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# 4.14 Water Resources

## 4.14.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the effect of PRP on water resources within the project area during construction and operations. Potential impacts to water resources are evaluated specifically with respect to significance thresholds established in the CEQA Checklist.

## 4.14.2 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards

Federal, state, county, and local LORS applicable to water resources are discussed in this section and summarized in Table 4.14-1.

### 4.14.2.1 Federal

**Clean Water Act.** CWA authorizes USEPA to regulate discharges of wastewater and stormwater into surface waters by issuing NPDES permits. These permits are implemented in California at the state level by the SWRCB and by nine RWQCBs.

PRP will not directly discharge wastewater to surface waters; therefore, a site-specific NPDES permit is not required. PRP wastewater discharges will be to the existing sewer system and are subject to local permitting (described below). All onsite wastewater discharges to the existing sewer system will be treated at the Pomona Water Reclamation Facility, which is permitted under NPDES Permit No. CA0053619.

PRP will be required to follow regional and statewide NPDES permits for stormwater discharges. All municipalities within Los Angeles County are required to follow NPDES Permit No. CAS004001, which establishes procedures and standards for discharges from municipal storm drainage systems. City of Pomona implementation of this regional permit is described below under local requirements.

In addition to municipal stormwater sources, the CWA effectively prohibits discharges of stormwater from construction sites unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. The SWRCB is the permitting authority in California and has adopted a statewide General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (NPDES Permit No. CAS000002) that applies to projects resulting in 1 acre or more of soil disturbance. PRP will result in disturbance of more than 1 acre of soil; therefore, the project will require the preparation of a construction SWPPP that will specify site management activities to be implemented during site development. These management activities will include construction stormwater BMPs, dewatering runoff controls, and construction equipment decontamination. The Los Angeles RWQCB requires an NOI to be filed prior to any stormwater discharge from construction activities, and that the SWPPP be implemented and maintained onsite. A Construction Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control Plan/SWPPP will be completed prior to the beginning of construction activities.

### 4.14.2.2 State

**Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.** The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act established the SWRCB and divided the state into nine regional basins, each with a RWQCB. The SWRCB is the primary state agency responsible for protecting the quality of the state's surface and groundwater supplies, and enforcing the CWA and state water quality laws and regulations. Administration is delegated to the nine RWQCBs; the Los Angeles RWQCB regulates water quality in Los Angeles County.

Because the state administers the CWA, each of the NPDES permits discussed above are co-issued as state water quality orders, as follows:

- NPDES Permit No. CA0053619 has been adopted as Los Angeles RWQCB Order R4-2014-0212.
- NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 has been adopted as Los Angeles RWQCB Order R4-2012-0175.
- NPDES Permit No. CAS000002 has been adopted as SWRCB Order 2009-0009-DWQ.

**SWRCB Resolution No. 75-58; California Water Code Sections 461, 13550, and 13551.** SWRCB Resolution No. 75-58 provides statewide water quality principles for adoption of discharge requirements and implementation actions for power plants that depend on inland waters for cooling. This policy also provides guidance in the planning of new power plants to encourage the use of wastewater for cooling if available, thus minimizing the use of potable water. In addition, California Water Code Sections 461, 13550, and 13551 encourage the conservation of potable water resources and the maximum reuse of wastewater to conserve potable water, particularly in areas where recycled water of adequate quality is available at a reasonable cost.

#### 4.14.2.3 Local

**City of Pomona Municipal Code.** The City of Pomona has codified several ordinances related to the wastewater and stormwater collection systems. Pomona City Code Chapter 62, Article V (Sewage Disposal) governs the wastewater system, with industrial discharge requirements found in Section 62-546. Code sections within Article V provide for control of inflow and infiltration; require proper design, construction, installation, testing, and inspection of new and rehabilitated sewers; control of discharge of fats, oils, and grease; and establish enforcement procedures for violations. The City's Director of Public Works is responsible for approving and managing permit requirements.

As described above under federal regulations, the City of Pomona follows procedures and standards for discharges from municipal storm drainage systems established pursuant to regional NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 (Order No. R4-2012-0175). Among other items, the regional permit requires that local agencies develop and implement programs addressing stormwater pollution issues in development planning for private projects. The City's stormwater program, administered by the Public Works Department, requires project applicants to submit design plans for review and approval in accordance with regionally established standards described in the Los Angeles Countywide Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). The SUSMP establishes pollutant control requirements and outlines requirements for BMPs that must be incorporated into project design. Projects subject to SUSMP requirements include industrial developments (and redevelopment of existing sites) with 1 acre or more of impervious area. General requirements for stormwater pollution control are described in Pomona City Code Section 18-495.

