



(877) 300-WATER

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Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

## Facilities Planning Process Fact Sheet

The "Clearwater Program" is the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County's new facilities planning effort to ensure the continuation of a wastewater collection, treatment, effluent management, and biosolids management system that is protective of public health and the environment. The Clearwater Program will address a wide range of challenging issues affecting the 73 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County that comprise the Sanitation Districts' Joint Outfall System. These issues include evaluating aging infrastructure, providing adequate capacity for population growth, addressing changing regulations, and increasing recycled water reuse.

As required by the Clean Water Act, a Master Facilities Plan for the Clearwater Program will be prepared to evaluate project alternatives. The analysis of alternatives will result in a recommended project that represents a balance between technical, economical, environmental, and social considerations. As required by California law, the Master Facilities Plan will be developed for a 20- to 40-year planning period, depending on the facilities being addressed.

An Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will be prepared along with the Master Facilities Plan in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The planning effort will include a public outreach program to ensure that public input is incorporated early in the planning process before decisions are made.

### **The Master Facilities Plan for the Clearwater Program will:**

- Project wastewater flow quantities and constituent concentrations (strength);
- Identify current and projected future regulatory requirements;
- Identify current and projected future markets and opportunities for recycled water reuse;
- Determine the current capacity of existing collection, treatment, and disposal effluent management, and biosolids management facilities;
- Identify the "gaps" between the projected flows and the current system capacities;
- Develop options to address the identified gaps in the system;
- Combine these options to form alternatives for collection, treatment, reuse, and disposal; and
- Select a recommended project.

As required by CEQA and NEPA, the EIR/EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the alternatives developed in the Master Facilities Plan. Environmental areas that will be addressed include aesthetics, biological resources, recreation, public services and utilities, cultural resources, transportation, air quality, hazardous materials, water quality, geology, and noise, among others. The EIR/EIS will include mitigation measures as necessary to reduce or avoid significant impacts.

**The Clearwater Program consists of the following steps:**

- Obtain public input on the upcoming Master Facilities Plan through meetings with individuals and community groups;
- Issue a Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent to inform the public of an upcoming EIR/EIS;
- Consult with regulatory and permitting agencies;
- Prepare Draft Master Facilities Plan and Draft EIR/EIS;
- Provide a public review period for interested parties to review and submit written comments on the Draft Master Facilities Plan and Draft EIR/EIS;
- Hold a public hearing to solicit comments;
- Complete the Final Master Facilities Plan and Final EIR/EIS addressing all the comments received during the public review period;
- Approve and certify the Final Master Facilities Plan and Final EIR/EIS at a Districts' Board of Directors meeting; and
- Implement the project approved by the Districts' Board of Directors.