SECTION 6
Other CEQA Considerations

6.1 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes That Would Be Involved in the Proposed Project Should It Be Implemented

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15126(c) and 15126.2(c), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to address any significant irreversible environmental changes that would occur should the proposed Project be implemented. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c):

> *Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the Project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter likely, Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the Project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.*

Construction and operation activities for both the Local Project and Regional Project would require the commitment of renewable and non-renewable sources. Local Project and Regional Project implementation would necessitate the consumption of resources including, but not limited to: building materials, fuel and operational materials/resources, energy resources, and transportation of persons and goods to and from the Project site. Construction activities would specifically require the consumption of lumber and other forest resources and aggregate materials used in concrete and asphalt. Project construction would also require the consumption of fossil fuels, including gasoline and oil, in order to provide power to construction vehicles and equipment. Also, during construction, petroleum products including, but not limited to, gasoline, diesel fuel, crankcase oil, and lubricants may also be used to fuel, lubricate, and clean vehicles and equipment.

Project operations would require the provision of nonrenewable materials similar to those currently consumed within the city of El Segundo. Most notably, ocean water desalination facility operations would involve the consumption of large amounts of energy. By nature, the process of seawater desalination is energy intensive, and, as such, ocean water desalination facility operations (Local Project and Regional Project) would increase local electrical energy demands to support daily operations. For the foreseeable future, some of the electrical energy sources used for

Project operations are anticipated to originate from nonrenewable sources.[1] Ocean water desalination facility operations would require the consumption of other nonrenewable resources to accommodate the desalination process, including energy resources such as natural gas, petroleum-based fuels required for vehicle-trips, and fossil fuels. Refer to Section 5.5, *Energy*, for an expanded discussion of Project energy consumption.

6.2 Growth-Inducing Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15125.2(d) requires that a proposed project's growth-inducing impacts be considered. Growth-inducing impacts involve project characteristics that could directly or indirectly create economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing in the surrounding environment. According to the CEQA Guidelines, growth-inducing projects include those that would remove obstacles to population growth (e.g., a major expansion of a wastewater treatment plant) and those that would encourage/facilitate other activities that are beyond those proposed as part of the project and could affect the environment. In addition, as set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, population increases may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. The CEQA Guidelines also state that it must not be assumed that growth in an area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. Induced growth is considered a significant impact only if it directly or indirectly affects the ability of agencies to provide needed public services or if it can be demonstrated that the potential growth, in some other way, significantly affects the environment (e.g., result in construction that would adversely affect the environment). It is noted that the CEQA Guidelines do not require that an EIR predict (or speculate) specifically where such growth would occur, in what form it would occur, or when it would occur. The answers to such questions require speculation, which CEQA discourages. See CEQA Guidelines Section 15145.

This section analyzes potential growth-inducing impacts, based on the criteria outlined below, as suggested in the CEQA Guidelines. In general terms, a project may foster spatial, economic, or population growth in a geographic area, if it meets any one of the following criteria:

- Fosters economic expansion or growth (e.g., through changes in revenue base and employment expansion).
- Directly or indirectly fosters population growth (e.g., constructing additional housing or employment-generating land uses), which may tax existing community service facilities.
- Removes an impediment to growth (e.g., through a major wastewater treatment plant expansion or establishment of an essential public service).

[1] As of 2016, 28 percent of the electricity provided by Southern California Edison (SCE) is renewable. SCE is required to provide at least 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Assuming that SCE will be increasing to its renewables portfolio at a steady rate between now and 2030 to achieve the 50 percent target (adding 1.7 percent of renewable per year), SCE's renewable portfolio would be about 44-45 percent by 2027 when the project is first operational (SCE 2017).

Should a project meet any one of the above-listed criteria, it may be considered growth-inducing. The Project's potential growth-inducing impacts are evaluated below against these criteria as they relate to the proposed Project.

6.2.1 Impact Analysis

The proposed Project would involve construction and operation of the components described below and depicted in Figure 3-4 and Figure 3-5.