**General Plan Policies.** Applicable LORS identified in the City of Pomona General Plan 2014 Update address water supply, wastewater discharges, and stormwater discharges. These policies are presented in Table 4.14-1.

Table 4.14-1. Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards
*Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the Pomona Repower Project*

| Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards | Requirements/Applicability | Administering Agency | Conformance and Timing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Federal** | | | |
| CWA | Prohibits discharge of pollutants to receiving waters unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. Applies to all point-source discharges, including stormwater runoff from construction (including demolition). Applies to non-point sources through municipal NPDES permits | Los Angeles RWQCB<br>City of Pomona | Compliance with existing statewide NPDES permit for construction stormwater, regional municipal general permit, and City standards. |
| **State** | | | |
| Federal CWA (implemented by the State) | Implements and enforces the federal NPDES permit program | Los Angeles RWQCB<br>City of Pomona | Compliance with existing statewide NPDES permit for construction stormwater, regional municipal general permit, and City standards. |
| Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act | Controls discharge of wastewater to surface water and groundwater of California | Los Angeles RWQCB<br>City of Pomona | Compliance with existing statewide NPDES permit for construction stormwater, regional municipal general permit, and City standards. |
| State Water Board Resolution 75-58 | Encourages use of wastewater for power plant cooling | Los Angeles RWQCB | PRP will use recycled water for cooling and plant processes. |
| California State Constitution, Article X, Section 2 | Prohibits waste or unreasonable use of water | Los Angeles RWQCB | PRP will use recycled water for cooling and plant processes. |
| California Water Code, Section 13550 | States that use of potable water for non-potable purposes is an unreasonable use of water | Los Angeles RWQCB | PRP will use recycled water for cooling and plant processes. |
| **Local** | | | |
| City of Pomona Code Section 62-546 | Discharge of industrial wastewater into the City's collection system. | City of Pomona | Existing San Gabriel Cogeneration Facility wastewater hookup will be updated for PRP. |
| City of Pomona Code Section 18-495 | Reduction of pollutants in stormwater | City of Pomona | Requires any activity with the potential to result in pollutants entering the city storm system to undertake all practicable measures to reduce pollutants. |
| **City of Pomona General Plan Policies** | | | |
| Goal 7E.G11: Promote the orderly and efficient operation and expansion of the water supply system to meet current and projected needs. | Policy 7E.P29. Continue to monitor water supply and demand to ensure that projections are consistent with the most recent Water and Recycled Water Master Plan, which projects adequate water supply for the City through the year 2025. | City of Pomona | Project owner will consult with City to ensure that there is adequate potable and recycled water supply for the project. |

Table 4.14-1. Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards
*Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the Pomona Repower Project*

| Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards | Requirements/Applicability | Administering Agency | Conformance and Timing |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goal 7E.G14: Comply with the Los Angeles RWQCB regulations and standards to maintain and improve the quality of both surface water and groundwater resources. | Policy 7E.P30 Continue working with the Los Angeles RWQCB in the implementation of the NPDES for the protection of surface water and groundwater quality. | City of Pomona | Project will implement applicable BMPs to control offsite migration of sediments and potential contaminants. |
| Goal 7E.G15: Maintain a wastewater system adequate to protect the health and safety of all Pomona residents, businesses and institutions. | Policy 7E.P30 Continue working with the Los Angeles RWQCB in the implementation of the NPDES for the protection of surface water and groundwater quality. | City of Pomona | Project will implement applicable BMPs to control offsite migration of sediments and potential contaminants. |
| Goal 7E.G17. Achieve the goal of the most recent Water and Recycled Water Master Plan to increase recycled water demand. | Policy 7E.P24 For both private and public construction in new development and renovations, encourage rainwater and wastewater BMPs to maximize rainwater and greywater collection and reuse. | City of Pomona | Project will use recycled water to decrease reliance on groundwater and surface water. |
| | Policy 7E.P35: Identify new recycled water opportunities within Pomona | City of Pomona | PRP is a new opportunity to use recycled water. |

Sources: City of Pomona, 2014a; City of Pomona, 2015.

