

**HUNTINGTON BEACH  
OFFICE OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**TO:** Zoning Administrator  
**FROM:** Jennifer Villasenor, Associate Planner  
**DATE:** October 1, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 2008-003 (TALBERT LAKE DIVERSION PROJECT)**

**LOCATION:** 7111 Talbert (between Slater Avenue and Talbert Avenue to the north and south, and Goldenwest Street and Gothard Street to the west and east-approximately 75 acres in the northeast corner of Huntington Central Park)

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**Applicant:** City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
**Property Owner:** City of Huntington Beach, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**Request:** To analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Talbert Lake Diversion Project, a Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board-approved Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) involving the construction of a natural treatment system in the northeastern corner of Central Park in Huntington Beach, on the eastern side of Goldenwest Street. The proposed project would divert up to 3 million gallons per day (mgd) of dry weather flows from the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel (EGGWC) into a newly constructed treatment wetlands system for water quality improvement purposes. Project components include the construction of a diversion structure such as a rubber dam within the EGGWC to divert dry weather flows into an existing water line in Goldenwest Street, or the existing storm drain system within Gothard Street, for transport to the proposed treatment wetlands within Central Park. These treatment wetlands would consist of three linear wetland features encompassing open water and channel areas and channels through which diverted channel flows would move and be subjected to a series of natural treatment processes improving overall water quality. Project objectives include the improvement of water quality and the potential beneficial reuse of treated water on site for park irrigation purposes if sufficient water is available.

**Zone:** OS-PR (Open Space – Parks and Recreation)  
**General Plan:** OS-P (Open Space – Parks)  
**Existing Use:** passive and active

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the proposed project based upon the following findings and mitigation measures:

**SUGGESTED FINDINGS FOR APPROVAL – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 2008-003**

1. Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 2008-003 has been prepared in compliance with Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. It was advertised and available for a public comment period of 30 days. Comments received during the comment period were considered by the Zoning Administrator prior to action on the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
2. Mitigation measures avoid or reduce the project's effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment will occur. Mitigation measures address odor control, construction noise and potential impacts to cultural resources, hazards, geology and soils, traffic and transportation and biological resources. Mitigation measures were generally designed to minimize construction related impacts within and surrounding the project area as well as control odors in the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel (EGGWC) that may result from the proposed diversion structure.
3. There is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Zoning Administrator that the project, as mitigated through the attached mitigation measures, will have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project will create a natural treatment system in Central Park by diverting up to 3 million gallons per day (mgd) of dry weather flows (urban runoff) from the EGGWC with the objective of improving water quality within the downstream receiving waters, including Huntington Harbour and Anaheim Bay. Additional project benefits include enhanced riparian habitat in Central Park, a restored Talbert Lake and potential reuse of treated water on site for park irrigation purposes. Finally, all potential impacts resulting from construction of the project can be adequately mitigated.

**SUGGESTED MITIGATION MEASURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

1. Prior to initiation of construction, the Project Applicant shall hire a qualified Geotechnical Engineer and/or Engineering Geologist to complete a geotechnical investigation of areas to be excavated by the project and to ensure that all recommendations of the geotechnical investigation are incorporated into the final plans and specifications for the project.
2. Epoleon ® (or similar odor-control measure) shall be applied, as needed, by the City of Huntington Beach Park, Tree and Landscape Division to ponded water behind the diversion structure.
3. A Traffic Control Plan will be developed for all construction activities proposed within and adjacent to public road rights-of-way that would delay or disrupt local roadway traffic. The Traffic Control Plan shall include, but not be limited to:
  - Limiting road closures to identified portions of Goldenwest Street directly west of the project site to only two lanes in each direction at any given time;
  - Limiting road closures to portions of Gothard Street and Warner Avenue as described in Exhibits 12.6-3 through 12.6-6 for a total of no more than 10 days (only applicable if Diversion Concept 4, 5 or 6 is chosen);
  - Limiting lane closures to between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on weekdays and Saturday, with no closures on Sunday;

- Installing traffic-control devices as specified in the California Department of Transportation's Manual of Traffic Control for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones;
  - Providing alternate routes (detours) as necessary, to route local traffic around roadway construction;
  - Providing notification of road closures to residents in the vicinity of construction; and
  - Consulting with emergency service providers and developing an Emergency Access Plan for emergency vehicle access in and adjacent to the construction zone.
4. A permitted Biological Monitor shall be on site for all construction activities occurring during the least Bell's vireo nesting season (March 15 to September 15). If the Biologist determines that the least Bell's vireo is present on or within 500 feet of the project site, construction operations shall cease. To resume construction operations, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
  5. Post-construction maintenance operations shall occur outside the least Bell's vireo breeding and nesting season (March 15 to September 15) and shall be confined to vector-control activities and manual removal of vegetal debris in open water areas.
  6. Nesting Migratory Birds: If construction commences during the migratory bird nesting season (March 1 to August 31), a qualified Biologist will survey the project impact area for the presence of any active bird nest (common or special status) within 72 hours prior to the onset of construction activities. Any nest found during the survey efforts will be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required. Results of the surveys will be provided to the CDFG and the City of Huntington Beach.

If any active migratory bird nest is present, the nest will be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503 of the California *Fish and Game Code*. To protect any active nest, the following restrictions on construction are required until the nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified: (1) clearing limits will be established with a 300-foot buffer around any occupied nest, or as otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the known nest will only be allowed if the qualified Biologist determines that the proposed construction activities would not disturb the nest occupants. Construction during the nesting season can occur only at the sites if a qualified Biologist has determined that the construction activities are not a disruption to the breeding activities or if the fledglings have left the nest.