- An **ocean water intake system** consisting of offshore and onshore facilities that would deliver raw ocean water to the desalination facility using existing El Segundo Generating Station (ESGS) intake facilities that have been modified to facilitate the installation of passive intake screens.
- A **desalination facility** at the ESGS site that would produce 20 million gallons per day (MGD), expandable to 60 MGD), of potable drinking water.
- A **concentrate (brine) discharge system** that would return brine and treated process waste streams to the ocean.
- A **desalinated water conveyance system** for the delivery of potable water to the local (West Basin) water supply system for the Local Project and to both the local and regional water supply systems for the Regional Project.
- All **appurtenant facilities** (such as pump stations, valves and metering) as well as all **construction, operation, and maintenance activities** associated with all Project facilities.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15125.2(d), the Project's potential growth-inducing impacts are evaluated below.

6.2.2 Economic Expansion and Growth

Local Project and Regional Project construction and commissioning would occur over approximately 5 years (72 months) and approximately 3 additional years (36 months), respectively, depending on the selected site. Project construction would employ various temporary construction personnel over several years. Generally, the economic impact of construction spreads to local businesses through direct purchases of goods and services from firms and service providers, including inputs, services, maintenance, and repairs, etc. This economic activity impacts the local business economy through purchases of locally produced goods and services that result from the income created by construction jobs. In turn, local businesses require more input to meet increased demand for their output, which has been stimulated. Therefore, temporary Project construction-related activities could foster some temporary economic expansion within El Segundo and neighboring cities. However, because of the temporary nature of this employment, it would not represent a significant economic expansion and would not otherwise result in significant growth-inducing impacts.

Local Project operations would require full-time staffing of approximately 20 employees, with an additional 4 employees required for expansion to the Regional Project, for a total of approximately 24 employees. Project implementation would increase the City of El Segundo's revenue base through increases in the City's business license tax and property taxes. Therefore,

the Project could foster some economic expansion within El Segundo. However, the nominal staffing level and water utility land use does not represent a significant economic expansion and would not otherwise result in significant growth-inducing impacts.

6.2.3 Population Growth

A project can have direct and/or indirect growth-inducement potential. An example of a project that is directly growth-inducing is one that involves construction of new housing. An example of a project that is indirectly growth-inducing is one that results in a substantial increase in employment that would then stimulate the need for additional housing and services. A project would also indirectly induce growth if it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, including a constraint on a required public service (for example, a roadway extension or other infrastructure improvements could allow for additional growth).

The Project would not provide new homes; therefore, it would not induce direct population growth. The Project would reduce dependency on imported water supplies with desalinated water through its provision of 20 MGD of potable water to the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) service area and a potential additional 40 MGD of potable water to the region. The potable water that would be produced by the Project through the Local Project is accounted for in West Basin's *2015 Urban Water Management Plan* (2015 UWMP; West Basin 2016) and would reduce dependency on imported water and improve supply reliability while meeting a projected water demand based on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) demographic forecasts consistent with land use General Plans. Partners for the Regional Project have not been identified; however, West Basin is committed to ensuring that the Regional Project would not induce growth beyond what is already anticipated in the applicable Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (RTP/SCS).

The Project is designed to replace water that would otherwise be imported and therefore would not augment West Basin's supplies. West Basin currently imports all of its potable water to provide to its service area. These sources of imported water are increasingly unreliable and the reliance of a single source of supply also exposes West Basin's service area to supply disruptions resulting from natural disasters (see below and refer to Section 2, *Introduction and Project Background*). As such, unlike many utility expansion projects, the proposed Project would not add capacity, and therefore would not induce growth.

The 2015 UWMP accounts for population projections and their relationship to retail water demands through data provided by the SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS (SCAG 2016). SCAG consists of local governments from Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. SCAG develops and regularly updates regional growth forecasts that incorporate relevant zoning and land use information from jurisdictional general plans. SCAG uses its growth projections in preparing a regional transportation plan which is a long-term planning and management plan for the regional transportation system. The RTP also includes a sustainable communities strategy to meet the greenhouse gas emissions targets for the region and mitigation measures to offset the impacts of projected growth.

