

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 PURPOSE

In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Addendum to the Cambria Desalination Facility Final EIR (State Clearinghouse # 94051042) has been prepared. This Addendum EIR has been prepared to address changes resulting to the project since December 19, 1994 when the Final EIR was certified. This document does not raise important new issues about the project's significant effects on the environment and is intended to further clarify information contained in Section 4, Project Description, of the Final EIR. The Addendum will compare the environmental impacts identified in the certified Final EIR with the refinements stated in Section 2.2, Project Characteristics, of this report.

It should be noted that the certified Final EIR was intended as a comprehensive review, addressing all parameters and issues in the environmental analysis. The Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) has complied with the CEQA statutes and, in particular Section 15004 which, in part, states:

“EIR's and Negative Declaration's should be prepared as early as feasible in the planning process to enable environmental considerations to influence project program and design...”

The CCSD's comprehensive approach is consistent with the intent of CEQA and recognizing that the CCSD has addressed all parameters of the project in the Final EIR, the appropriate action for changes which do not raise new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts is the addendum process.

This Addendum Environmental Impact Report has been prepared in conformance with Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (as amended). As described in the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency shall prepare an Addendum to an EIR if only changes or additions are necessary to make the EIR adequate under CEQA and if changes to the EIR made by the Addendum do not raise important new issues about the significant effects on the environment. An Addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR. CEQA requires that a local decision-making body (in this case, the Cambria Community Services District) consider the Addendum with the Final EIR.

Following review of the requirements of Section 15162, "Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations" of CEQA, it was determined, based on the evidence in the light of the whole record, that (1) substantial changes are not proposed in the project which would have required major revisions of the previously prepared environmental documents; (2) substantial changes will not occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; and (3) no new information of substantial importance has been revealed as a result of project revisions. As demonstrated in Section 3, Environmental Evaluation, of this document, the identified changes will not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The changes primarily clarify previously adopted conditions and recommended mitigation measures.

In conformance with Section 15121 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the certified Final EIR, technical appendices and reports thereof, together with this Addendum, are intended to serve as documents that will generally inform the decision-makers and the public of the significant environmental effects of the project modifications. The Final EIR prepared for the original approved project and all supporting documentation, are hereby incorporated by reference into this Addendum EIR.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Final EIR Section 3.3, Background and History of Cambria's Proposed Facility, provides a detailed chronology of the Cambria's water supply shortages and numerous studies and attempts to secure a reliable water source for the Community. The Section summarizes historical drought conditions and cites San Luis Obispo County's designation for Cambria as level of severity III (level of severity in which existing water demand equals or exceeds the dependable supply) and recommends that the CCSD continue to pursue development of additional water sources. The proposed project has shown that the CCSD and County concur in resolving the issue of water availability for the community.

The environmental analysis for the Final EIR began in 1993 with preliminary analysis for alternative configurations and locations for siting the facility. The Notice of Preparation was circulated in May, 1994 and the Draft EIR was circulated for 45 day Public review beginning September 14, 1994. The following is a list of agencies the reviewed the proposed project and commented on the Draft EIR:

State Department of Parks and Recreation - San Simeon District, Caltrans, Department of Health Services - Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, State Department of Fish and Game, San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building, CDF/SLO County Fire Department, Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Ocean Service - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Coast Region, Air Pollution Control District, California Air Resources Board, Monterey Peninsula Management District, State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Water Quality.

Each of these agencies has had opportunities to comment and did comment on the adequacy of the Draft EIR and on issues regarding environmental regulations and restrictions. Section 15 of the Final EIR provided detailed responses to each of the comments rendered. On December 19, 1994, the CCSD Board of Director's deemed that the environmental analysis had been completed in accordance with CEQA and certified the report.

Since the December 1994, certification hearing, the District has proceeded forward with permitting consultations with the regulatory agencies. The following is a summary of these activities:

- 2/7/95 Meeting with Tiffany Welch, Army Corps of Engineers
- 2/9/95 Meeting with San Luis Obispo County Planning
- 2/12/95 Meeting with Jessica Kahill and Steve McMasters from San Luis Obispo County Planning
- 3/23/95 Public Hearing - San Luis County Planning Commission and Marine Sanctuary
- 4/4/95 Meeting in Santa Cruz with California Coastal Commission Staff
- 7/7/95 Meeting with Tiffany Welch of the Army Corps of Engineers and Marie Lindsey of Fish and Wildlife
- 7/18/95 Public Hearing - Board of Supervisors - Appeal of Planning Commission Approval
- 8/10/95 Meeting in Monterey with California Coastal Commission, Marine Sanctuary, California Fish and Game and other agencies

The District has also proceeded forward with technical studies and the collection of field data, which is the basis for refinements to the Project Description. The supporting documentation, which are included as Appendices to this document, includes the following:

- *Spring 1995 Marine Biological Surveys*, Coastal Resources Management (in progress). Marine biological surveys of sand bottom and kelp bed habitat offshore of San Simeon Creek and an up coast control area (Pico Creek) were conducted in May 1995. Station data for this survey are presented in Appendix A. The results of the first marine biological survey (October/November 1994) were reported in Appendix F-4 of the Final EIR. A final marine biological resources report will be prepared following a late-summer 1995 field survey. Additional kelp bed aerial survey photographic results for March and June 1995 are also included in Appendix 1; an additional aerial survey will be flown in mid August 1995. The November 1994 kelp bed areal photograph was included in Appendix F-4 of the Final EIR.
- *A Synopsis of Southern Sea Otter Issues and Mitigation Measures, Cambria Desalination Facility Project*, Coastal Resources Management, 1995. Prepared for Cambria Community Services District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. June 30, 1995. 5 pp. This document (Appendix G) was prepared as a working paper for a Section 7 Informal Consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held on July 7, 1995. Based upon the results of previous mitigation monitoring surveys of similar offshore construction projects, the ACOE and the USFWS concluded that a Section 7 Formal Endangered Species Consultation and construction period monitoring of sea otters was not required for this project.
- *Revised Marine Biological Impact Reduction Plan (MBIRP) for the Cambria Community Services District Desalination Facility Project*, Coastal Resources Management, 1995. The draft MBIRP was included in the Final EIR (Appendix F-1). The revised MBIRP incorporates the updated project engineering and construction plans and is included as Appendix C of this document.
- *Cambria Community Services District Proposed Desalination Facility. Marine Geological Investigation: Jet-Probe Survey Offshore of San Simeon Creek, San Luis Obispo County, California*, Coastal Resources Management and Marine Resource Consultants, Inc. 1995. Prepared for Cambria Community Services District. April 21, 1995. 6 pp. This investigation (Appendix H) was undertaken to define the thickness of unconsolidated

