 11,925 cu. ft. of earth would be removed from the identified mitigation site, located in the northeastern portion of the Plant, outside of the dike. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on flood storage capacity with the removal of 11,925 cu. ft. of earth from outside the dike.*

3.3.3 Groundwater

Environmental Setting

Groundwater Hydrology

The Tillman Plant is located above the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (or San Fernando Basin). Groundwater tends to flow in a southeast direction in this portion of the Basin (California Department of Water Resources, 2004). The San Fernando Valley, also known as the Upper Los Angeles River Area, contains four separate adjudicated groundwater basins—the San Fernando, Sylmar, Verdugo, and Eagle Rock Basins. The San Fernando Basin has an estimated total groundwater storage capacity of approximately 3 million acre-feet and a surface area of 112,000 acres. The San Fernando

Basin is bounded on the north and northwest by the Santa Susana Mountains, on the north and northeast by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the east by the San Rafael Hills, on the south by the Santa Monica Mountains and Chalk Hills, and on the west by the Simi Hills. Drainage occurs via the Los Angeles River through the Glendale Narrows.

Groundwater is mostly unconfined, with localized confined to semi-confined zones. Sediments are most permeable in the eastern part of the San Fernando Basin. Groundwater generally flows to the southeast, where it exits the San Fernando Basin as underflow or as rising water into the Los Angeles River in the Central Basin of the Los Angeles Coastal Plain. Groundwater flow velocities vary from 5 feet per year in the western portion of the San Fernando Basin to 1,300 feet per year in the Glendale Narrows area.

According to the Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared for the project, water seepage was encountered in one boring at a depth of 39 feet below ground surface, and standing water was encountered at a depth of 41 feet below the ground surface (City of Los Angeles, 2012). Groundwater data obtained from California Division of Mines and Geology indicates that the shallowest reported historic depth to groundwater in the Tillman Plant area was on the order of 20 feet below the ground surface.

Groundwater Quality

Water quality in the San Fernando Basin is affected by naturally occurring conditions and human-induced environmental contamination. A large portion of the San Fernando Basin has been designated as a Superfund site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Tillman and the Sepulveda Basin, however, are not within a designated Superfund site.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse environmental effect to groundwater would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A significant interference with groundwater recharge occurred such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted), or cause contamination of the underlying aquifer.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no new buildings would be constructed. Groundwater would be unaffected by this alternative. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in an adverse impact on groundwater levels or groundwater quality; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction would require excavation to a depth of approximately five feet below the existing surface level, and would not interact with or affect the underlying aquifer. The mitigation excavation would occur to a depth of approximately five to 10 feet below existing grade. Since the depth of excavation is approximately five feet, groundwater is not expected to be encountered during construction and no dewatering would be required. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in an adverse impact on groundwater levels or groundwater quality; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. Construction would require excavation to a depth of approximately five feet below the existing surface level; therefore, groundwater is not expected to be encountered during construction, and the underlying aquifer will not be affected. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not adverse affect groundwater levels or groundwater quality; no mitigation is required*

3.4 Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Climate Change, and Odors

Environmental SettingThe South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) covers the portion of Los Angeles County in which Tillman is located. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has jurisdiction for local air quality impacts in the South Coast portion of Los Angeles County.

The SCAB is designated as a Federal nonattainment area for a number of pollutants, as shown in **Table 3.4-1** below.

Table 3.4-1. Federal Attainment Status of the Study Area

Pollutant	Federal Status
Ozone (O_3)	Nonattainment, Extreme
Inhalable particulate matter (PM_{10})	Nonattainment, Serious
Fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Nonattainment
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Maintenance
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)	Maintenance [a]
Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)	Attainment
Lead (Pb)	Nonattainment

Source: USEPA 2011

Notes:

[a] Designation based on 1996 NO_2 NAAQS. The USEPA is currently proposing to classify all areas of California as unclassifiable/attainment for the 2010 NO_2 NAAQS (Blumenfeld 2011).

Climate Conditions

The climate of the SCAB is determined primarily by terrain and geography. Local climactic conditions are characterized by warm summers, mild winters, infrequent rainfall, moderate daytime on-shore breezes, and moderate humidity. The SCAB's normally mild climate is occasionally interrupted by periods of hot weather, winter storms, and hot northeasterly Santa Ana winds.

The SCAB area has high levels of air pollution, particularly from June through September. Factors leading to high levels of pollution include a large amount of pollutant emissions, light winds, and shallow vertical atmospheric mixing. However, over the past 30 years, substantial progress has been made in reducing air pollution levels in southern California.

Existing Air Quality Conditions

Air quality conditions for a project area are typically the result of meteorological conditions and existing emission sources in an area. Air quality data from a monitoring station near the area of analysis is summarized in Appendix B of this EA.

Following are programs and policies related to air quality, GHG, and climate change:

General Conformity: Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7506(c)) requires any entity of the Federal government that engages in, supports, or in any way provides financial support for, licenses or permits, or approves any activity to demonstrate that the action conforms to the applicable SIP required under Section 110 (a) of the CAA (42 U.S.C. 7410(a)) before the action is otherwise approved.

Mandatory GHG Reporting Rule: In 2009, USEPA finalized the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (40 CFR 98). This rule requires suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial GHGs, manufacturers of vehicles and engines, and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) per year to submit annual reports to the USEPA.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule: On June 3, 2010, the USEPA issued a final rule to amend the applicability criteria that determine when stationary sources and modification projects are subject to prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and Title V permitting programs for GHG1 emissions (75 FR 31514). The tailoring rule raises the threshold for obtaining permits for GHG emissions from the current levels of 100 or 250 tons per year (tpy) (depending on source) to 75,000 and 100,000 tons per year.

Corps Policy on Climate Change: It is the policy of the Corps to integrate climate change adaptation planning and actions into its missions, operations, programs, and projects. The Corps shall continue undertaking its climate change adaptation planning and shall implement the results of that planning using the best available – and actionable – climate science and climate change information. The Corps shall consider potential climate change impacts when undertaking long-term planning, setting priorities, and making decisions affecting its resources, programs, policies, and operations. These actions are fully compatible with the guiding principles and framework of the US Federal Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force and the Implementing Instructions for Federal Agency Climate Change Adaptation issued on March 4, 2011 jointly by the

[1] For purposes of the tailoring rule, GHG is defined as the aggregate group of carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6).

Executive Office of the President's Council on Environmental Quality/Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (CEQ/OFEE) and the Office of Management and Budget.

It is the policy of the Corps that mitigation and adaptation investments and responses to climate change shall be considered together to avoid situations where near-term Environmental Commitments might be implemented that would be overcome by longer-term climate impacts requiring adaptation, or where a short-term mitigation action would preclude a longer-term adaptation action.

The successful implementation of this Corps' adaptation policy will help enhance the resilience of the built and natural water-resources and reduce its potential vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change and variability. The Corps' Climate Change Adaptation Steering Committee oversees and coordinates agency-wide climate change adaptation planning and implementation.

Methodology

As detailed in Appendix B, the analysis estimates criteria pollutant and GHG emissions that would occur from construction and operation of the Multi-Use Facility at Tillman. Emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2011.1.1. Emissions from construction activities were modeled using an estimated construction schedule (2013-2014) and an equipment list provided by the City. Consistent with SCAQMD fugitive dust control measures in Rule 403, water trucks were assumed to control fugitive dust emissions. Default parameters for a civic building land use type were used in CalEEMod to estimate operational emissions from vehicles, energy use, water use, facility maintenance, and waste production.

Thresholds of Significance

A federal action is considered to have significant impacts to air quality under NEPA if it causes or contributes to ambient air concentrations that exceed a NAAQS. The SCAQMD also developed separate CEQA significance thresholds for regional and localized sources of construction and operational emissions (SCAQMD 2011b). These thresholds represent the maximum emission levels that could occur without causing a violation of the CAAQS. Since the CAAQS are typically at least as stringent as the NAAQS, if not more stringent, these thresholds were used to evaluate adverse effects. Adverse effects to air quality, GHG, climate change, or odors would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- Annual emissions in excess of the general conformity *de minimis* thresholds promulgated in 40 CFR 93.153
- Daily regional emissions in excess of the SMAQMD Mass Daily Significance Thresholds
- Local air quality impacts in excess of the localized significance thresholds (LSTs)

- Annual GHG emissions in excess of 10,000 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent per year

- Construction or operational emissions that would create an objectionable odor at the closest sensitive receptor

General Conformity

For the purposes of this study, the alternatives would create an adverse effect if construction and/or operation would exceed the general conformity *de minimis* thresholds for pollutants in which the region is designated as nonattainment or maintenance.

Regional Emission Thresholds

The SCAQMD developed significance thresholds for mass daily emission rates of criteria pollutants for both construction and operational sources in the *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (SCAQMD 1993). The GHG significance threshold combines construction and operational emissions. Construction GHG emissions are amortized over the expected lifetime of the project and then added to the operational GHG emissions. Details for these thresholds are included in Appendix B of this EA.

Localized Significance Thresholds

The SCAQMD developed thresholds for local air quality impacts from construction activity (SCAQMD 2008b and SCAQMD 2009). LSTs are only applicable to the following criteria pollutants: NOx, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. LSTs are analogous to NAAQS and CAAQS; pollutant levels below LSTs would not necessarily be expected to violate the NAAQS or CAAQS. LSTs consider ambient concentrations of pollutants for each source receptor area and distances to the nearest sensitive receptor.

The allowable emissions for construction emissions for a project located in the West San Fernando Valley Source-Receptor Area (SRA) are summarized in Appendix B of this EA. The closest sensitive receptor would be located in the residential area north of Victory Boulevard, which is approximately 1,700 feet (518 meters) from the proposed facility; therefore, thresholds for 500 meters were used.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

Although there is currently no Federal regulation in place to govern the effects of climate change and GHG emissions, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) provided draft guidance in a February 2010 memorandum that outlines how Federal agencies may better consider the effects of GHG emissions and climate change in their NEPA evaluations of proposed Federal actions (CEQ, 2010). The analysis for this project followed the draft guidance voluntarily, recognizing that it is not final and is subject to change. The details for the guidance are included in Appendix B of this EA. However, SCAQMD's more stringent threshold of 10,000 $MTCO_2e$ for industrial facilities was used to determine significance for this project.