West Basin adopted their most recent Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in 2015. Water demand projections presented in the 2015 UWMP for the West Basin service area were calculated using the Metropolitan Demand Forecasting Model. This model utilizes population projections reported in the 2012 RTP/SCS with an average annual population increase of 0.4% between 2020-2040 (MWD 2016a). The relatively slow growth is due to the older cities that are expected to be fully buildout in the near future. As SCAG regional growth forecasts are the fundamental assumptions that determine retail water demand forecasting for the West Basin service area, the Project's reduction in dependency on imported water supplies is considered under the 2015 UWMP and thus would not foster population growth beyond that accounted for in SCAG regional growth projections.

The Local Project's buildout horizon year is between 2024 and 2026. The Regional Project's buildout horizon has not yet been determined, but would occur no earlier than 2029. The Project would replace (a portion of) existing imported water supplies and therefore would not be growth-inducing. The population in the West Basin service area is expected to increase minimally from 813,000 people in 2015 to 891,617 in 2040, representing an average growth of 0.4 percent annually, as projected in the 2012 RTP/SCS. This small growth rate is because many cities in the service area are older cities that anticipate reaching buildout in the near-term. The number of households in West Basin's service area is expected to increase 4.5 percent in the next 25 years from 294,293 in 2015 to 308,161 in 2040. Urban employment in West Basin's service area is expected to rise by 7.2 percent in the next 25 years. The Project would be consistent with SCAG's growth forecasts for West Basin's service area and the region.

Table 6-1 includes an expanded discussion regarding the Project's consistency with SCAG regional growth forecasts.

TABLE 6-1
SCAG CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Goal #	Goal	Determination of Consistency
Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities (RTP/SCS) Strategy: Goals		
RTP/SCS G1	Align the plan investments and policies with improving regional economic development and competitiveness.	Consistent: The ocean water desalination facility would be an economic resource for the City of El Segundo and surrounding communities throughout both its construction and operation. The Project would involve temporary personnel during Project construction, as well as total staff of 20–24 full-time personnel during Project operations. Thus, the Project would be consistent with SCAG RTP/SCS G1.
RTP/SCS G2	Maximize mobility and accessibility for all people and goods in the region.	Consistent: Mitigation Measure TRA-1 would require West Basin to implement a Traffic Control Plan during Project construction, and would ensure the Project does not significantly impact the mobility of goods and people within the region. Refer to Section 5.15, *Transportation and Traffic*.
RTP/SCS G3	Ensure travel safety and reliability for all people and goods in the region.	Consistent: Project construction would require preparation of a Traffic Control Plan as Mitigation Measure TRA-1. Incorporation of the Traffic Control Plan would ensure construction-related travel safety and reliability impacts are less than significant. Project operations would not impact travel safety. Refer to Section 5.15, *Transportation and Traffic*. As such, the Project would be consistent with RTP/SCS G3.

Goal #	Goal	Determination of Consistency
RTP/SCS G4	Preserve and ensure a sustainable regional transportation system.	Not Applicable: As the ocean water desalination facility would be constructed within the existing ESGS property, the Project does not involve a land use that would alter the functionality of the regional transportation system. Refer to Section 5.15, *Transportation and Traffic*. As such, the Project would be consistent with RTP/SCS G4.
RTP/SCS G5	Maximize the productivity of our transportation system.	Not Applicable: The Project does not involve a land use that would impact the productivity of the regional transportation system. Refer to Section 5.15, *Transportation and Traffic*. As such, the Project would be consistent with RTP/SCS G5.
RTP/SCS G6	Protect the environment and health for our residents by improving air quality and encouraging active transportation (e.g., bicycling and walking).	Not Applicable: As the ocean water desalination facility would be constructed within the existing ESGS property in an area zoned as heavy industrial, the Project does not involve a land use that would encourage active transportation. As such, this Goal RTP/SCS G6 is not applicable to the proposed Project.
RTP/SCS G7	Actively encourage and create incentives for energy efficiency, where possible.	Consistent: The proposed Project incorporates a design option that would include the use of energy recovery devices (ERDs). Although ocean water desalination is energy intensive, it provides for a reliable, local, drought-proof water supply as one component of a larger portfolio that replaces imported water brought from long distances, reducing West Basin's imported water energy demands. As described in Chapter 6 of West Basin's *2011-2015 Water Efficiency Master Plan*, West Basin is currently developing a long-term strategy as well as implementing short-term strategies to combine energy and water efficiency programs. The Project would uphold the goals outlined in the Water Efficiency Master Plan, requires energy efficiency features, and reduces West Basin's imported water energy demand, and thus would comply with RTP/SCS G7.
RTP/SCS G8	Encourage land use and growth patterns that facilitate transit and active transportation.	Not Applicable: The Project site is zoned M-2 (Heavy Industrial). The ocean water desalination facility would involve a land use that would not conflict with existing land uses on the ESGS site. As the ocean water desalination facility is located in a built-up environment surrounded by industrial uses, the Project would not encourage land use or growth patterns that facilitate non-motorized transportation and RTP/SCS G8 would not be relevant to the proposed Project.
RTP/SCS G9	Maximize the security of the regional transportation system through improved system monitoring, rapid recovery planning, and coordination with other security agencies.	Consistent: Project construction would be subject to Mitigation Measure TRA-1, which would require the implementation of a Traffic Control Plan. The Traffic Control Plan would safeguard the security of the regional transportation system. Refer to Section 5.15, *Transportation and Traffic*.