## 4.14.3 Environmental Setting

### 4.14.3.1 Climate, Drainage, and Floodplains

The climate in the Pomona area is characterized as Mediterranean, with mild winters and dry summers. Most precipitation falls as rain between November and March. Total annual rainfall is approximately 17 inches. Monthly average temperature and rainfall for Pomona are shown in Table 4.14-2.

Table 4.14-2. Average Monthly Temperature and Rainfall from 1893-2012, Pomona, CA
*Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the Pomona Repower Project*

| | Annual | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average temp (°F) | 62.6 | 51.8 | 53.9 | 56.2 | 59.9 | 63.9 | 68.8 | 74.4 | 74.6 | 71.9 | 65.3 | 57.9 | 52.4 |
| Average rain (inches) | 16.97 | 3.56 | 3.49 | 2.82 | 1.22 | 0.35 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.26 | 0.78 | 1.56 | 2.77 |
| Maximum | 39.97 | 18.74 | 16.14 | 11.87 | 9.44 | 3.96 | 2.38 | 0.50 | 2.40 | 4.23 | 8.26 | 9.28 | 10.27 |
| Minimum | 3.77 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Source: Western Regional Climate Center, 2012

Because of the urban setting, no natural surface water features are located in the project area. Channelized creeks are located approximately 0.65 miles north (San Jose Creek) and 1.25 miles southwest (South San Jose Creek) of the project site.

PRP is not located within a potential flood zone as mapped by FEMA.

### 4.14.3.2 Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal

Both groundwater and surface water supplies are used for municipal and agricultural uses in the project area. In addition, the City of Pomona operates a non-potable water system, mostly using recycled water provided by the LACSD.

The City of Pomona receives a majority of its water supply from underlying groundwater. As of 2013, groundwater was pumped through city-owned wells to provide approximately 70 percent of the City's water supply (City of Pomona, 2014b). Local groundwater supplies are from two groundwater basins: the Upper Santa Ana Groundwater Basin (Chino Subbasin) and the San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin (Pomona Subbasin and Spadra Subbasin). The Chino Subbasin was adjudicated in 1978 (California Department of Water Resources [DWR], 2006), and the Pomona Subbasin was adjudicated in 1973 but is now managed by the Six Basins Watermaster (DWR, 2004). The Spadra Basin is not managed.

Of the remaining demand, 23 percent is provided by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and 7 percent is from local surface water. The City's 2005 Water and Recycled Water Master Plan indicates that Pomona anticipates having a sufficient water supply to meet the projected water demands through the year 2025 (City of Pomona, 2014a). This is confirmed in the City's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. Due to key industrial users of recycled water leaving Pomona, there is an increased and adequate supply available for new recycled water users. Furthermore, the plan specifies that there is a consistent source of recycled water supply for use and there is no risk of a supply shortfall (City of Pomona, 2011).

The City of Pomona has a non-potable water system for industrial processes and other non-potable water needs. The non-potable system is supplied by recycled water, as well as groundwater from wells that no longer meet potable water criteria. Recycled water is produced by LACSD at its Pomona WRP. The plant can treat up to 15 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd), producing disinfected tertiary recycled water that is suitable for most types of reuse. Recently, the plant has been producing approximately 7.40 mgd (8,293 afy). The City of Pomona, along with other local water purveyors, use approximately one half of the Pomona WRP effluent for reuse. The remainder is discharged to San Jose Creek (tributary to the San Gabriel River), where it percolates into the underlying groundwater (LACSD, 2014). Use of recycled water from this facility is permitted by the Los Angeles RWQCB under Order Nos. 81-34 and 97-072 for direct, non-potable applications and Order No. 91-100 for groundwater replenishment.

The City of Pomona non-potable distribution system consists of two, 21-inch recycled water pipelines, totaling 37,000 linear feet, originating at the Pomona WRP. One of the pipelines runs east along Pomona Boulevard and Vernon Avenue, and terminates at the PRP site. In recent years, the City has delivered 1.67 mgd (1,872 afy) of recycled water to seven retail customers (LACSD, 2014). The City's Recycled Water Master Plan (City of Pomona, 2009) and General Plan policies call for an increase in recycled water use to reduce demand on the potable water supply system.

The City of Pomona operates a wastewater collection system throughout its service area, discharging to sewer trunk lines operated by LACSD and ultimately discharging to LACSD's Pomona WRP (City of Pomona, 2005). The City is one of 72 cities within Los Angeles County that is served by LACSD, which consists of 26 separate districts throughout the County (Pomona is in District No. 21). As described above, the Pomona WRP has been using approximately 7.4 mgd of its 15 mgd wastewater treatment capacity, with almost all treated effluent used for water recycling or groundwater recharge.