Odors

An alternative would create a significant impact if construction or operation would result in objectionable odor at the nearest sensitive receptor. The nearest sensitive receptors are the residences located north of Victory Boulevard, approximately 1,700 feet from the project site.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Air quality, GHG and climate change, and odor impacts of each alternative are described below.

No Action Alternative

There would be no construction or ground disturbance under the No Action Alternative. No construction or operational emissions would occur. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects on air quality, GHG and climate change, or odors; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

General Conformity

As detailed in Appendix B of this EA, unmitigated emissions for all pollutants would be less than the general conformity *de minimis* thresholds. *As a result, a General Conformity Determination is not required.*

Construction Emissions

Emissions from all criteria pollutants (See Appendix B) would not exceed the significance criteria. Additionally, the approximately 11 haul trips associated with the removal of 752 cy of earth from the Basin, which would occur over an approximately two week period of time, would not exceed NOx significance thresholds, according to the EMFAC 2007 model. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse air quality effects from regional peak daily construction emissions; no mitigation is required.*

Localized Significance Thresholds

As described in the SCAQMD's LST Methodology (SCAQMD 2008b), only on-site emissions, which include fugitive dust and off-road construction equipment, were included the LST analysis. The one-acre threshold applies to this facility and the thresholds for a receptor distance of 500 meters were used. Construction and operational emissions would not exceed the LSTs. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse localized peak daily emissions; no mitigation is required.*

Operational Emissions

Operational emission sources that would contribute to criteria pollutant emissions include mobile source emissions from employees and visitors visiting the facility, natural gas combustion from space heating, reapplication of architectural coatings, consumer product

usage, and landscaping. Emissions from all criteria pollutants would not exceed the significance criteria. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse operational air quality effects; no mitigation is required.*

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

Vehicle exhaust from on- and off-site construction activities could increase GHG emissions. Additionally, indirect operational emissions could occur from the use of electricity and water and from solid waste disposal. However, increased emissions associated with this alternative are well below the threshold for disclosure established by the CEQ and the significance criterion established by the SCAQMD. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse GHG emissions and effect climate change; no mitigation is required.*

Odors

Although the Multi-Use Facility would be located at a wastewater treatment plant, construction and operation of the building would not change or increase the current odor levels at Tillman. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects from odors; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

The Reduced-Size Facility Alternative involves similar site preparation construction activities but construction of a smaller building to house only the employees, docents, and the gift shop. Emissions would be less than those estimated for the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. Given that no adverse air quality, GHG and climate change, or odor impacts would occur with implementation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and that the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would result in even fewer effects, no adverse effects would occur. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse air quality, GHG and climate change, or odor effects; no mitigation is required.*

3.5 Noise and Vibration

Environmental Setting

Noise

The existing noise environment of the Tillman Plant site, the Basin, and its surrounding area is characterized predominantly by vehicle traffic and overhead aircraft activity from the Van Nuys Airport located approximately one mile northwest of Tillman.

Noise from Tillman Plant operations also contributes to ambient noise levels just outside the facility boundaries and is noticeable directly north of the site in the National Guard training facility and on the eastern border of the Plant at the cricket field complex. The Plant site is surrounded by a dike that reduces off-site noise levels. The Tillman Plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and noise generated at the Plant is consistent throughout the day and night.

Areas to the south, east and west of Tillman are primarily recreational uses that are used

intermittently by the public and therefore noise from the project is expected to have little impact on these areas. The only area with sensitive receptors close to Tillman is the residential area located north of Victory Boulevard, approximately one-quarter mile north of Tillman. At this location, the noise level measured in 2005 (assumed to not have changed since that time) was 74 dBA. Noise sources contributing to this measurement were vehicular traffic and pedestrians going in and out of apartments.

Vibration Environment

From a survey of the existing environment at the project site and surroundings, there is no existing major stationary source of vibration in the area. Truck traffic on the area roads is the only occasional perceptible source of vibration. With no major sources of vibration in the area, the project site would be expected to have an existing vibration level of less than 0.005 inches per second (ips) peak particle velocity (PPV), which is below the level of perceptibility.

Thresholds of Significance

An alternative would result in adverse noise effects if:

- Project construction produces noise that exceeds existing ambient exterior noise levels by 10 dBA or more at a sensitive receptor site for more than 1 day, or 5 dBA for more than 10 days in a 3-month period at a noise sensitive receptor site; or if construction noise would exceed the ambient noise level by 5 dBA at a noise-sensitive receptor during the hours specified in the Noise Ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.

- Project operations cause the ambient noise level (measured at the property line of affected uses) to increase by 3dBA in CNEL to or within the "normally unacceptable" or "clearly unacceptable category," or any 5 dBA or greater noise increase.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The detailed analysis is included as Appendix C of this EA. The following analysis summarizes the potential for each alternative to affect noise within the Sepulveda Basin:

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the site would remain in its pre-project condition. This would result in no change in the existing noise environment at the site. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in an adverse effect on noise sensitive receptors; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction Noise

Based on the equipment utilization rates during construction described in detail in Appendix C of this EA, the noise threshold would not be exceeded. It is anticipated that the noisiest overlapping phases of work would be site work and building construction.

Modeling predicts that noise generated from the operation of this equipment would be below the threshold of significance. Noise impacts from this temporary activity would be negligible at the nearest off-site noise-sensitive receptors.

Construction Vibration

Construction activities have the potential to produce vibration levels that may be annoying or disturbing to humans and cause damage to structures. Based on the 1,400-foot distance to the nearest residential receptor and the fact that project construction would not require a large amount of high-vibration activities and construction activities would be temporary, the proposed action would not be expected to generate high vibration levels at the nearest residences. Therefore, the vibration effects would not be adverse.

Thus, no adverse noise and vibration effects would occur from construction; no mitigation is required.

Operation

No new substantial permanent source of noise or vibration would be created by the proposed building itself. Employee and visitor traffic noise would not increase noise levels in the affected area because the volume of traffic generated by employee and visitor traffic would not significantly increase. *Thus, no adverse noise and vibration effects would occur from operation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction

Noise and vibration levels at the sensitive receptor would be similar to or less than the levels for the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. Therefore, noise and vibration impacts from this temporary activity would be negligible at the nearest off-site noise-sensitive receptors. *Thus, no adverse noise and vibration effects would occur from construction; no mitigation is required.*

Operations

No new permanent source of noise or vibration would be created by the new building and employee and visitor traffic would not increase noise levels in the project area. *Thus, no adverse noise and vibration effects would occur from operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative; no mitigation is required.*

3.6 Biological Resources

Environmental Setting

Vegetation

Vegetation at the Tillman site is limited to landscaped trees, shrubs, and other vegetation within planter areas adjacent to concrete sidewalks and within the parking lot.

Wildlife

Common wildlife expected to occur in the vicinity of the project site include western fence and side-blotched lizards, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and coyotes. Common birds include western scrub jay, Anna's hummingbird, black phoebe, and California towhee. Birds known to frequent the Japanese Garden lake include American coot, mallard, great blue heron, and great egret. No wildlife corridors exist to encourage movement of large mammals to or through the project vicinity.

Special-Status Species

The least Bell's vireo has been observed within and adjacent to the Los Angeles River, which is approximately one-half mile from the project site. While suitable habitat for this species does occur nearby, the project site itself does not provide the habitat required for any special-status species, as described below.

Critical Habitat

Based on a search of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) critical habitat portal database (USFWS, 2012a), there is no designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project site, or within the Sepulveda Basin.

Wetlands

There are no wetlands or hydric soils at the project site (Corps, 2011). There are no wetlands shown on the National Wetlands Inventory maps although there are a number of ponds in the nearby golf courses and recreation areas as well as the Japanese Garden lake (USFWS, 2012b).

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect to biological resources would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any special-status species identified by the USFWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

- An adverse effect on an active nest of a migratory bird species thereby affecting the reproductive viability of the species.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

There would be no construction or disturbance of vegetation under the No Action Alternative. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in an adverse effect on biological resources; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Three trees would be relocated on the project site prior to construction. Twenty-four (24) trees would be relocated on the project site during or following construction. These trees are currently located in the parking lot area adjacent to or near the existing tyrailers.None of the trees are native species. No vegetation would be affected at the flood storage volume mitigation site. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on vegetation; no mitigation is required.*

Many species of migratory birds are known to occur within the project area. Mature trees and vegetation within the project site could support nesting migratory birds and construction activities could result in an adverse impact if an active migratory bird nest is disturbed. Construction would be timed as much as possible to occur outside the migratory bird nesting season, which occurs generally from mid-March through mid-September. However, if construction must occur during the nesting season, Environmental Commitment BIO-1 would be implemented to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds. Operation of the Multi-Use Facility would be within Tillman and not involve or affect biological resources. *Thus, with timing of construction outside of migratory bird nesting season and/or implementation of Environmental Commitment BIO-1, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on migratory birds.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Effects to biological resources under the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be the same as those described for the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. Implementation of Environmental Commitments BIO-1 would reduce potential adverse impacts to migratory birds. *Thus, with timing of construction outside of migratory bird nesting season and/or implementation of Environmental Commitment BIO-1, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects on migratory birds.*

3.7 Cultural Resources

The following analysis identifies cultural resources within the area of potential effects (APE) of the Tillman Plant and whether or not implementation of the alternatives would result in environmental effects to cultural resources.

Environmental Setting

The Tillman Plant was constructed in 1985. No archaeological resources were discovered during construction of the Plant. Structures less than 50 years of age are not eligible for listing as historic or architectural resources unless they are of exceptional significance.

In 2005, a cultural resources analysis was completed as part of the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The evaluation did not undertake an intensive study of the local history. No recorded historic archeological sites were identified within the records, the literature search boundaries, or within or close to the APE, which included the project site.

As an update to the IRP EIR, a full records search was conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center, dated May 3, 2011, which indicated that no archeological sites have been identified at the Tillman Plant or within a one-half mile radius of the Plant. In addition, previous surveys and construction activities have failed to identify or unearth any cultural resources within the project site. However, these surveys were not updated for this undertaking.