SOURCE: SCAG 2016.

6.2.4 Water Supply and Demand

West Basin was formed in 1947 as an imported water wholesaler for southwestern Los Angeles County. West Basin's 185-square-mile service area is composed of 17 cities and several unincorporated areas. As a regional water wholesaler, West Basin purchases water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) as one of its 26 member agencies. West Basin has no authority related to land use planning or approvals. West Basin's projection for future water needs contained in its 2015 UWMP is based upon the land use and demographic forecast of SCAG and the General Plans adopted by the local jurisdictions covering its service area.

As described above, the Project involves construction and operation of an ocean water desalination facility, along with related water infrastructure components, including a screened ocean intake, concentrate discharge structure, and desalinated water conveyance facilities. As discussed in greater detail below, although the Project would provide an "essential service" (potable water), the Project's water supply would serve to *replace* imported water. The Local Project would meet 11 percent of West Basin's total water demand in 2040, including conservation. It is estimated that West Basin would still need to import 39 percent of its supply from imported sources by 2030 and then reduced down to 37 percent by 2040. Given the relatively small volume compared to the total water demand, this Project would not produce any potable water over and above the projected water supply in the 2015 UWMP, and the Regional Project would produce potable water consistent with (and not in excess of) the growth projections in the RTP/SCS. In essence, the Project would reduce dependency on less reliable imported water and would not result in a net increase in total water supply provided by West Basin to its member agencies. As such, the Project would not result in any significant growth-inducing impacts.

The Project does not propose any other essential public service (i.e., fire and police protection, and solid waste disposal) or utility/service systems (i.e., wastewater, electricity, and natural gas). Essential public services and utility/service systems are already available in the area, and Project development would occur primarily as infill given the existing built-out nature of the Project area and West Basin service area. Therefore, the utility/service systems upgrades/extensions necessary to accommodate the Project would not induce population growth.

As of 2015, West Basin relied on approximately 105,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of imported water from MWD to meet retail customer and a small portion of the groundwater replenishment demands, which marks a 30 percent reduction compared to the 1990 levels (approximately 192,000 AFY). These demands are met through MWD supplies that originate from the Colorado River and from Northern California through the State Water Project (SWP). As discussed below and in Section 2, *Introduction and Project Background*, MWD's imported supplies have steadily become less reliable because of environmental rulings resulting in operational restrictions that limit the amount of SWP water available for urban and agricultural use as well as the ongoing sustained drought in California and the Southwest. These conditions have resulted in partial water allocations for West Basin in 4 of the past 9 years.