#### 4.14.3.3 Project Water Use and Wastewater Disposal

**Water Use.** PRP will use water for cooling, process, and sanitary uses. Consistent with the intent of the Governor's Executive Order No. B-29-15, dated April 1, 2015, the project will use recycled water from the WRP for cooling and process water uses. As shown in Table 2.1-1, PRP will use about 244.1 gpm of recycled water and 70.6 gallons of potable water (for a total of 314.7 gpm) during average temperature and humidity conditions, and a maximum of 350 gpm during summer peak temperature and humidity conditions. Presently, the San Gabriel Facility uses about 327 gpm of potable water during operation. This planned usage for PRP equates to an expected yearly average recycled water use of 170.8 afy and 49.4 afy of potable water, or 220.2 afy total.

AltaGas has consulted with the City of Pomona concerning this estimated non-potable recycled water demand, and the City has agreed that the recycled water is available and has agreed to serve it at the location and in the quantities requested.

Potable water for sinks, showers, sanitary uses and fire suppression will be provided by the City of Pomona from the existing supply line. Estimated potable water for these uses would be approximately 2 gpm.

**Wastewater Disposal.** All wastewater that is not considered to be oil-containing sludge will be discharged via the existing onsite sewer pipeline into the City of Pomona wastewater collection system, which conveys wastewater to the Pomona WRP. Presently, the San Gabriel Facility is permitted to discharge 200 gpm to the sanitary sewer, but during operations averages 160 gpm. As shown in Table 2.1-2, PRP will generate about 53.6 gpm of wastewater during average temperature and humidity conditions, and a maximum of 56.9 gpm during summer peak temperature and humidity conditions. This equates to an expected yearly average wastewater discharge of 37.5 afy. Because the amount of wastewater discharged from PRP will be less that the volume discharged from the San Gabriel Facility, adequate sewer capacity is available.

Wastewater from process areas that could potentially include oil or other process lubricants will be directed to an oil-water separator, and any residual oil-containing sludge will be collected and disposed appropriately by a licensed transporter.

**Stormwater Disposal.** Within the paved areas of PRP and outside process equipment areas, stormwater will be routed to an onsite storm drain, which connects to the existing storm drain system. Stormwater that falls within process equipment containment areas will be discharged to the process drain system, which includes an oil/water separator. This system will separate oil-containing sludge from the process areas to be collected via vacuum truck and disposed of as hazardous waste; oil-free water from these areas will recycled once treated and sent to the raw water tank or cooling tower basin.

## 4.14.4 Impacts

Potential impacts to water resources are described below.

#### 4.14.4.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

The checklist in Table 4.14-3 assesses the significance of potential impacts.

Table 4.14-3. CEQA Checklist to Assess Potential Impacts
*Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the Pomona Repower Project*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less than Significant w/Mitigation | Less than Significant | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** — Would the project: | | | | |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | | | **X** | |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there will be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which will not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | | | | **X** |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite? | | | **X** | |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite? | | | **X** | |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | | | **X** | |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | | | **X** | |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? | | | | **X** |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which will impede or redirect flood flows? | | | | **X** |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | | | | **X** |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | | | | **X** |

### 4.14.4.2 Discussion of Impacts

The project impacts are evaluated with respect to the potential effect on water quality degradation, groundwater supplies, potential for erosion, and flooding.

**Project Effect on Water Quality Degradation.** Potential impacts to water quality could result from wastewater and stormwater discharges. The San Gabriel Facility discharges about 160 gpm of wastewater into the existing wastewater collection system. PRP will discharge about one-third as much,

averaging only 53.6 gpm. Potential water quality impacts associated with wastewater discharge will be minimized by following City of Pomona requirements for industrial wastewater discharges (Pomona City Code Section 62-546).

The San Gabriel Cogeneration Facility stormwater discharges into the existing storm drains. PRP discharges will be similar in volume and quality as the San Gabriel Facility, since the site size will not change and surface is hardscape. In addition, City SUSMP requirements applicable to redevelopment will require modernization of all onsite stormwater infrastructure and an overall improvement in storm runoff quality. These requirements will be implemented pursuant to Pomona City Code Section 18-495, which follows the regional NPDES permit for discharges from municipal storm drainage systems.