A search by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) of their Sacred Lands File did not identify any Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity. The NAHC recommended that the City consult with representatives of local Native American tribes. This consultation was completed; tribal representatives have been notified of the project and have been asked to provide comments on any potential impacts of the project on Native American resources. No comments have been received.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect to cultural resources would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- Have an effect on the qualities of a resource that qualifies it for the National Register of Historic Places.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no new buildings would be constructed and no earth would be disturbed. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects to cultural resources; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would require excavation to a depth of approximately five feet below the existing surface level within the dike of Tillman on the west side of the Plant. Additionally, in order to mitigate the loss of flood storage capacity within the Basin, approximately 752 cy of earth would be removed from an existing disturbed site located in the northeastern portion of the Tillman Plant. If previously unknown cultural resources were discovered, construction would cease in the area of the find and the Corps' archeologist would be notified immediately. Construction in the area of the find would not continue until the Corps has completed the requirements of 36 CFR 800.13. *Thus, ground disturbing activities at the project site associated with the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects to cultural resources; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. Construction of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in any new or different effects upon cultural resources than under the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. If previously unknown cultural resources were

discovered, construction would cease in the area of the find and the Corps' archeologist would be notified immediately. Construction in the area of the find would not continue until the Corps has completed the requirements of 36 CFR 800.13. *Thus, ground disturbing activities at the project site associated with the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse effects to cultural resources; no mitigation is required.*

3.8 Recreation

Environmental Setting

Recreational activities in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area include fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking, jogging, walking, bicycling, and golfing. A cricket field, located immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Tillman, is a popular recreational resource. A series of connecting paved bicycle trails in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area and around Lake Balboa also provide recreational opportunities.

The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, which is located less than one-half mile southeast of Tillman, provides dirt trails to a pond, lake, and open spaces. This wildlife reserve provides a natural habitat for birds, small animals, and native plants. It also contains an educational staging area and amphitheatre, various pathway and viewing improvements, and pedestrian bridges. **Table 3.8-1** summarizes the recreational resources within close proximity to Tillman and the Japanese Garden.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect to recreational resources would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A permanent affect to the access and use of recreational facilities within the Sepulveda Basin.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. No construction activities would occur and none of the recreational resources would be affected under the No Action Alternative. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse recreation effects; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction activities and staging in the parking lot south of the Japanese Garden, as well as construction activities associated with erecting the new facility have the potential to affect access to the Japanese Garden during construction. Loss of visitor parking during construction could deter visitors away from the Garden and construction activities at the site of the proposed facility could impede access to the existing entrance to the Garden. Loss of access would be short–term, approximately 18 months and would not result in permanent loss of access to the Garden. In the short-term, if access is impeded, this could result in a short-term adverse effect. Excavation and hauling activities and the

mitigation site would not affect recreational resources.

Table 3.8-1 Recreational within the Vicinity of Tillman

Name	Type of Facility	Size (acres or yards)	Location (Address, City)	Distance to Tillman (miles)
Japanese Garden	Public Gardens	9	6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys	0.0
Anthony C. Beilenson Park	Park	87	6300 Balboa Boulevard, Van Nuys	0.6
Woodley Golf Course	Golf Course	6,803 yards	6331 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys	0.2
Woodley Avenue Park (including cricket fields)	Park	46	6350 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys	0.0
Balboa Sports Center	Rec. Center	80	17015 Burbank Boulevard, Encino	1.2
Balboa Golf Course	Golf Course	6,359 yards	16821 Burbank Boulevard, Encino	0.6
Encino Golf Course	Golf Course	6,863 yards	16821 Burbank Boulevard, Encino	0.5
Hjelte Sports Center	Rec. fields	8	16200 Burbank Boulevard, Encino	0.9
Sepulveda Garden Center	Open Space	16	16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino	1.3
Libbit Park	Park	10.6	5101 Libbit Avenue, Van Nuys	1.2
Sepulveda Basin Wildlife	Wildlife Reserve	175.0	6350 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys	0.3

Operation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect the use of the Japanese Garden or any other recreational amenities within the Basin. Operations would not increase demand for parks and recreational services, nor reduce, limit, or prevent access and use of recreational facilities in the surrounding areas. *Thus, with implementation of Environmental Commitment REC-1 to address construction impacts to the Japanese Garden, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not permanently adversely affect recreation.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would result in comparable environmental effects on recreational resources as the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, with implementation of Environmental Commitment REC-1 to address construction impacts to the Japanese Garden, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not permanently adversely affect recreation.*

3.9 Aesthetics

Environmental Setting

Major visual elements in the Basin include the Los Angeles River, Sepulveda Dam, Lake Balboa, adjacent parks and golf courses, and wildlife area.

Tillman is bordered on the south by a decorative rock wall with a vegetated dike The top and internal side of the dike is covered with a variety native plant species that survive solely on local rainfall. Because this dike contains vegetation along its entire length, Tillman, which is recessed from the dike, cannot be seen from the access road, parking lots, recreational fields, or Woodley Avenue. The dike varies in height from approximately 8 to 10 feet tall. The entire western border is rimmed by a decorative rock wall that varies in height from approximately 6 to 10 feet tall. This wall serves as the eastern border of the Woodley Avenue Park that runs the length of Tillman. From the park, only the tops of the Tillman administration building and some of the trees from the Japanese Garden are visible.

The eastern border of Tillman consists of a chain-link fence and a vegetated dike with various native trees and shrubs, similar to the design and plantings along the southern boundary. From the cricket field located immediately east of the Tillman Plant, only the top of the facilities in the southeast corner of Tillman can be seen.

Tillman operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and, for safety and security purposes, is lit at night. As described above, the plant is not visible directly from the nearest residences across Victory Boulevard. In addition, the nighttime lighting in the general area of Tillman is typical of urbanized areas.

Immediately adjacent to the proposed new facility is the Japanese Garden. The Garden reflects the differing influences prevailing during particular periods of Japanese history. Aesthetic resources include trees, shrubs, and other features that are native to Japan, such as pine, bamboo, moss, plum trees, rocks, stone lanterns, water basins, and a tea garden. The Garden's features are a visual representation and reflection of the Japanese Zen Buddhism values of simplicity, naturalness, subtlety and elegance.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse aesthetic impact would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A permanent affect on valued views or permanent alteration of views from aesthetic resources, including the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area within the Basin.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. No new facilities would be constructed and no construction activities would occur. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse aesthetic effects; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

The construction lay-down and staging area, as well as short-term construction worker parking, would occur immediately south of the proposed building footprint within the existing employee and visitor parking lot and would not be visible to land uses surrounding the Tillman Plant. There is potential for the new building to be partially visible, particularly from Woodley Avenue Park immediately west of the Tillman Plant. The new building would be visible from within the Japanese Garden.

Although the new two-story facility would have a permanent affect on valued views or permanent alteration of views from surrounding land uses, the new building would be designed to visually complement its surroundings by incorporating Japanese design elements and water features. In addition, the new building would be an aesthetic improvement over the existing temporary trailer that currently exists. *Thus, no permanent adverse visual effects would occur during construction; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

The new building under the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar in height to the existing temporary trailer, but the new one-story building would be an aesthetic improvement over existing conditions. The one-story building would still be visible from the adjacent Japanese Garden and would therefore have the potential to visually affect the Garden. The new building would be designed to and visually complement its surroundings by incorporating Japanese design elements and water features. Additionally, as with the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, a construction lay-down and staging area would be located within the dike of Tillman and therefore not visible from surrounding land uses. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in permanent adverse aesthetic effects; no mitigation is required*.

3.10 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Environmental Setting

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires Federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Tillman provides wastewater treatment to support the population of the San Fernando Valley serviced by the Plant. In addition, Tillman is a water reclamation plant that provides reclaimed water to support a variety of recreational uses, accessible to everyone, within the Basin. The Sepulveda Basin, serves as a recreational resource for the population living within the San Fernando Valley as well as the greater Los Angeles area. Eleven census tracts are adjacent to or are located around Tillman, and the total population within these census tracks, according to 2010 census data, is 45,697 persons. The collective population, and the racial compositions of each area, north, south, east and west of Tillman, is shown in **Tables 3.10-1** through **3.10-4**.

Of the total population, 71 percent of persons, according to year 2010 census data, consider themselves "white" and 29 percent of persons are of other races. The 2010 census data also distinguishes between Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Latino. Approximately 32 percent of the population is of Hispanic/Latino origin.

The 2010 US Census did not survey population incomes; therefore, income data from the year 2000 census is used identify lower income populations in the vicinity of the project area. This information was obtained from the City of Los Angeles's Integrated Resources Plan. In year 2000, per capita income for the Tillman study area was $18,954, and the proportion of persons below the poverty threshold was 20 percent, not significantly different from the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles.

Thresholds of Significance

Significance of population and expenditure impacts are assessed in terms of their direct effect on the local economy and related effect on other socioeconomic resources (e.g., housing). An adverse socioeconomic effect would occur from the construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A substantial shift in population trends, an adverse affect on regional spending and earning patterns, or introduction of an overwhelming demand for public services or utilities.
- Impacts to a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, prices, or jobs; impacts on the welfare of minority or low-income populations.
- The impact of project-induced population changes on the availability of public services.
- A substantial long-term decrease in local employment due to direct loss of jobs or an adverse effect on the local economy that results in an indirect long-term loss of jobs.
- Disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minorities, low-income residents, or children.