As detailed in the 2015 UWMP, West Basin plans to provide long-term water reliability through supply diversification. As shown in 2015 UWMP Table ES-3 *West Basin's Service Area Projected Water Supply (AFY)*, along with more than doubling its current recycled water supplies from 29,110 AFY in 2015 to 44,135 AFY in 2040[2] and further increasing conserved supply through water use efficiency programs, West Basin plans to use 21,500 AFY of ocean water desalination supply (for the Local Project) to offset imported potable supplies. This diversified plan would enable West Basin to reduce its overall imported water use by nearly one-third—from 55 percent in 2015, to 39 percent by 2030, and 37 percent by 2040; refer to 2015 UWMP Figure ES-2, *West Basin Service Area Projected Retail Water Supplies*.[3] To this end, the Project is

2 Including seawater barrier project water delivery and other aboveground non-potable reuses.

3 In 2015, West Basin purchased 105,569 acre-feet of potable retail water from MWD to meet retail water demand, representing approximately 78 percent of its total water supplies.

proposed to further reduce West Basin's dependency on imported water by adding desalinated ocean water with the local water supply portfolio. The 2015 UWMP further explains that ocean water desalination, along with water recycling and water conservation programs, would improve immediate, near-, and long-term supply reliability, regardless of imported water reliability or climate-related challenges. The 20 MGD Local Project would help meet the water demands of the service area at a local scale, whereas the 60 MGD Regional Project would help meet the water demands of the service area, as well as water demands of currently unidentified regional partners, at a regional scale, further reducing the need for imported water in the MWD service area and improving overall regional supply reliability. If West Basin decides to proceed with the Regional Project, it would be implemented with the initial phase of 20 MGD (Local Project) that would serve local needs followed by two subsequent phases of expansion (20 MGD each) or one subsequent phase of expansion (40 MGD) to meet water demands at a regional scale.

The Ocean Water Desalination Project represents an important long-term water supply component of West Basin's *Strategic Business Plan* and 2015 UWMP. Beyond local applications, the proposed Local Project is necessary to achieve *California Water Action Plan* objectives to incorporate more reliable water supplies, further the restoration of important species and habitat, and implement a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades. This proposed Local Project is also consistent with MWD's *Integrated Resources Plan* objectives, including those related to improving local supplies and planning for a new suite of supplies that are anticipated to be necessary (MWD 2016b).

As noted above, West Basin anticipates that end uses of the Regional Project water would be consistent with applicable Urban Water Management Plans.

6.2.5 Growth Inducement Potential

Implementation of the Project would not have a direct growth-inducement effect, as it does not propose development of new housing that would attract additional population to the area. Further, implementation of the Project would not result in substantial permanent employment that could indirectly induce population growth. Although the Local Project and Regional Project would create up to 24 permanent employees, it would not require persons outside of the existing service area and would be able to be accommodated by the existing regional work force.

The Project would increase reliability of West Basin's supplies by creating a new source of water to offset imported water distributed by MWD. While desalination represents a new supply source, it would be offsetting use of imported water within West Basin's service area. As a result, desalinated water for use in West Basin's service area would not create additional water for distribution that could result in a growth-inducement potential. While the Local and Regional Projects would help meet the water demands of the service area, the Regional Project would also help meet water demands of currently unidentified regional partners at a regional scale, further reducing the need for imported water in the MWD service area and improving overall regional supply reliability. The 2015 UWMP accounts for this new supply source to offset imported water, and. as mentioned above, West Basin's service area potable water demand is anticipated to

increase only minimally (approximately 0.4 percent annually) through 2040, so additional supplies are not required to support any increase in demand.

While the Project would provide a new water source within West Basin's service area, it would replace imported water distribution through the service area and therefore would not induce future growth. Rather, as a project to support future reliability by creating a new local water source, the Project would accommodate existing demand and a very small (0.4 percent) annual increase in demand such that water infrastructure reliability would not be an impediment to already planned growth. As a water supply agency, West Basin has no authority over the approval of General Plans that forecast population increases. Additionally, the Project would be implemented in phases to ensure the new supply is appropriately keeping up with population growth. As a result, the Project neither supports nor encourages growth within West Basin's service area to a greater degree than presently estimated by the 2015 UWMP and land use agencies with jurisdiction over the Project area. Similarly, the Regional Project would be implemented consistent with regional water management planning of participating jurisdictions. The Project would not remove any obstacles to growth and would not indirectly have a significant impact on growth inducement. As a result, impacts to growth inducement would be less than significant.