Because potential effects from water quality degradation will be addressed through compliance with existing standards and established local and regional processes for wastewater and stormwater control, impacts will be less than significant.

**Project Effect on Groundwater Supplies.** The project will use recycled water from the City of Pomona's non-potable water supply for cooling and other appropriate process water uses. Currently, the existing San Gabriel Facility consumes about 327 gpm of potable water for typical daily use. Because PRP will use recycled water, the project will replace the existing San Gabriel Facility potable water use, and overall potable water use will substantially decrease from 327 gpm to 47.4 gpm. PRP will use less than 15 percent of current potable water use. Because most of the City's potable water supply is from the underlying groundwater basins, this will benefit groundwater supplies. Therefore, there will be no adverse impact.

**Project Effect on Drainage Patterns, Water Erosion, and Sedimentation.** Stormwater runoff will be controlled during construction and plant operations through adherence to the Construction General Permit. The permit requires a SWPPP that specifies measures, including BMPs, which will be used to control erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

**Flooding Potential.** The project is not located in a flood zone. Therefore, the project will not cause or contribute to flood impacts.

**Inundation by Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow.** Because there are no nearby water bodies, there is no potential for inundation by a seiche or tsunami. Because project area topography is flat, there is no potential for inundation by mudflow. Therefore, there would be no impact.

## 4.14.5 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts to water resources could occur through the wasteful use of surface water, poor quality of wastewater discharges, the excessive use of groundwater, uncontrolled discharge of stormwater runoff, or additional flooding hazards. None of these categories of water use is expected to result in significant cumulative impact to area water resources from operation of PRP.

**Water Supply.** The City of Pomona indicates that there is sufficient quantity of potable and recycled water available to serve PRP. Water use for the plant will not cause cumulatively significant adverse effects.

**Wastewater**. The existing wastewater treatment system has sufficient capacity to accommodate the expected quantity and quality of wastewater from PRP. Wastewater discharges would not create impacts that are cumulatively significant.

**Groundwater Use.** PRP will use recycled water from the City of Pomona's non-potable water supply for cooling and appropriate process water uses. Although the City's potable water supply is primarily groundwater, the project will use a minimal amount of potable water (2 gpm, see Figure 2.1-5). This use will not cause significant cumulative impacts to potable groundwater supplies or uses.

**Stormwater Runoff.** PRP stormwater discharges into the City's storm drains will be similar in volume and quality to the current facility, since the parcel size will not change and surface will remain hardscape. In addition, City SUSMP requirements applicable to redevelopment will require modernization of all onsite stormwater infrastructure and an overall improvement in stormwater runoff quality. Therefore, no significant cumulative stormwater impacts are expected.

## 4.14.6 Mitigation Measures

The project will mitigate for potential adverse impacts by complying with the requirements of applicable LORS. Therefore, no mitigation other than compliance with permit conditions will be required.

## 4.14.7 Agencies and Agency Contacts

Agency contacts are provided in Table 4.14-4.

Table 4.14-4. Agency Contacts
*Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the Pomona Repower Project*

| Permit | Agency |
|---|---|
| Construction Activity NPDES Stormwater Permit | Submit online using Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System [SMARTS]<br>Los Angeles RWQCB<br>Hugh Marley<br>Section Chief<br>(213) 620-6373 |
| City of Pomona utility connections – potable water, recycled water, wastewater, and stormwater (including SUSMP) | Darron Poulsen<br>Water/Wastewater Operations Director<br>(909) 620-2253<br>505 S. Garey Avenue<br>Pomona CA 91766<br>darron_poulsen@ci.pomona.ca.us |

## 4.14.8 Permits and Permit Schedules

- NPDES requirements for stormwater pollution control will be implemented pursuant to City of Pomona SUSMP procedures and by filing an NOI for coverage under SWRCB Order 2009-0009-DWQ during construction and implementing a Construction SWPPP.
- Existing utility hookups used by the San Gabriel Facility – water, wastewater, and stormwater – will be updated for PRP. In addition, the City of Pomona will work with PRP to establish a new utility connection to the recycled water system. All City hookups are ministerial actions by the Public Works Department.

A tabular summary of required permits is provided in Table 4.14-1; and a list of involved agencies is provided in Table 4.14-4.

## 4.14.9 References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2004. Bulletin 118: San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin. http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/basindescriptions/4-13.pdf. Accessed on November 30, 2015.

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