Table 3.10-1 Total Population by Race[2]

Total Population	White	African American	Asian	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Other Race	2 or More Races
East of Tillman and Interstate 405 Freeway							
12,158	7,073	560	642	92	13	3,208	570
North of Tillman and Victory Boulevard							
6,713	3,567	409	443	49	4	1,814	427
West of Tillman and Balboa Boulevard							
12,861	9,912	525	892	55	18	769	690
South of Tillman and Sepulveda Basin							
13,965	11,871	447	838	22	14	260	513
45,697	***32,423***	***1,941***	***2,815***	***218***	***49***	***6,051***	***2,200***

Table 3.10-2 Percentage Population by Race[3]

Total Population	White	African American	Asian	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Other Race	2 or More Races
East of Tillman and Interstate 405 Freeway							
12,158	58.2%	4.6%	5.3%	0.8%	0.1%	26.4%	4.7%
North of Tillman and Victory Boulevard							
6,713	53.1%	6.1%	6.6%	0.7%	0.1%	27.0%	6.4%
West of Tillman and Balboa Boulevard							
12,861	77.1%	4.1%	6.9%	0.4%	0.1%	6.0%	5.4%
South of Tillman and Sepulveda Basin							
13,965	85.0%	3.2%	6.0%	0.2%	0.1%	1.9%	3.7%
45,697	***71.0%***	***4.2%***	***6.2%***	***0.5%***	***0.1%***	***13.2%***	***4.8%***

Table 3.10-3 Total Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Latino Population[4]

Total Population	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino
East of Tillman and Interstate 405 Freeway		
12,158	6,991	5,167
North of Tillman and Victory Boulevard		
6,713	4,504	2,209
West of Tillman and Balboa Boulevard		
12,861	2,010	10,851
South of Tillman and Sepulveda Basin		
13,965	1,123	12,842
45,697	***14,628***	***31,069***

[2] *United States 2010 Census Data*, http://2010.census.gov/2010census/popmap/, March 8, 2012.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

Table 3.10-4 Percentages of Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Latino[5]

Total Population	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino
East of Tillman and Interstate 405 Freeway		
12,158	57.5%	42.5%
North of Tillman and Victory Boulevard		
6,713	67.1%	32.9%
West of Tillman and Balboa Boulevard		
12,861	15.6%	84.4%
South of Tillman and Sepulveda Basin		
13,965	8.0%	92.0%
45,697	***32.0%***	***68.0%***

- A substantial population growth in an area was induced by the project.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects to minority or low-income populations; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction of this alternative would be short-term, approximately 18 months, and would not attract a long-term worker population to the area. The majority of the construction-related jobs (of which only 5 to 20 construction workers would be engaged each day) are expected to be filled by both currently employed and unemployed labor force in the County of Los Angeles. Construction would not generate air pollutants or air toxics such that health and safety of surrounding land uses and users of the project area would be affected. Therefore, construction of the proposed action would not increase the region's population significantly. The construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative may increase the number of visitors to the Japanese Garden; however, it will not adversely affect regional spending nor introduce overwhelming demand for public services or utilities. Additionally, entrance fees to the Garden would remain unchanged, thereby allowing continued access to low income populations. Operation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not alter any resources outside of the existing Plant or affect the general population, including low income and minority populations. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in substantial shifts in population trends, adversely affect regional spending and earning patterns, or introduce overwhelming demand for public services or utilities; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would result in similar socioeconomic and environmental justice effects as the Multi-Use Facility Alternative; in the case of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative, public access to the

[5] Ibid.

exhibits within the Administrative Building would be restricted on Sundays, thereby resulting in fewer socioeconomic benefits and opportunities under this alternative when compared to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in substantial shifts in population trends, adversely affect regional spending and earning patterns, or introduce overwhelming demand for public services or utilities; no mitigation is required.*

3.11 Traffic and Circulation

Environmental Setting

The project area is generally bounded by Interstate 405 (I-405) to the east, outside the Dam and Woodley Avenue to the west. The project site is removed from residential and commercial areas in the immediate vicinity due to its location within the Basin. The closest major street north of the project site is Victory Boulevard and south of the project site is Burbank Boulevard.

Regional Access Roadways

- **Interstate 405 (I-405)**, also known as the San Diego Freeway, is a regional freeway traversing through the western parts of Los Angeles County that connects the San Fernando Valley with Orange County. I-405 is located approximately one-half mile east of the project site.

- **United States Highway 101 (US 101),** also known as the Ventura Freeway, is a regional freeway traversing along the Pacific coastline through the northern and western parts of Los Angeles County, connecting Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, and points west with the southern San Fernando Valley, before terminating near downtown Los Angeles. US 101 is located approximately 1.2 miles south of the project site.

Local Access Roadways

- **Victory Boulevard** provides east-west local and regional access between West Hills and Burbank. Victory Boulevard can be accessed from the Tillman Plant via its intersections with Woodley Avenue and Densmore Avenue. This roadway is located approximately one-quarter mile north of the project site.

- **Woodley Avenue** provides north-south local and regional access from Granada Hills to the north, though Van Nuys, to the Basin. Immediate local access is available from Woodley Avenue directly to the Tillman Plant site from a southwest driveway between Densmore Avenue and Burbank Boulevard. Woodley Avenue is located approximately one-quarter mile west of the project site.

Traffic Operations

Moderate vehicular activity is prevalent in the neighboring circulation network during the AM and PM peak periods. Major intersections and roadway segments located in the vicinity of the project site operated at LOS D or better during Year 2011 AM and PM peak hours, except for the Southbound Woodley Avenue roadway segment, north of Densmore Avenue, which operated at LOS E. Since traffic growth in general has been minimal due to the economic recession, these circulation elements are expected to operate with the same LOS values under 2012 conditions as well.

Parking Operations

The Existing Parking Plan for Tillman is included in Appendix D. This plan also includes analysis of existing parking conditions at the project site. As exhibited in this plan, there are currently seven parking facilities distributed across the project site. The total parking spaces provided at the project site (256 spaces) exceeds the parking demand (180 spaces) by 76 spaces.

Thresholds of Significance

In the absence of NEPA-specific thresholds associated with impacts to traffic and circulation, the following applicable state and local guidelines were used. A project would cause a potentially significant transportation impact if it results in any of the following:

- Conflicts with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit;

- Conflicts with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;

- Results in inadequate emergency access; or

- Conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. As such, there will be no impacts associated with this alternative. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects on the neighboring circulation network; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction Impacts

Construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would involve a small number of construction-related temporary trips. As such, construction-related traffic impacts associated with this alternative are not expected to be significant.

During the construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, Parking Facility 1 (exhibited in the Existing Parking Plan included in Appendix D) adjacent to the Japanese Garden would be temporarily closed. This would result in a temporary reduction of 109 parking spaces within the project site. As mentioned above, parking supply currently provided at the project site exceeds the parking demand by 76 spaces.

The project site is located adjacent to the Woodley Park I and II recreational areas and the cricket fields and its associated off-street parking lots to the immediate west, south, and southeast. Demand for the use of this park and its associated parking facilities would peak during non-office and weekend hours and could therefore provide as potential overflow parking for the Tillman Plant during construction. Access to these alternative parking facilities could be provided from driveways coming from Woodley Avenue. Hence, off-street parking facilities located in those areas are not expected to be highly utilized during construction working hours. As discussed under Environmental Commitment TRAF-1 below, coordination with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, would be done in order to implement an overflow parking option.

The construction phase of this project is not anticipated to result in minimal or no new bicycle or pedestrian trips from workers or visitors. Hence, construction would not cause any significant pedestrian and bicycle impacts during the weekday and weekend peak periods.

Operational Impacts

Currently the Tillman Plant and Japanese Garden host period special events and cultural celebrations. Build-out of the new facility would allow for the continued and slightly enhanced ability for Tillman and the Garden to host such events. The plaza area and new facility could accommodate up to approximately 450 individuals, which represents the maximum number of potential attendees at a given event. The events currently occurring at Tillman accommodate up to 250 individuals. Project implementation would increase the potential attendance by approximately 200 individuals or approximately 44 percent.

Typically, special events and cultural festivals occur on the weekends. Increased attendance at events would not affect weekday peak period traffic in the vicinity of the Plant.

As part of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, the remaining portion of the parking lot would be reconfigured to provide approximately 111 parking spaces. During special events and cultural festivals, parking would continue to be available on a first-come, first-serve or on a reservation-only basis.

Modifications planned as part of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative are expected to result

in minimal or no new bicycle and pedestrian trips during the weekday and weekend peak periods. Hence, operation of the new Multi-Use Facility would not cause any significant pedestrian and bicycle impacts during the weekday and weekend peak periods. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative with implementation of mitigation during construction, would not adversely affect parking spaces, although the number of parking spaces would be reduced.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and would not result in traffic or parking effects beyond those already identified. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative with implementation of mitigation during construction, would not adversely affect parking spaces.*

3.12 Public Services

Environmental Setting

Tillman is located within the service area of City of Los Angeles departments. Specifically, Tillman is served by the following City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) stations:

- Fire Station No. 88, located at 5101 Sepulveda Boulevard, is approximately 2 miles from Tillman
- Fire Station No. 39, located at 14415 Sylvan Street, is approximately 3 miles from Tillman

As a City of Los Angeles facility, the City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has officers staffed at the Plant. No school or library facilities are located within the vicinity of Tillman.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect to public services would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternatives would result in the following:

- Result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services (i.e., fire, police, schools, libraries).

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in its current condition; no new buildings would be constructed and no new demands upon public services would be generated. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse public services effects; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would be short-term, and throughout the construction duration, access to Tillman facilities and the surrounding area would remain unaffected. Emergency and fire access would be maintained, police protection services would continue to be provided at the Plant by LAPD, and no schools or libraries would be affected. Operation of this alternative would not induce population growth such that new demands would be placed on existing public services. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect public services; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and would not affect the continued provision of public services in the project vicinity. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not adversely affect public services; no mitigation is required.*

3.13 Public Health and Safety

Environmental Setting

The USEPA is the lead Federal Agency responsible for enforcing Federal regulations regarding hazardous materials. The primary legislation governing hazardous materials includes the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

In 2011, during excavation for the construction of two storage basins on the east side of the Plant, the City discovered the presence of organochloride pesticides, specifically dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and its metabolites, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) and dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane (DDD). A detailed survey was performed which revealed some areas with hazardous concentrations. While the project site is located on the west side of the Plant, DDT contaminated soils are assumed at the project site. During excavation, the City will conduct soil sampling for waste characterization, and, if soil with concentrations of organochlorine pesticides greater than 1.0 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) is found, the contaminated excavated soil will be disposed outside of the Basin and in accordance with Federal and state regulations.

