

**RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**  
for the  
**SEAWATER DESALINATION**  
**PROJECT AT**  
**HUNTINGTON BEACH**

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AUGUST 17, 2005

*Lead Agency:*

**City of Huntington Beach**

*Consultant:*

**RBF Consulting**

# **RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

for the

## **SEAWATER DESALINATION PROJECT AT HUNTINGTON BEACH SCH # 2001051092**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the City of Huntington Beach policies for implementing CEQA, the City of Huntington Beach has prepared the Final Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (FREIR) for the proposed Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach.

The Draft Recirculated EIR (DREIR) for the proposed desalination project was distributed to potential responsible and trustee agencies, interested groups, and organizations. The DREIR was made available for public review and comment for a period of 45 days. The public review period for the DREIR established by the State commenced on April 5, 2005 and ended May 19, 2005. Note that the public review period was extended to May 27, 2005 due to an electronic error on the City's website (where the document was available for electronic download).

The previously circulated EIR process for the Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach included public scoping in order to gather information on concerns and issues that the general public may have regarding the project and the EIR. Two public scoping meetings were held on June 6, 2001 (2:30pm and 7:15pm), at Edison Community Center in the City of Huntington Beach. In addition to the public scoping meeting process for the previously circulated EIR, numerous public hearings were conducted by the City of Huntington Beach Planning Commission (a total of five public hearings) and City Council (a total of two public hearings) to consider certification of the EIR. The City of Huntington Beach conducted a consultation meeting December 7, 2004 for the DREIR per Sections 15086 and 15088.5(d) of the CEQA Guidelines to receive agency input on potential impacts of the proposed project.

The following is an excerpt from the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15132:

"The Final EIR shall consist of:

- (a) The Draft EIR or a version of the draft.
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary.
- (c) A list of persons, organizations and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.
- (d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.
- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency."

This Responses to Comments document, together with the original DREIR text (as amended by the minor corrections shown in Section 3, *ERRATA*), Findings of Facts, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program include all of the above required components to make up the Final EIR. Each comment letter is followed by the corresponding response(s). A response is provided for each comment raising significant environmental issues, as received by the City during the DREIR public review period.

In addition, in response to several comments, the applicant has provided additional information, met with local agency staff, and proposed an additional pipeline alignment alternative to address environmental and operational concerns. It should be noted that responses to comments also resulted in various editorial clarifications and corrections to

the original DREIR text. Added or modified text is shown in Section 3, *ERRATA*, by underlining (example) while deleted text is shown by striking (~~example~~). The additional information, corrections, clarifications, and pipeline alignment alternative are not considered to substantively affect the conclusions within the DREIR.