



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The proposed Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (MUST) Project (herein referenced as the “project”) involves construction of a MUST facility and conveyance facilities to carry urban runoff to the MUST facility for treatment. The project would be situated along the east and west sides of the Los Angeles (LA) River, in the City of Long Beach, and generally extend a distance of approximately 8 miles from State Route 91 (SR-91) to the north to approximately 0.1-mile south of Ocean Boulevard to the south. Following a review of the proposed project, the City of Long Beach has determined that it is subject to the guidelines and regulations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the project, as proposed.

### 1.1 STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21177) and pursuant to Section 15063 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the City of Long Beach, acting in the capacity of Lead Agency, is required to undertake the preparation of an Initial Study to determine whether the proposed project would have a significant environmental impact. If the Lead Agency finds that there is no evidence that the project, either as proposed or as modified to include the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, may cause a significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency shall find that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and shall prepare a Negative Declaration (or Mitigated Negative Declaration) for that project. Such determination can be made only if “there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Lead Agency” that such impacts may occur (Section 21080, Public Resources Code).

The environmental documentation, which is ultimately approved and/or certified by the City of Long Beach in accordance with CEQA, is intended as an informational document undertaken to provide an environmental basis for subsequent discretionary actions upon the project. The resulting documentation is not, however, a policy document and its approval and/or certification neither presupposes nor mandates any actions on the part of those agencies from whom permits and other discretionary approvals would be required.

### 1.2 PURPOSE

Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies specific disclosure requirements for inclusion in an Initial Study. Pursuant to those requirements, an Initial Study shall include:

- A description of the project, including the location of the project;
- Identification of the environmental setting;
- Identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix, or other method, provided that entries on a checklist or other form are briefly explained to indicate that there is some evidence to support the entries;
- Discussion of ways to mitigate significant effects identified, if any;
- Examination of whether the project is compatible with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls; and
- The name(s) of the person(s) who prepared or participated in the preparation of the Initial Study.

### 1.3 CONSULTATION

As soon as the Lead Agency (in this case, the City of Long Beach) has determined that an Initial Study would be required for the project, the Lead Agency is directed to consult informally with all Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies that are responsible for resources affected by the project, in order to obtain the recommendations of those agencies on the environmental documentation to be prepared for the project. Following receipt of any written comments from those agencies, the City of Long Beach will consider their recommendations when formulating the



preliminary findings. Following completion of this Initial Study, the City of Long Beach will initiate formal consultation with these and other governmental agencies as required under CEQA and its implementing guidelines.

## **1.4 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

The following documents were utilized during preparation of this Initial Study, and are incorporated into this document by reference. The documents are available for review at the City of Long Beach Development Services Department, located at 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90802.

- *City of Long Beach General Plan (Updated October 2013)*. The purpose of the General Plan is to provide a general, comprehensive, and long-range guide for community decision-making. The *City of Long Beach General Plan (General Plan)* consists of the following elements, adopted on various dates: Historic Preservation; Open Space; Housing; Air Quality; Mobility Element; Land Use; Seismic Safety; Local Coastal Program; Noise; Public Safety; Conservation; and Scenic Routes. The individual elements identify goals and policies for existing and future conditions within the City of Long Beach.
- *City of Long Beach Municipal Code (Codified through Ordinance No. ORD-16-0008, enacted May 24, 2016)*. The *City of Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC)* consists of regulatory, penal, and administrative ordinances of the City of Long Beach. It is the method the City uses to implement control of land uses, in accordance with the *General Plan* goals and policies. Volume II (Title 20, *Subdivisions*) and Volume III (Title 21, *Zoning*) of the LBMC identifies land uses permitted and prohibited according to the zoning designation of particular parcels. The purpose of the Zoning Regulations within the *LBMC* is to promote and preserve the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the people of Long Beach.