Known Hazardous Materials Sites in the Project Vicinity

The State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the State

Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) maintain the EnviroStor/Geotracker database on hazardous materials sites within California. A search of this database (DTSC, 2012) indicated that the project site is not on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The EnviroStor/Geotracker database search identified several sites within the vicinity of the project site where hazardous materials investigation and/or remediation has occurred, as detailed in Appendix E.

Geologic Hazards

The site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The site is within a liquefaction Seismic Hazard Zone. Known regional faults that could produce significant ground shaking at the site include the Hollywood, Verdugo, Northridge, Santa Monica, and Sierra Madre Faults, among others. The closest of these is the Hollywood Fault with a surface projection of potential rupture area located at a distance of more than six miles from the site, according to the Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared in 2012 for the project.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse effect to public health and safety would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternatives would result in the following:

- Creation of a hazard to the public or the environment through the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- Creation of a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- Cause or accelerate geologic hazards which would result in substantial damage to structures or infrastructure, or expose people to substantial risk of injury.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in its current condition; no new buildings would be constructed. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

Construction and operation of the new facility will not result adverse effects to public health and safety. No hazardous materials will be used during operation of the new facility. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects related to hazardous materials; no mitigation is required.*

Hazardous Materials at Sites in the Project Vicinity

If, during construction, contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered, standard practices would be followed for proper removal and disposal, in accordance with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction; no mitigation is required.*

Hazardous Materials in On-Site Soils

The potential for concentrations of DDT, DDD, and DDE in soils at the project site, as well as the mitigation site in the northeast area of the Tillman Plant, could result in adverse effects on public health and safety if released to the environment during construction. Based on analysis of soils analyzed in borings taken for the project's Geotechnical Engineering Report (City of Los Angeles, 2012), concentrations are not anticipated to pose a hazard to public health or the environment.

However, if, during construction, any unknown contamination is encountered, standard practices would be followed for proper characterization, removal and disposal, in accordance with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials known to exist in on-site soils; no mitigation is required.*

Hazardous Materials Used During Construction

During construction, hazardous materials would be used, including petroleum fuels and oils for construction equipment. Release of these materials could occur through spills or from runoff during storm events. As required by existing regulations, the City will prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP will be reviewed and approved by the responsible local, state, and/or Federal agency and will establish a protocol for proper emergency procedures and handling and disposal of hazardous materials if an accidental spill occurs during construction. The SWPPP will outline best management practices (BMPs) related to fueling, vehicle washing and handling, use, and storage of chemicals.

Geologic Hazards

Ground surface rupturing along faults, ground shaking and liquefaction are three of the important geologic hazards for properties in southern California. Since the site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the potential for ground surface rupture is considered low (City of Los Angeles, 2012). There is potential for

liquefaction-induced settlement and ground shaking resulting from an earthquake occurring along any of several major active and potentially active faults in southern California (City of Los Angeles, 2012). In addition, other effects of seismic activity include landslides, lateral spreading, earthquake-induced flooding, seiches, and tsunamis. Results of the geotechnical investigation indicate the potential for these hazards is low (City of Los Angeles, 2012).

Adverse effects on public health and safety could occur from liquefaction and/or ground shaking associated with a seismic event. The geotechnical investigation for the proposed multi-use facility includes design recommendations to prevent liquefaction and/or ground shaking from affecting the newly constructed building. The facility would be designed by California-licensed professional civil and structural engineers and the construction work performed by licensed professional contractors such that they meets the safety standards required to reduce the risk of seismic hazards. Designs and plans would also require reviews and permits per local, state and Federal laws. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects from geologic hazards; no mitigation is required.*

Emergency Response

Construction activities would occur within the boundary of the Tillman Plant on the existing parking area south of the Japanese Garden as well as at the mitigation site in the northeast area of the Plant. During construction, emergency ingress and egress to the plant would be maintained at all times. Once the project is operational, parking would be restored at Tillman. Additionally, prior to the occupancy of the new facility, the Tillman Plant Emergency Evacuation Plan would be updated and submitted to the Corps. *Thus, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects related to interference with implementation of emergency response plans or activities of police, fire protection, or other emergency services; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Adverse effects to public health and safety under the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would be the same as those described for the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *Thus, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not result in adverse public health and safety effects related to hazardous materials (construction and operation); there would be no adverse effects on public health or safety from: the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials in groundwater or known to exist in on-site soils; or from geologic hazards; or related to interference with implementation of emergency response plans or activities of police, fire protection, or other emergency services; and, no mitigation is required.*

3.14 Utilities

Environmental Setting

The Tillman Plant has approximately 75 employees and as a City of Los Angeles facility,

is primarily served by City utility providers. The following provides a brief summary of existing utility service at Tillman.

- **Water**: Potable water is provided to the plant by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

- **Wastewater**: Tillman itself is a wastewater treatment plant; biosolids, however, are released back into the City of Los Angeles sewer system for treatment downstream at HTP.

- **Solid Waste**: Solid Waste collection is provided by the City of Los Angeles and is disposed at any of the three landfills that serve the City. Hazardous waste is disposed at the Kettleman Hills Landfill.

- **Electricity**: Electricity is provided by LADWP.

- **Natural Gas**: Tillman consumes natural gas for non-process uses only; the amount of natural gas consumed is not dependent on the daily treatment capacity.

Thresholds of Significance

An adverse impact upon utilities would occur if construction and/or operation of the alternative would result in the following:

- A substantial increase in the consumption of resources, disruption in the use of utilities, or generation of outputs that compromise the provision of adequate utilities services, including water, wastewater, solid waste, electricity and natural gas, to the remaining Sepulveda Basin and greater Los Angeles area.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The following analysis evaluates the potential for each alternative to permanently affect utilities within the Sepulveda Basin and greater Los Angeles area:

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in pre-project conditions. *Thus, the No Action Alternative would not result in adverse effects on utilities; no mitigation is required.*

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

The following summarizes the potential effects to utilities with implementation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative:

Water

Potable water used at Tillman is primarily for non-process uses only. During construction water consumption may increase minimally due to an increase in the number of workers at Tillman, which is expected to be an increase of 5 to 20 workers each day.

Construction would require new water infrastructure and the connection of the water infrastructure in the new building to the existing water supply system.

During operation, the number of staff, currently housed in temporary trailer structure, is expected to remain the same in the new facility. The existing and proposed water demand is shown in **Table 3.14-1**.

During operation, water consumption may increase slightly on a periodic basis as a result of a potential increase in the number of visitors to the facility during special events and cultural fairs. The increase in water consumption from the new building and potential increase in the number of visitors is minor and would not require a new water supply nor substantially affect demand of LADWP resources beyond that which is analyzed in the LADWP's Urban Water Management Plan. The estimated water demand in Table 3.14-1 is conservative because the number of employees is not anticipated to increase. The new facility would be designed in accordance to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria to incorporate sustainable design features, including water saving features. *As such, water consumption and impacts to water infrastructure under the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect water service; no mitigation is required.*

Table 3.14-1: Estimated Water Demand and Supply

	Baseline[a]	**Multi-Use Facility**
Office Uses Factor (gpd/1,000 sf)		150/1,000 sf
Total Office Area (sf)	1,750	17,892
Office Water Demand (gpd)	262.5[b]	2,683.8
Total Water Demand (gpd)	**263**	**2,684**
Conversion (gal/acre-feet)	325,851.44	325,851.44
Total Water Demand (acre-feet/day)	0.0008	0.0082
Total LADWP Water Demand (acre-feet/year [AFY])	**0.292**	**2.993**
LADWP Water Supply (acre-feet)	555,477[c]	710,800[d]
% of LADWP Water Supply	**0.0000005%**	**0.0000042%**

Source: Urban Water Management Plan, LADWP 2010.

[a] In the absence of any site-specific water usage factors, or standard water usage factors for specific on-site uses, current water consumption estimates were developed based on land use wastewater generation factors developed by the City of Los Angeles for the *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide*

[b] The Baseline was estimated based on the existing trailer area that would be replaced.

[c] FY2010 actual water supply was used for baseline.

[d] FY2035 water supply was used for the project.

Wastewater

During construction, with the slightly increased number of workers on the Plant site,

wastewater generated at the Plant may increase minimally. During construction, wastewater treatment processes at Tillman would be unaffected and would continue without disruption. Construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would require additional wastewater infrastructure to serve the new building.

During operation, the number of staff, which are currently housed in temporary trailer structure, is expected to remain the same in the new and larger facility. The estimated existing and proposed wastewater demand is shown in **Table 3.14-2**.

Table 3.14-2: Estimated Wastewater Generation

	Baseline	**Multi-Use Facility**
Total Wastewater (gpd)*	263	2,684
Total Wastewater (mgd)	**0.00026**	**0.004**
Existing Tillman Plant Flow (mgd)	65	65
% of Existing Flow	**0.000004**	**0.000006**
Tillman Plant Capacity (mgd)	80	80
% of Plant Capacity	**0.000003**	**0.000050**

* Water usage projections from Table 3.14-1 are used as the proxy for wastewater generation because the amount of wastewater used is a function of the amount of water used.

As shown in Table 3.14-2, during operation, wastewater generated at the new facility represents a minor increase of wastewater generated at the Plant. The estimated wastewater generation in Table 3.14-2 is conservative because the number of employees is not anticipated to increase. The new facility would be designed in accordance to LEED criteria to incorporate sustainable design features. *As such, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect wastewater service or infrastructure; no mitigation is required.*

Solid Waste

During construction, with the slightly increased number of workers on the Plant site, solid waste generated at the Plant may increase minimally. Construction debris and any structure demolition material would be hauled from the construction site directly by the construction contractor. Construction activities would not affect solid waste collection services. During operation, solid waste generated at the new Multi-Use Facility may increase minimally as a result of a potential periodic increase in the number of visitors to the facility for special events and cultural fairs. The potential increase in solid waste generated at the new facility would be minimal and would not overburden the City of Los Angeles' solid waste disposal services. The new facility would be designed in accordance to the LEED criteria to incorporate sustainable design features, including solid waste recycling programs. *As such, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not*

adversely affect solid waste service; no mitigation is required.

