



Answers to

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED SEPULVEDA WETLANDS PARK PROJECT

1. What is this proposed project all about?

The proposed Sepulveda Wetlands Park is a 50- to 75-acre constructed wetlands in the Sepulveda Basin supplied with reclaimed water from the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and local urban runoff. The Sepulveda Wetlands Park would duplicate nature's ability to further improve the quality of water being discharged into the Los Angeles River, while at the same time provide educational and recreational benefits and establish a habitat restoration area for plants, birds and other wildlife.

2. Where is the proposed location of the project in the Sepulveda Basin?

Based on the project concept assessment, including initial public input, the most desirable location is a 50- to 75-acre area in the Sepulveda Basin south of Burbank Boulevard, west of Woodley Avenue and east of Hjelte Park (southwest of the Los Angeles River and north of the 101 Freeway) in the San Fernando Valley (Council District 11). Refer to attached map.

3. What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are a series of shallow lakes with plants and constantly running water. In the proposed Wetlands Park, the wetlands would use the same fully treated reclaimed water currently used in the Japanese Garden and Wildlife Lake. These waterbodies have existed for years in the Sepulveda Basin. Wetlands become home to plants, birds and other wildlife, and would enhance the other natural habitats in the Sepulveda Basin.



Examples of existing wetlands are the Wakodahatchee Wetlands in West Palm Beach, Florida at www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/divisions/stewardship/freshwater/wet.htm (Picture above), the San Joaquin March in Irvine, California at www.irwd.com , Victoria (Dupont) Wetlands in Victoria, Texas at www.dupont.com/corp/environment/wetland , and the Prado Dam Wetlands in Orange County at www.ocwd.com .

4. Why do we need this project?

The Sepulveda Wetlands Park would not only provide major environmental, educational and recreational benefits to our residents, but would also allow us to meet the State-mandated reduction in nitrogen levels being discharged into the Los Angeles River.

5. Is a 50- to 75-acre project adequate to treat the water from Tillman?

The proposed 50 to 75 acres for the Sepulveda Wetlands Park would be sufficient, as it would be combined with additional process modifications inside the Tillman plant.

6. Why was the project originally considered as a 300 to 500 acre project?

The 300 to 500 acres were based on a very early and preliminary feasibility study to handle the entire flow from Tillman without consideration of land use or availability. Since then,

based on the project concept assessment, including initial public input and additional process modifications inside the Tillman plant, the proposed project has been limited to 50 to 75 acres only.

7. When did the change in size and scope occur?

Around October of 2001, based on a project concept assessment and initial public input.

8. How will the City guarantee that the proposed project will be no more than 50 to 75 acres in size?

The City has committed to the 50 to 75 acres in its communication with the community. This commitment is clearly documented in the draft Concept Design Report (CDR). If the project moves forward, additional and detailed public review and input would be conducted and documented as part of the required environmental documentation, which would precede any implementation.

9. Will there be a problem with mosquitoes? If so, how will the City address this problem?

The proposed wetlands project would be designed to control the occurrence of mosquitoes. Mosquito fish would be stocked to provide effective natural controls similar to that in the Japanese Garden and the Wildlife Lake and similar wetlands nationwide.

10. Will there be odors? If so, how will the City address this problem?

Nuisance odors are not associated with treatment wetlands, as they are engineered to have running water, using high quality reclaimed water. Also, the water used would be the same high quality water used in the Wildlife Lake and the Japanese Garden.

11. How will the project address the inevitable flooding after heavy rains?

Wetlands can survive flooding. Additionally, as part of the design, we would work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to minimize the impacts of flooding on the wetlands. The wetlands park would implement proven and effective management measures to address and mitigate the impacts of flooding.

12. How will the City address silt deposits after a heavy rain?

Deposit minimization and management would be built as part of the design and operations. The wetlands park would implement proven and effective management measures to address and mitigate the impacts of sediment accumulation.

13. What is the cost of building the proposed project?

The cost is estimated to be around \$16 million including the education and recreation components.

14. If constructed, will the proposed project have any negative impacts on established areas in the Sepulveda Basin such as the Wildlife Area, Wildlife Lake and Balboa Lake?

On the contrary, the proposed wetlands park would enhance the established areas in the Basin. In addition to the wetlands area, which would provide wildlife habitat, the plan calls for an educational center, a system of boardwalks, jogging and walking trails and a sports center featuring a soccer field.

15. If constructed, will the project pose any problems with operations at the Van Nuys Airport?

No. In fact the proposed wetlands park is located outside the 10,000-foot buffer established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Even so, the City would coordinate and work with the Van Nuys Airport and the FAA during the project life.



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16. Is the wetlands project necessary for the City to meet the new state water quality standards?

The Sepulveda Wetlands Park would help us meet the State-mandated reductions in nitrogen levels being discharged into the Los Angeles River. Additionally, the wetlands would demonstrate the effectiveness of a natural system in reducing pollutants in urban runoff and would provide major environmental, educational and recreational benefits to our residents.

17. Why is the Bureau now considering the construction of a sports field adjacent to the project?

The goal of the project is to help ensure the City meets the water quality requirements as mandated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Additionally, the Wetlands Park would also help improve the quality of life in Los Angeles. Since recreational facilities are essential to our children and families, The City's Department of Recreation and Parks requested additional active recreation such as a soccer field to be included in the proposed project. Combining the wetlands project with a recreational facility within close proximity to a soccer field and interactive educational center would create new opportunities for children and other residents to learn more about nature and the environment.

18. What happens if the project moves forward and is a success? (Will the City pursue other sites in the Sepulveda Basin?)

With the success of the wetlands park, the City will be looking at other opportunities Citywide as part of meeting the water quality requirements while helping "green" LA. The City has committed to limit the Sepulveda Basin site to the 50 to 75 acres only.

19. What happens if it is not a success? (Will the City abandon the site?)

The City is committed to maintaining and managing this site effectively. Wetlands have been effective and successful throughout the nation in treating water while providing wildlife habitat and educational and recreational features.

20. How will the Bureau address the DWP pipe located at the proposed site?

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) pipe would be incorporated into the design. We would work with DWP throughout the design and construction phases.

21. How will stormwater be directed to the pipe?

Stormwater would be captured from the drainage into the Los Angeles River and pumped into the wetlands cells.

22. Can constructed wetlands exist in a flood control basin?

Wetlands and the plants in wetlands are able to accommodate flooding. Also, the proposed Sepulveda Wetlands Park would be designed with proven and effective measures to minimize the impact of flooding.



Proposed Wetlands Site