

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

For the  
El Rio East Sewer Collection System  
Design and Construction

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering an award of a Water Infrastructure Grant to the County of Ventura to fund final design and construction of a portion of the El Rio East sewer collection system. The proposed sewer collection system would replace septic tanks that currently serve the community and would convey the wastewater from these homes to the Oxnard wastewater treatment plant.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Ventura County proposes to install a new sewage collection system in the El Rio East area, which encompasses the El Rio South Central and El Rio North Central sections. The sewer system will eliminate the use of septic tanks in the area, which can pollute local drinking wells, and will address an enforcement action brought by the California Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) to bring the water wells into compliance with State and Federal standards.

Construction of the proposed project may be phased, depending on the availability of funds. At this time, EPA is proposing to fund 2116 linear feet of sewer lines in the El Rio South Central section only. EPA may, in the future, participate in design and/or construction of sewer lines in other parts of the project area, if funds become available.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), dated April 2003, which examined the potential environmental impacts of installing a sewer collection, treatment and disposal system for El Rio East, El Rio West, Strickland Acres and the Vineyard Industrial Area. The EA considered a wide range of regulatory, environmental and socio-economic factors, including Land Resources, Water Resources, Air Quality, Living Resources, Cultural Resources, Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Justice, Resource Use Patterns, and Other Values for Sound and Noise, Public Health and Safety, and Visual Resources/Aesthetics. Based on information from the EA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the proposed project, the El Rio East collection system, will not pose significant impacts to the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

### **PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Southern California Field Office in Los Angeles, CA. Copies of the EA are also available

for public review at the Oxnard Library, 251 S. A Street, Oxnard, CA 93030 and the County of Ventura Waterworks Office, 7150 Walnut Canyon Road, Moorpark, CA 93020. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/elrio>.

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Howard Kahan by email at: kahan.howard@epa.gov or by calling (213)244-1819.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of the comment period which ends March 28, 2006. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Howard Kahan at the address listed below.

Howard Kahan (WTR-4)  
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## **FINDING**

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. If this FONSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

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Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator

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Date