

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

English Channel Improvement Project
City of Chino Hills, California

PROPOSED ACTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9 is considering authorizing the award of up to \$216,800 in grant funds to the City of Chino Hills for the construction of a new box culvert on the English Channel at Peyton Drive, south of Eucalyptus Avenue in the City of Chino Hills. The new box culvert would replace an existing undersized concrete pipe culvert at this location. In addition, the project entails improvements to the English Channel upstream and downstream of the new culvert to increase the capacity of the Channel. In a related project, the City is also proposing to widen Peyton Drive between Grand Avenue and Chino Hills Parkway and extend Eucalyptus Avenue westward about 1,600 feet from Peyton Drive to the existing terminus of Eucalyptus Avenue. However, the EPA grant funding is intended specifically for the proposed improvements of the English Channel.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The purpose of the English Channel Improvement Project is to alleviate flooding which currently occurs on Peyton Avenue south of Grand Avenue during heavy rains. The flooding results from the fact that the existing culvert and the English Channel are both undersized and lack the capacity to convey storm runoff during large storms. In 2003, Congress appropriated funds to assist the City of Chino Hills address its current flooding problems. EPA is now considering awarding these funds to the City for the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to examine the environmental impacts of the proposed improvements to the English Channel. The EA also examines the impacts of the City's related projects which are the proposed widening of Peyton Drive and the extension of Eucalyptus Avenue. The EA includes detailed analyses of a wide variety of potential impacts including effects on land uses, water resources, air quality, living resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice, aesthetics and noise considerations. The EA concludes that the projects will not have significant adverse impacts on these resources. Of particular note, the EA points out that based on the results of a section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, adverse effects on listed endangered and threatened species are not expected. With regards to cultural resources, the presence of historic properties was considered but none were found in the project area and therefore no impacts are anticipated. The EA also notes that discharges such as stormwater runoff would be subject to NPDES permitting

requirements which would control pollutants in the discharges. The EA also includes a discussion of alternatives which were considered including the no action alternative. Overall, based on the information in the EA, EPA has determined that its proposed action (providing funding assistance for the English Channel Improvement Project) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the environment. Consequently, EPA has made the decision to prepare this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and to not prepare an Environment Impact Statement (EIS).

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public review copy of the EA is available at the EPA, Region 9 website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/epa-generated.html>.

A copy of the EA and unsigned FONSI can also be found at the following locations:

EPA Region 9 (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: Eugene Bromley at (415) 972-3510

City of Chino Hills
Engineering Department
2001 Grand Avenue
Chino Hills, CA 91709
Contact: Anne Dutrey at (909) 364-2760

James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library
2003 Grand Avenue
Chino Hills, CA 91709
Hours: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm Monday – Thursday
10:00 am – 6:00 pm Friday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Sunday
Telephone: (909) 590-5380

Public comments on the EA and FONSI must be submitted to EPA, Region 9 postmarked no later than December 24, 2007. Comments may be submitted by letter, fax or email to:

Eugene Bromley
EPA Region 9 (WTR-5)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Fax: (415) 947-3549
email: bromley.eugene@epa.gov

EPA will review, consider and respond to all comments received concerning the EA and FONSI

during the comment period. EPA will take no administrative action on the EPA-funded project described above prior to expiration of this comment period, and EPA's review and response to any comments received. After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses and this FONSI will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature.

This FONSI is final upon signature of the EPA, Region 9 Regional Administrator. If signed, it will not be recirculated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

Wayne Natri
Regional Administrator
EPA, Region 9

Date