Nesting Raptors: If construction commences during the raptor nesting season (February 1 to June 30), a qualified Biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the project impact area for the presence of any active raptor nests (common or special status) at least seven days prior to the onset of construction activities. Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required. Results of the surveys shall be provided to the CDFG and the City of Huntington Beach.

If nesting activity is present at any raptor nest site, the active nest site will be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California *Fish and Game Code*. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions on construction are required until nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified Biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established with a 500 foot buffer, or as otherwise determined by a qualified

Biologist, around any occupied nest. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the known nest shall only be allowed if the qualified Biologist determines that the proposed construction activities would not disturb the nest occupants. Construction during the nesting season can occur only at the sites if a qualified Biologist has determined that the construction activities are not a disruption to the breeding activities or if the fledglings have left the nest.

If an inactive nest is observed within the area to be directly impacted during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified Biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the nest will be removed so raptors cannot return to it. The qualified Biologist will supervise the removal of the nest.

7. The existing and abandoned oil pipelines shall be potholed prior to initiation of construction activities to determine the exact locations of the pipelines and to allow for implementation of any additional measures necessary to avoid impact.
8. Prior to preparation of final plans and specifications, the Project Applicant shall have prepared a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the entirety of the project to determine the potential to encounter hazardous materials during project implementation. This documentation shall be prepared by a Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) or other qualified personnel, as determined by the State of California.
9. The Project Applicant shall have the soils displaced during all potholing operations and all excavation activities on the remainder of the project site tested for the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons and other potential hazardous materials. The soil testing shall be overseen by an REA or other qualified personnel, as determined by the State of California. The results of the tests on the soils collected during potholing operations shall be finalized before initiating further construction activities. If soil testing during site excavations positively identifies the presence of hazardous materials, the City of Huntington Beach shall coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency(s) to determine the oversight and remediation method to be implemented.
10. If any hydrocarbon-contaminated soils or other hazardous materials on proposed project construction sites are to be transported off site, the transport shall be conducted by a properly licensed Hazardous Waste Hauler, who will be in compliance with all applicable State and federal requirements, including the federal Department of Transportation regulations under Title 49 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR); the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and under 40 CFR 263 (Subtitle C of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).
11. During construction, the project applicant shall ensure that all noise-generating activities be limited to the hours between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM on weekdays. No noise-generating activities shall occur on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. Noise-generating activities are also prohibited within 100 feet of the Park Bench Café on weekdays between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.
12. Prior to the issuance of any grading permits, the Construction Contractor shall produce evidence acceptable to the City of Huntington Beach, Permit and Plan Check Manager, that:
  - All construction vehicles or equipment (fixed or mobile) operated within 1000' of a residential dwelling shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers.

- Stockpiling and/or vehicle staging areas shall be located as far as practicable from residential dwellings.

13. Prior to approval of any rough, precise or stockpiling grading plans, the City shall hire a certified Archaeologist to ensure that the following actions are implemented:

- The Archaeologist must be present at the pre-grading conference in order to establish procedures for temporarily halting or redirecting work to permit the sampling, identification and evaluation of artifacts if potentially significant artifacts are uncovered. If artifacts are uncovered and determined to be significant, the Archaeological Observer shall determine appropriate actions in cooperation with the City for exploration and/or salvage.
- Specimens that are collected prior to or during the grading process shall be donated to an appropriate educational or research institution.
- Any archaeological work at the site shall be conducted under the direction of the certified Archaeologist. If any artifacts are discovered during grading operations when the Archaeological Monitor is not present, grading shall be diverted around the area until the Monitor can survey it.
- A final report detailing the findings and disposition of the specimens shall be submitted to the City. Upon completion of the grading, the Archaeologist shall notify the City as to when the final report will be submitted.

14. Prior to approval of any rough, precise or stockpiling grading plans, the City shall hire a certified Paleontologist to ensure that the following actions are implemented:

- The Paleontologist must be present at the pre-grading conference in order to establish procedures to temporarily halt or redirect work to permit the sampling, identification and evaluation of fossils if potentially significant paleontological resources are uncovered. If artifacts are uncovered and found to be significant, the Paleontological Observer shall determine appropriate actions in cooperation with the City for exploration and/or salvage.
- Specimens that are collected prior to or during the grading process will be donated to an appropriate educational or research institution.
- Any paleontological work at the site shall be conducted under the direction of the certified Paleontologist. If any fossils are discovered during grading operations when the Paleontological Monitor is not present, grading shall be diverted around the area until the Monitor can survey the work.
- A final report detailing the findings and disposition of the specimens shall be submitted. Upon completion of the grading, the Paleontologist shall notify the City as to when the final report will be submitted.

**INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS CONDITION:**

The owner of the property which is the subject of this project and the project applicant if different from the property owner, and each of their heirs, successors and assigns, shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Huntington Beach and its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action or proceedings, liability cost, including attorney's fees and costs against the City or its agents, officers or employees, to attack, set aside, void or annul any approval of the City, including but not limited to any approval granted by the City Council, Planning Commission, or Design Review Board concerning this project. The City shall promptly

notify the applicant of any claim, action or proceeding and should cooperate fully in the defense thereof.