



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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October 7, 2010

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an Addendum to a previously certified Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR 30-07) for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. (District 3)

## APPLICANT:

City of Long Beach  
Property Services Bureau, c/o Eric Lopez  
Community Development Department  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

## DISCUSSION

On September 4, 2008, the Planning Commission held a public hearing for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project and approved the Site Plan Review and Local Coastal Development Permit requests, certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR 30-07), and recommended that the City Council approve amendments to the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and Zoning Code to revise the definition of passive park. An appeal was filed on September 15, 2008. Issues raised in the appeal involved potential project impacts from construction noise, traffic, truck trips, loss of parking spaces, hazardous soil and air quality.

On October 14, 2008, the City Council voted to deny the appeal and uphold the Planning Commission approvals, including recertification of EIR 30-07. The Council also voted to amend the LCP and Zoning Code, and authorized submittal of all necessary supporting materials to the California Coastal Commission for its review and approval.

On August 14, 2009, the Coastal Commission approved Coastal Development Permit No. 5-09-071 for Phase 1 of this project, and on January 14, 2010, the Coastal Commission approved the final amendment to the LCP with suggested modifications related to Colorado Lagoon.

The project site comprises 48.61 acres covering Colorado Lagoon, Marina Vista Park and a small triangle-shaped area north of Marine Stadium. The purpose of this project is to restore the Lagoon ecosystem, provide an improved habitat area, provide enhanced recreation facilities, improve water quality and circulation, and manage storm water runoff.

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This project consists of two separate Phases. Phase 1 improvements include storm drain upgrades, dredging, culvert cleaning, new landscaping, and public recreational amenities. This phase of the project was approved by the City Council on October 14, 2008 and is currently progressing as grant funding becomes available. The first part of the Phase 1 improvements involves construction of a low-flow diversion system and cleaning of the existing underground culvert connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium. The second part of the Phase 1 improvements will remove contaminated sediment in the Lagoon, with sediment dredging scheduled to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2011.

Phase 2 improvements include alternatives to upgrade the Lagoon connection to Marine Stadium through either an open water channel or a second underground culvert, two roadway bridges at Colorado Street and Eliot Street, new restrooms, and public recreational amenities. On October 14, 2008, the City Council requested additional engineering studies on the different Phase 2 Alternatives options. Ultimately, the City Council will approve the Phase 2 project components and select the preferred Alternative for either an open channel or additional underground culvert.

There have recently been several modifications proposed for this project. The Addendum to the certified 2008 EIR analyzes the proposed project changes and potential environmental impacts that could result from these changes. The proposed changes to the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project addressed in the Addendum involve:

- An increase in the maximum total dredge quantity from 30,000 cubic yards to 72,000 cubic yards, including dredging in the northern arm of the Lagoon.
- Four options for dredging methods, including one dry method and three wet methods.
- A change in the mode of transportation and disposal destination for dredge material, from trucking to a landfill in the Bakersfield area to trucking or barging to a disposal site at the Port of Long Beach (POLB).
- Five Alternatives for connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium through Marina Vista Park, including a second underground culvert, an Eliot Street Alignment, an open channel with culverts rather than bridges at the street crossings, as well as expanded open channel concepts.
- A requirement to use Tier 1 construction equipment for Alternative 1 and Tier 2 construction equipment for the other Alternatives.
- Elimination of the proposed bird island as a project component.

Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines allows a lead agency to prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if there are minor changes to the proposed project, or to the circumstances under which the project would be undertaken, or if new information not known at the time of the previously certified EIR would not result in any new significant impacts or increased severity of previously identified significant impacts.

Pursuant to the information and analyses provided in the prepared Addendum to EIR 30-07 and the provisions of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Addendum has determined the following:

1. There are no substantial changes to the proposed project that would require major revisions to the certified 2008 EIR due to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts identified in the certified 2008 EIR.
2. Substantial changes have not occurred to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken that would require major revisions to the certified 2008 EIR to disclose new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts identified in the certified 2008 EIR.
3. There is no new information of substantial importance not known at the time the 2008 EIR was certified that shows any of the following:
  - The project would have new significant impacts not discussed in the certified 2008 EIR.
  - There are impacts determined significant in the certified 2008 EIR that would be substantially increased.
  - There are additional mitigation measures or alternatives to the project that would substantially reduce one or more significant effects identified in the certified 2008 EIR.
  - There are additional mitigation measures or alternatives that were rejected by the project proponent that are considerably different from those analyzed in the certified 2008 EIR that would substantially reduce any significant impacts identified in that EIR.

Based on the determination that an Addendum is the appropriate level of CEQA review, staff recommends Planning Commission approve the attached Addendum to EIR 30-07.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Public hearing notices were distributed on September 15, 2010, as required by the Long Beach Municipal Code. As of the preparation of this report, no written responses have been received.

Respectfully submitted,

  
AMY J. BODEK, AICP  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AB:DB:CC

Exhibits

- A. Addendum to EIR 30-07
- B. Resolution