Electricity

Electricity used at Tillman is for both process and non-process uses. During construction, use of electric construction equipment may slightly increase electricity consumption. Construction of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would require new electrical infrastructure and existing electrical wiring to be relocated. New electrical infrastructure would be connected into the LADWP grid. During operation, electricity consumption would minimally increase as a result of the increased square footage of the facility. Additional electricity consumption as a result of the alternative would be minimal and, would not exceed LADWP's capacity. The new facility would be designed in accordance to the LEED criteria to incorporate sustainable design features, including electricity-saving features. *As such, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect electricity service; no mitigation is required.*

Natural Gas

During construction, with the slightly increased number of workers on the Plant site, natural gas consumption may increase minimally. New natural gas infrastructure would be connected into the LADWP supply. During operation, natural gas consumption at the new facility may increase minimally as a result of the increased square footage of the facility. Natural gas consumption would be minimal and would not exceed LADWP's capacity. the new facility would be designed in accordance to the LEED criteria to incorporate sustainable design features, including natural gas saving features. *As such, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect natural gas service; no mitigation is required.*

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, the number of visitors is expected to increase under the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative. Implementation of this alternative would result in similar demands on existing infrastructure as the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. *As such, no adverse effects to utility services would occur from the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative; no mitigation is required.*

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Section 4

Environmental Commitments

This section describes the environmental commitments that would be implemented as part of the Proposed Action. Due to the limited nature of disturbance, the activities of the Proposed Action are not expected to cause any long term adverse effects. The environmental commitments discussed below would decrease the severity of any short-term or temporary project related activities on resources. The environmental commitments described in this section are not legally binding and do not constitute a Environmental Commitment that would be binding or enforceable against the United States.

Geology and Soils

SG-1 No work shall occur during heavy storms.

SG-2 Work would cease when wind speed exceeds 25 miles per hour.

SG-3 Recommendations within the Geotechnical Engineering Report prepared for the project will be followed.

Water Resources

WR-1 Occupancy

Prior to occupancy of the new building the City shall certify that the dike and flood wall surrounding the Tillman plant shall meet FEMA criteria and provide certification to the Corps.

WR-2 Evacuation Plan

Prior to occupancy of the new building, the existing Tillman Plant Evacuation Plan shall be updated to designate evacuation procedures and routes for employees and visitors to the Plant. An annual physical evacuation exercise will be carried out prior to the start of flood season (1 Nov) for all employees of the Plant. Signage directing the evacuation route will be posted in all buildings throughout the Plant.

WR-3 Education Program

Prior to occupancy of the new building, the employees and docents who will work in the building shall go through a worker education program and education sessions to become aware of evacuation procedures and protocols.

WR-4 A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared to reduce the potential for accidental release of fuels, pesticides, and other materials. A Notice of Intent (NOI) will be sent to the California Water Resources Board in Sacramento. The SWPPP would be reviewed and approved by Corps team members, including ERB and Engineering. This plan will include the designation

of refueling locations, emergency response procedures, and definitions of reporting requirements for any spill that occurs. Equipment for immediate cleanup will be kept at the staging area for immediate use.

WR-5 When a storm event is forecast within 48 hours, work shall stop and all equipment and vehicles will be moved to an area not subject to flooding by the 100-year flood event (approximately 712 ft).

Air Quality

AQ-1 A Fugitive Dust Emission Control Plan would be developed and implemented. Measures to be incorporated into the plan would include, but not be limited to the following:

- Water unpaved and other disturbed areas of the active sites at least two times per day, or apply CARB certified soil binders.
- Install wheel washers/cleaners or wash the wheels of trucks and other heavy equipment where vehicles exit the site or unpaved access roads.
- Increase the frequency of watering, or implement other additional fugitive dust Environmental Commitments, of all disturbed fugitive dust emission sources when wind speeds (as instantaneous wind gusts) exceed 25 miles per hour.

AQ-2 Diesel engine idle time would be restricted to no more than ten minutes duration.

AQ-3 All on-road construction vehicles working within California would meet all applicable California on-road emission standards and would be licensed in the State of California. This does not apply to construction worker personal vehicles.

AQ-4 Activities and operations on unpaved roads areas would be minimized to the extent feasible during high wind events to minimize fugitive dust.

Noise

N-1 Activities would comply with local ordinances. Any nighttime or weekend activities would be coordinated with local ordinances and would require a noise permit.

N-2 All equipment used would be muffled and maintained in good operating condition. All internal combustion engine driven equipment would be fitted with well maintained mufflers in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Biological Resources

BR-1 Protection of Nesting Birds

A nesting bird survey shall be conducted in the months of March through September, 72 hours prior to any activities that would remove or disturb suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds. The survey shall be performed by a biologist with experience conducting breeding bird surveys. If an active nest of a migratory bird is detected, construction within 250 feet of the nest shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged and when there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.

BR-2 Work would occur only during daylight hours, if possible, to minimize disturbances to any urban wildlife species that move primarily at night.

BR-3 Unpaved areas would be watered as needed (or other measures implemented) to control dust on a continual basis.

BR-4 No harassing, killing, collecting, or intentionally harming any species of wildlife, fish or vertebrate would occur.

Cultural Resources

CR-1 In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are uncovered, work in the immediate area would cease until the requirements in 36 CFR 800.13 are complied with.

Aesthetics and Recreation

AR-1 Interim Public Access and Support Facilities

To maintain public access to the Japanese Garden throughout the duration of construction, the City of Los Angeles shall arrange for alternative temporary public parking and support facilities in Woodley Avenue Park south and west of the Tillman Plant and Garden. Pedestrian access shall be provided and maintained throughout the duration of construction from the alternative temporary parking to the Japanese Garden. In addition, access to the Garden from the north shall be considered. Coordination with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks shall be undertaken to secure adequate parking supplies prior to the start of construction.

AR-2 Work and staging areas would be kept orderly and free of trash and debris.

AR-3 A storage area for collection and storage of recyclable and green waste materials would be kept within the work area. All trash and debris would be removed from the work area at the end of each day

AR-4 All recreation uses would be detoured from the area for safety of workers and the public.

AR-5 Signs would be posted prohibiting trespassing.

Traffic

TT-1 Temporary Overflow Parking

If necessary during construction, temporary overflow parking could be provided in the Woodley Park parking lots adjacent to the Tillman Plant. Use of these parking lots by construction workers during the approximately 18-month construction period, would be coordinated with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks. Coordination and arrangement for alternate parking would occur prior to the start of construction.

TT-2 Public streets would be kept operational, particularly during the morning and evening peak hours of traffic. If required, any lane closures would be minimized during peak traffic hours.

TT-3 There would be coordination with the local transportation department of the applicable jurisdiction to implement standard construction traffic controls, such as the posting of notices, signage, detours, flag men, and other appropriate measures as needed.

Safety

PS-1 Construction and maintenance fluids (oils, antifreeze, fuels) would be stored in closed containers (no open buckets or pans) and disposed of promptly and properly away from the channel to prevent contamination of the site.

PS-2 Refueling of equipment could be accomplished on site least 50 feet away from flowing water and with the use of liners. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used and include such actions as having hazardous waste clean-up equipment and spill kits staged on-site, using the appropriate size and gauge drip pans and absorbent diapers. Spill kits shall be in close proximity to the fuel truck in case of fuel or other fluid spills. Contractor equipment would be checked for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary.

PS-3 Fluids released because of spills, equipment failure (broken hose, punctured tank) or refueling would be immediately controlled, contained, and cleaned-up per Federal and regulations. All contaminated materials would be disposed of promptly and properly to prevent contamination of the site. Someone would be present to monitor refueling activities to ensure that spillage from overfilling, nozzle removal, or other action does not occur.

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Section 5
Growth Inducing Impacts

5.1 Introduction

NEPA requires examination for the potential of a proposed action to significantly or adversely affect the environment; potential impacts could be either direct or indirect. Indirect effects (NEPA, 40 CFR 1508.8[b]) may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural systems including ecosystems.

The analysis focuses on whether the proposed action would directly or indirectly stimulate growth in the surrounding area. Due to the nature of the proposed action it is anticipated that existing recreational and cultural needs for the existing population serviced by the Tillman Plant would be accommodated.

5.2 Growth Considerations

Growth inducement can be direct or indirect, and both types are evaluated below. The following conditions were considered in assessing the direct and indirect growth-inducing effects of the proposed action:

- If the Alternative: (1) results in the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, (2) fosters economic growth that results in increased population growth, or (3) removes obstacles to population growth, the Alternative would be considered to cause growth-inducing effects. These effects must be considered because of their potentially taxing effect on existing community service facilities.

- Growth in any area is not assumed to be beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

5.2.1 Direct Growth-Inducing Impacts

A project would directly induce growth if it would directly foster economic or population growth or the construction of new housing in the surrounding environment (e.g., if it would remove an obstacle to growth).

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Tillman Plant would remain in its current condition; this alternative would not induce growth.

Multi-Use Facility Alternative

The Multi-Use Facility Alternative does not include the development of new housing or population-generating uses that would directly encourage such uses. The residential area in the immediate vicinity of the project site is primarily built out. Therefore, this alternative would not directly trigger new residential development in the project vicinity.

No increase in staff is required to operate the Multi-Use Facility. However, with increased capacity for events in the larger building and the new outdoor plaza and stage area, periodic increases in visitors to the Tillman Plant are expected but would not foster permanent economic growth that results in permanent increased population growth. This alternative is not considered growth inducing.

Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

Similar to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative does not include the development of new housing or population-generating uses that would directly encourage such uses. Therefore, the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not directly trigger new residential development in the project area.

No increase in staff is required to operate the reduced-size facility. On a reduced level compared to the Multi-Use Facility Alternative, with the increased building capacity and with the public plaza and stage, periodic increases in visitors to the Tillman Plant are expected but would not foster permanent economic growth that results in permanent increased population growth. This alternative is not considered growth inducing.

5.2.2 Indirect Growth-Inducing Impacts

A project would indirectly induce growth if it would foster economic or population-expanding activities, which would lead to further development that taxes existing facilities and, eventually requires construction of new facilities (e.g., an increase in population as a result of development authorized by approval of a general plan).