sediments in the area where the CCSD desalination plant intake and discharge structures are proposed to be sited. The geological investigation preceded a more intense coring analysis conducted in June 1995 by Fugro West, Inc. (see below).

- *Subbottom Profile Survey. Cambria Desalination Plant Intake and Outfall Structures Proposed Installation Site Offshore of Cambria, California, Fugro West, Inc. 1995a.* Prepared for Oceaneering Technologies, Inc. Ventura, California. March 1995. This study was conducted on January 29, 1995 to determine the sediment and rock characteristics for tunneling and burial of the proposed intake and discharge structures and to obtain an updated bathymetric profile of the project area since the last survey was conducted in October 1994. See Appendix B of this document.
- *Geotechnical Engineering Report. Seawater Intake Structure and Pipeline. Cambria Community Services District Desalination Facility. Cambria, California, Fugro West, Inc. 1995.* Prepared for Oceaneering Technologies, Inc. Ventura, California. 22 pp plus appendices and maps. See Appendix D of this document. The purpose of the geotechnical evaluation was to explore and evaluate soil conditions within the sand channel offshore of San Simeon Creek. On the basis of their evaluation, Fugro West Inc. provided recommendations for the design of the seawater intake system. Soil samples were collected using boring and vibracoring techniques. In addition, new bathymetric data were collected and compared to the results of surveys conducted in October 1994 and January 1995. Sediments were deposited shoreward of the 30 ft contour between October 1994 and January 1995 and were partially removed between January 1995 and late June 1995. Other tasks completed were laboratory testing of selected soil samples; evaluations of local and regional geological conditions; evaluating, comparing, and assessing historical and new field and laboratory test data; conducting engineering evaluations; and preparing the project report.
- *Oceanographic Environment Near Cambria, San Luis Obispo County, California, Marine Resource Consultants, 1995.* Prepared for Cambria Community Services District. August 9, 1995. 8 pp plus tables and figures. Oceanographic surveys were conducted in the project area for the period of August 1994 through July 1995 (Appendix E). As of August 1995, nearly one year of oceanographic data has been collected. Those data include time-series measurements of bottom currents, waves, and sea water temperatures, and periodic vertical profiles of salinity and temperature at several

repetitive oceanographic stations in the sandy area offshore of San Simeon Creek. The essential results of that data collection program are:

Physical oceanographic data collected offshore of San Simeon Creek between August 29 1994 and August 1 1995 indicated that current speeds were very weak and were generally within a range of 2 and 7 cm/sec (0.07 and 0.23 ft/sec); more than 73 % of the observations were under 5 cm/sec (0.16 ft/sec.) Current speeds up to 40 cm/sec (1.3 ft/sec) were recorded during heavy storm activity.

Current flow is predominantly downcoast with more than 85% of all measurements directed into the southeast and southwest quadrants.

The water column in the site area is generally well mixed and lacks persistent density stratification. Both storm-related events and seasonal variations in salinity were observed. Fresh water runoff from streams during heavy rainfall events that occurred in the data collection period affected the entire near shore water body out to water depths of 100 ft.

Sea water temperatures ranged from about 11-15 °C at the surface and about 9-13 °C at the sea floor. Salinity at the sea surface ranged from less than 30 psu (practical salinity units, which are equivalent to parts per thousand) during times of storm runoff to 33.7; bottom water salinity ranged from 32.9 to 33.8 psu. Lower temperature and higher salinity were observed at the site in the springtime and are indicative of upwelling conditions along the California coastline.

- *Cambria Desalination Plant Brine Discharge: Dilution Modeling*, Water Engineering & Modeling, 1995. Prepared for Coastal Resources Management and the Cambria Community Services District (refer to Appendix F). August 2, 1995. 8 pp. Brine discharge computer modeling studies were conducted in July 1995 that integrated site-specific oceanographic study results of Marine Resource Consultants, Inc. (1995) and updated engineering designs for the desalination facility. The study is presented in Appendix 8. Previous plume modeling studies were performed by Jones & Stokes (1994) and subsequently updated in a reply to Response to the Regional Water Quality Control Board Comment #10 in the Final EIR.

In addition, the following documents are incorporated by reference and are available for review at the CCSD offices. The documents primarily address design components of the project and do not raise additional environmental issues:

1. Intake/outfall structure for proposed Desalination Facility Final Report, Draft Addendum, Phase I - Preliminary Design, April 14, 1995. Prepared by Oceaneering Technologies, Inc.
2. Project Development Report, May 1995. Prepared by John Carolla Engineering.
3. Intake/outfall structures, onshore to offshore pipelines and bluff caisson for proposed Cambria Desalination Facility, Draft Amended Design Report, August 19, 1995. Prepared by Oceaneering Technologies, Inc.
4. Various Technical Memorandums prepared by Boyle Engineering.