The net increase in temporary employment (direct and secondary) during construction of either the Multi-Use Facility Alternative or the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would range between 5 and 20 jobs. No new jobs would be generated under the No Action Alternative. Currently Tillman employs approximately 75 individuals; this represents a 6.7 to 26.7 percent short term increase in jobs during the approximately 18-month construction period at Tillman for either build alternative. No increase in staff is anticipated to operate the new facility. The potential for the No Action Alternative, the Multi-Use Facility Alternative and/or the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative to generate indirect growth-inducing impacts, therefore, is minimal.

Section 6
Cumulative Impacts

6.1 Introduction

The Federal Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require that the implementation of NEPA include an analysis of cumulative impacts. Federal regulations define "cumulative impact" as:

> *"The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.*[6]

This section identifies the current and future projects that have a potential to lead to cumulative impacts. CEQ guidance indicates that cumulative impact is the total effect on a given resource, ecosystem, or human community of all actions taken, including actions unrelated to the proposed action.[7,8] For each environmental issue area, the scope of analysis for cumulative impacts can vary.

Tillman

A number of past, present and foreseeable future activities have either occurred or are planned at the Tillman Plant. These activities, and the respective status of each activity, are shown in **Table 6-1**.

Table 6-1: Past, Present & Future Projects

Project Name	Status (1)
Past Tillman Projects	
Aqua Diamond Filter Procurement	Complete
Filter Replacement Installation	Complete
Nitrification/De-Nitrification Blower Facility	Complete
Nitrification/De-Nitrification Blower Procurement	Complete
Screw Pumps Wetwell Covers Replacement	Complete
Gallery Ventilation	Complete
Chlorine Lines Replacement	Complete
Wetweather Storage Recovery System	Complete
Electrical Vaults MH – 1, 2, 3 Replacement	Complete
Replace Concrete Electrical Vaults	Complete
Primary Tank Skimmer Cover Replacement	Complete
HPE Pipe Repair	Complete
Filter Railing System Upgrade	Complete

[6] 40 CFR 1508.7

[7] Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, Considering Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act. 1997

[8] Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis. 2005

Temporary Bypass Tertiary Effluent Piping	Complete	
Filter Fall Protection	Complete	
Aeration Tanks 1, 2 & 3 Air Line Connection	Complete	
Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement	Complete	
LAB Facility	Complete	
Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex – Phase I	Complete	
Secondary Clarifiers Crack Repair	Complete	
Present and Future Tillman Projects		
	Scheduled Construction	
	Start	Complete
Electrical Power System Mods	03/27/2014	09/25/2015
Backup Power	07/15/2014	07/10/2016
Odor Control System and Removal of Blowers	03/12/2015	04/04/2017
Personnel & Multi-Use Facility	02/04/2014	03/30/2016
Maintenance Facilities Relocation	09/01/2014	02/18/2017
Electrical Vault Rehabilitation	09/27/2013	11/28/2014
New Advanced Water Treatment Facility	TBD	TBD
In-Plant Storage Basins Project	06/30/2010	08/01/2012
Present and Proposed Future Sepulveda Basin Projects		
	Scheduled Construction	
	Start	Complete
South San Fernando Valley Park & Ride	10/07/2011	10/01/2012
Sepulveda Recreation Center – Improvements	06/30/2012	07/01/2013
Sepulveda Basin Hjelte Field	07/02/2014	10/012015

(1) Projects listed as complete have been completed within the last approximately 3 years.

Past Actions

Historically the Basin, including the site that the Tillman Plant occupies, was primarily used for agricultural purposes. The acceleration of urbanization within the San Fernando Valley after World War II created a need for additional outdoor recreational resources. In 1951, the Corps and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks entered into a 50-year recreational lease where a large portion of the Basin was leased for recreational purposes to the City. In 1970, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation entered into a lease agreement for the approximately 90 acres where the Tillman Plant is located. The Corps and the City established a Wildlife Area north of Burbank Boulevard, thereby converting open and agricultural land into wildlife habitat for birds and small mammals. In 1995, the Corps added an additional 60 acres of open lands west of Haskell Creek as part of the Wildlife Area.

Present Actions

The Basin primarily functions as a flood risk management facility. Sepulveda Basin also supports a variety of recreational amenities, including three golf courses, parkland, a sports center, baseball and soccer fields, the garden center, model airplane center, cricket fields, tennis courts, hiking/jogging/bicycle trails, and a lake for fishing. Several leases have also been granted for non-recreational purposes including the Tillman Plant, a fire station, a National Guard Armory, maintenance shops, and a Naval Reserve Training Center. In addition, several parcels in the Basin are leased for agricultural purposes.

Easements have also been granted for water lines, power lines, sewer lines, storm drains, gas lines, and traffic arteries, such as freeways and city streets.

Future Actions

The Basin will continue to function primarily as a flood risk management facility. Recreational amenities will continue to be operated and maintained by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks. Multiple supplements to the original 50-year lease with the City for recreational purposes have been extended, thus recreational use of the Basin will continue at least until 2042. The Tillman Plant is operating under a lease with the Corps that terminates in 2019. As shown in Table 6-1, above, there are various foreseeable future activities that are planned at the Plant. Any future request to develop, change or otherwise modify present land use located within the Tillman lease area requiring Corps approval will be reviewed in separate environmental documentation.

The Corps and the City will institute negotiations for a new Lease in the next few years as the current lease terminates in 2019. Conditions for the new Lease are currently being formalized. However, criteria not established at the time of construction of the Plant and the dike and flood wall have been revised and will be implemented in order for the new Lease to be approved at HQUSACE.

The Corps will evaluate the existing Tillman dike and flood wall for compatibility/consistency with Corps' standards. One of the required regulations/policies applicable for approval of a new lease is the criteria set forth in the Corps' Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 1110-2-571, *Guidelines for Landscape Planting and Vegetation Management at Levees, Floodwalls, Embankment Dams, and Appurtenant Structures,* dated 2009.

These conditions will include at a minimum the upgrading of the condition/integrity of the dike to meet the criteria identified in Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 1110-2-571, which includes;

1. Removal of vegetation currently planted on the dike and within 15 feet of the flood wall and the dike.
2. Earthwork such as filling rodent burrows and soil re-compaction of the dike.
3. Annual inspection of the dike and flood wall cumulating in any maintenance or repair work required to meet the above criteria at all times.

These actions will need to be analyzed for impacts on environmental resources for both short term temporary construction and long term permanent impacts. Requirements for the new lease and any future work required to ensure that the Tillman dike and flood wall meet Corps standards will be analyzed in separate environmental documentation.

6.2 Cumulative Environmental Effects

6.2.1 Multi-Use Facility Alternative

With the implementation of Environmental Commitments (Section 4) temporary construction impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Given that the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not adversely affect the environment, this alternative would not contribute to or result in cumulative adverse environmental effects.

6.2.2 Reduced-Size Facility Alternative

With the implementation of Environmental Commitments (Section 4) temporary construction impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Given that the Reduced-Size Facility Alternative would not adversely affect the environment, this alternative would not contribute to or result in cumulative adverse environmental effects.

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Section 7
Compliance with Applicable Federal Laws & Regulations

The analysis in this document is in full compliance with the following Federal laws, Executive Orders and Corps guidance.

Council on Environmental Quality, 940 CFR (Parts 1500-1508)

CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA establish the requirements and procedures for preparation of an EA, and the process by which Federal agencies fulfill their obligations under NEPA. The regulations also define such key terms as "cumulative impact," "mitigation," and "significant" (as it relates to impacts) to ensure consistent application of these terms in environmental documents. By completing an EA, the project alternatives would be consistent with NEPA.

NEPA is the nation's primary charter for protection of the environment. It establishes national environmental policy which provides a framework for Federal agencies to minimize environmental damage and requires Federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Under NEPA, a Federal agency must prepare an EA describing the environmental effects of any proposed action having a significant impact on the environment. The EA must identify measures necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts resulting from the proposed action or determine if further analysis is required and prepare an EIS.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA of 1969 (42 USC 43221, as amended) and the CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), dated 1 July 1988. Therefore the Proposed Action is in compliance with the Act

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), as amended

As previously discussed, this EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 United States Code [USC] 43221, as amended). NEPA requires that agencies of the Federal government shall implement an environmental impact analysis program in order to evaluate "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." A "major Federal action" may include projects financed, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by a Federal agency. By completing an EA, the project alternatives would be consistent with NEPA. Operation of the Multi-Use Facility Alternative would not alter any resources outside of the existing plant or affect the general population, including low income and minority populations.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects threatened and endangered species, as listed by the USFWS, from unauthorized take, and directs Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of such species. Section 7 of the Act

defines Federal agency responsibilities for consultation with the USFWS. The project alternatives would not result in actions that would jeopardize threatened and endangered species; therefore, the alternatives are in full compliance with this act.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking or harming of any migratory bird, its eggs, nests, or young without an appropriate Federal permit. Almost all native birds are covered by this Act and any bird listed in wildlife treaties between the United States and several countries, including Great Britain, Mexican States, Japan, and countries once part of the former Soviet Socialist Republics. A "migratory bird" includes the living bird, any parts of the bird, its nests, or eggs. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA's regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over-utilization. Section 704 of the MBTA states that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to determine if, and by what means, the take of migratory birds should be allowed and to adopt suitable regulations permitting and governing take. Disturbance of the nest of a migratory bird requires a permit issued by the USFWS pursuant to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

As discussed in Section 3.6, Biological Resources, construction activities could result in an adverse impact if an active migratory bird nest is disturbed. However, construction would be timed as much as possible to occur outside the migratory bird nesting season. If construction must occur during the nesting season, Environmental Commitment BIO-1 would be implemented to postpone construction if an active nest of a migratory bird is detected. Therefore, the project alternatives would not result in the harming of any migratory bird, its eggs, nests, or young without an appropriate Federal permit; therefore, the alternatives would be consistent with this act.

Clean Water Act

Section 404 prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States, including wetlands, except as permitted under separate regulations by the Corps and USEPA. The Tillman Plant is located outside of the geographic jurisdiction of Section 404. Therefore, the Act is not applicable to the Proposed Action.

Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended

1970 Amendments to the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 USC 7401 et seq.) enacted legislation to control seven toxic air pollutants. USEPA adopted National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), which has been designed to control Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) emissions to prevent adverse health effects in humans. 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act determine the attainment and maintenance of NAAQS (Title I), motor vehicles and reformulation (Title II), hazardous air pollutant (Title III), acid deposition (Title IV), operating permits (Titles V), stratospheric ozone protection (Title VI), and enforcement (Title VII).

General Conformity. Under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990, the Lead Agency is required to make a determination of whether the Proposed Action "conforms" to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Conformity is defined in Section 176(c) of the CAAA as compliance with the SIPs purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards. However, if the total direct and indirect emissions from the proposed action are below the General Conformity Rule "*de minimis*" emission thresholds, the proposed action would be exempt from performing a comprehensive Air Quality Conformity Analysis and would be considered to be in conformity with the SIP. The project alternatives would be required to comply with rules and regulations used to regulate sources of air pollution; therefore, the alternatives would be consistent with this act.

Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended

Noise generated by any activity, which may affect human health or welfare on Federal, state, county, local, or private lands must comply with noise limits specified in the Noise Control Act. The project alternatives would not result in impacts to noise; therefore, the alternatives would be consistent with this act.

National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 16 USC 470-470, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460b, 470l-470n), protects historic and cultural resources. National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations were conducted for historic and prehistoric archeological sites located within the area of potential effects. The proposed action is not anticipated to affect cultural or historical resources. However, if any such resources are discovered during operation and maintenance, they will need to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b).

Archeological Resources Protection Act, as amended

The Archeological Resources Protection Act requires that when cultural resources may be impacted when working on Federal lands or there is another Federal connection. The Act allows for the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed. The project alternatives are not anticipated to affect archeological resources. However, if any such resources are discovered during construction, , the Contractor shall immediately cease excavation in the area of discovery and shall not continue until directed to do so by the Corps' archeologist.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) provided USEPA with the authority to identify and clean up contaminated hazardous waste sites. Individual states may implement hazardous waste programs under

RCRA with USEPA approval. California has not yet received this USEPA approval; instead, the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CALEPA) to regulate hazardous wastes. While the HWCL is generally more stringent than the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), until the USEPA approves the California program, both the state and Federal laws apply in California. CERCLA also contains enforcement provisions for the identification of liable parties. It details the legal claims that arise under the statute, and provides guidance on settlements with the USEPA. Section 120 of this Act addresses hazardous waste cleanups at Federal facilities, and requires the creation of a Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, which lists facilities that have the potential for hazardous waste problems. Conformance with this law would only be engaged if unforeseen waste was found or was abandoned on site in the future.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

This Act amended CERCLA to increase state involvement and required Superfund actions to consider state environmental laws and regulations. SARA also established a regulatory program for underground storage tanks and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The proposed action would not affect lands under the CERCLA or SARA program.

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) administers this legislation which requires special training of handlers of hazardous materials, notification to employees who work in the vicinity of hazardous materials, acquisition from the manufacturer of material safety data sheets which describe the proper use of hazardous materials, and training of employees to remediate any hazardous material accidental releases. The proposed action will not require the use of hazardous materials.

Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management

Signed May 24, 1977, this order requires that government agencies, in carrying out their responsibilities, provide leadership and take action to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Before proposing, conducting, supporting or allowing an action in the floodplain, each agency is to determine if planned activities will affect the floodplain and evaluate the potential effects of the intended action on its functions. In addition, agencies shall avoid locating development in a floodplain to avoid adverse effects in the floodplains.

The eight-step process outlined provided in ER 1165-2-26, paragraph 8, General Procedures was followed and has been summarized below. The required Statement of Findings has been added to Chapter 3.3, Water Resources, Floodplain Management.

1) The recommended site for the proposed action is located within the Base Flood Plain as defined by the Order. This is evidenced by the location of the proposed action

within the 10 percent exceedance elevation in the Basin.

2) As described in ER 1165-2-26 (1984), it is the policy of the Corps to formulate projects which, to the extent possible, avoid or minimize adverse impacts associated with use of the base flood plain and avoid inducing development in the base flood plain unless there is no practicable alternative. Practicable alternatives are those capable of being done within existing constraints. The decision on whether a practicable alternative exists is based on weighing the advantages and disadvantages of floodplain sites and non-flood plain sites. The test of practicability applies to both the proposed action and to any induced development likely to be caused by the action. No development is likely to be induced by the proposed action within the base flood plain. As described in the EA regarding the proposed action, locations for the proposed action were limited by the need to replace an existing temporary trailer structure used to house Japanese Garden employees.

3) Federal, state, and local agencies will be informed of the proposed action, including its location in the Basin, via an Interested Parties Letter accompanying the Draft EA, circulated during the 30-day review period.

4) Beneficial and adverse impacts due to the action were identified in the EA under Impact analysis section for the Multi-Use Facility Alternative. No adverse impacts to the floodplain are anticipated from the Multi-Use Facility Alternative.

5) There are no direct or indirect impacts to the floodplain that are likely to induce development in the floodplain or outside it. The proposed action does not include construction of any new, permanent housing or commercial activities, and is not expected to induce any new residential or commercial growth. Restoration of an appropriate sustainable habitat would reduce erosion of top soil by wind and inundation due to storm events.

6) During the environmental analysis for the proposed action, adverse impacts by the proposed action were minimized to less than significant through Environmental Commitments. The proposed action does not impact the floodplain. The proposed action would not aggravate current hazards of the floodplain and would not disrupt floodplain values.

7) Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the public were provided information about the proposed action in the draft EA.

8) The District recommends the practicable plan most consistent with the requirements of the Executive Order.

The proposed action, excluding the flood storage volume mitigation site, is located within the existing Tillman Plant, which is protected from a 100-year flood event by a dike and flood wall surrounding the Plant on three sides and is therefore not within a floodplain. As discussed in Section 3.3, Flood Risk Management, the project alternatives would not

adversely affect operations within the Sepulveda Basin, and as discussed in Section 3.13, Public Health & Safety, the project alternatives would not create risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the project would not have adverse effects associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains.

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards

The head of each Executive agency is responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution with respect to Federal facilities and activities under control of the agency. Enactment of environmental commitments to minimize pollution impacts during implementation would meet the standards of this Executive Order.

Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations) was signed on February 11, 1994. This order was intended to direct Federal agencies "To make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing ... disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the [U.S.] ..." To comply with the Executive Order, minority and poverty status in the vicinity of the project was examined to determine if any minority or low-income communities would potentially be disproportionately affected by implementation of the proposed action. This EA includes an environmental justice analysis (Section 3.10) and is thus consistent with requirements and policies pertaining to environment justice.

Additionally, as discussed in Section 3.3, Flood Risk Management, the project alternatives would not adversely affect operations within the Sepulveda Basin, and as discussed in Section 3.13, Public Health & Safety, the project alternatives would not create risk to human health and safety. The overall intent of this project is to support the greater good and improve overall public health and safety.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Passed by Congress in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications. Buildings must be constructed to be ADA accessible; the proposed action will be designed in compliance with ADA requirements.

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965

This statute, as amended, declares the intent of Congress that recreation and fish and

wildlife enhancement be given full consideration as purposes of Federal water development projects if non-Federal public bodies agree to: (1) bear not less than one-half the separable costs allocated for recreational purposes or twenty-five percent of the cost for fish and wildlife enhancement; (2) administer project land and water areas devoted to these purposes; and (3) bear all costs of operation, maintenance and replacement. Where Federal lands or authorized Federal programs for fish and wildlife conservation are involved, cost-sharing is not required.

This Act also authorizes the use of Federal water project funds for land acquisition in order to establish refuges for migratory waterfowl when recommended by the Secretary of the Interior, and authorizes the Secretary to provide facilities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife at all reservoirs under his control, except those within national wildlife refuges. The provisions of this law do not apply to projects constructed under authority of the Small Reclamation Projects Act of August 4, 1954. Similarly, it does not apply to projects undertaken by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); however, a 1976 amendment (P.L.94-576) authorized the TVA to recognize and provide recreational and other public uses at its projects consistent with the project purpose.

The proposed action is not considered a water development project and does not require any land acquisition. As such, this statute is not applicable to the proposed action.

Executive Order 11514 – Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality

Under this Executive Order, the Federal Government must provide leadership in protecting and enhancing the quality of the nation's environment to sustain and enrich human life. Federal agencies must initiate measures needed to direct their policies, plans and programs so as to meet national environmental goals. This EA analyzes potential environmental effects associated with the project and alternatives. Where required, Environmental Commitments are introduced and will be enforced by the Corps to protect and enhance the quality of the environment in and around the Tillman Plant and the Sepulveda Basin.

Executive Order 12088 – Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards

This Executive Order requires all Federal agencies to be in compliance with environmental laws and fully cooperate with USEPA, State, interstate, and local agencies to prevent, control, and abate environmental pollution. This EA analyzes potential environmental effects associated with the project and alternatives. Where required, Environmental Commitments are introduced and will be implemented by the City of Los Angeles and enforced by the Corps to protect and enhance the quality of the environment in and around the Tillman Plant and the Sepulveda Basin.

Executive Order 13148 – Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management

Under this Executive Order, the head of each Federal agency is responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken to integrate environmental accountability into agency

day-to-day decision-making and long-term planning processes, across all agency missions, activities, and functions. Consequently, environmental management considerations must be a fundamental and integral component of Federal Government policies, operations, planning, and management. The head of each Federal agency is responsible for meeting the goals and requirements of this order. This EA analyzes potential environmental effects associated with the project and alternatives. Where required, Environmental Commitments are introduced and will be implemented by the City of Los Angeles and enforced by the Corps to protect and enhance the quality of the environment in and around the Tillman Plant and the Sepulveda Basin.

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Section 8
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Section 9.0
Recommendation

The recommended alternative is the Multi-Use Facility Alternative (Preferred Alternative), would most effectively meet the need and purpose of the Proposed Action. The implementation of the measures described in Chapter 4, Environmental Commitments would minimize or avoid potential impacts by the Proposed Action. By providing enhanced recreational and education opportunities for City of Los Angeles residences, the Preferred Alternative would provide the most operational and educational space without compromising flood risk management within the Basin.

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Section 10
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