6.3 Environmental Justice

The following section discusses the environmental justice issues pertaining to the Project and evaluates the potential for the Project to disproportionately affect minority and low-income populations. Data presented in this section was obtained from two data sets from the U.S. Census Bureau 2011–2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.

6.3.1 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The National Environmental Project Act (NEPA) and CEQA-Plus procedures outlined in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing guidelines include compliance with Executive Order 12898 (59 Fed. Reg. 32) (February 16, 1994), which outlines federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations.

Executive Order 12898 states that agencies shall identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. A new interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice was created in 1994 to develop strategies for programs and policies regarding minority and low-income populations to promote enforcement of all health and environmental statutes, improve research and data collection in relation to health and environment, identify different patterns of consumption of natural resources, and ensure greater public participation.

6.3.2 Environmental Setting

Population

The Project facilities including distribution facilities are located in the city of El Segundo, city of Hawthorne, and city of Lawndale. The proposed facilities would be located in 17 different census tracts throughout these cities within Los Angeles County. However, this analysis focuses on the aboveground Project components (i.e., not conveyance facilities) because the environmental justice analysis focuses on the permanent impacts to the low-income and minority populations. The proposed conveyance pipelines would have temporary construction impacts but would be returned to pre-project conditions once in operation so the tracts in which the pipelines would occur are not included in the analysis.

As a result, the city of El Segundo (desalination facility) and the city of Hawthorne (pump station) are the only cities where aboveground infrastructure would be implemented. The aboveground facilities include the ocean desalination facility and the proposed regional pump station (with potential locations in 5 of the 17 tracts: tract 6021,03, 6021.06, 6027, 9800.30, and 9800.13). The total population of individuals within these census tracts is 15,796. **Table 6-2** lists all of the census tracts affected by the Local Project and Regional Project facilities and the City of Manhattan Beach tract (Tract 6202.01) located adjacent to the proposed desalination plant, using data from the 2011–2015 ACS 5-year estimates. The total population of the adjacent tract in 2015 was 1,446 (U.S. Census Bureau 2017).

Demographics

The demographic characteristics of the census tracts affected by the Local and Regional Project components are summarized in Table 6-2. The demographic data provided by the U.S. Census is organized into four categories: Black (individuals identifying primarily with a Black ethnicity), Hispanic (individuals identifying primarily with a Hispanic ethnicity), White (individuals identifying primarily with a Non-Hispanic, White ethnicity), and Other (individuals identifying primarily with all other ethnicities not aforementioned, as well as those identifying with more than one ethnicity). According to the U.S. Census, “minorities” are defined as all individuals that are not Non-Hispanic, single-race Whites.

For purposes of this analysis, an area is considered to have a significantly greater minority population if the affected census tract or group of tracts has a minority population at least 10 percent greater on average than the overall city or census-designated place (CDP). Table 6-2 includes the demographic data for all cities and census tracts affected by the Project-components.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, the tracts affected by the Project within the city of El Segundo do not have populations residing within them so there is no demographic data available. The tracts affected by the Project within the city of Hawthorne have a relatively smaller minority population (Hispanic) and slightly larger minority population (Black) on average than the overall city itself. The city of Hawthorne’s affected tracts have a 7.23 percent higher Black population (31 percent) compared to that of the overall city (23.8 percent), while it has a 1.27 percent lower Hispanic population (53.4 percent) than the overall city (54.7 percent).

TABLE 6-2
DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION BY CITY AND CENSUS TRACT

City/Census Tract	Hispanic	White	Black	Other
City of El Segundo	**19%**	**64.8%**	**1.3%**	**14.9%**
Tract 9800.30	-	-	-	-
Tract 9800.13	-	-	-	-
Average	-	-	-	-
City of Hawthorne	**54.7%**	**9.8%**	**23.8%**	**11.7%**
Tract 6021.03	73.4%	10.7%	11.3%	4.6%
Tract 6021.06	63.4%	7.3%	18.0%	11.3%
Tract 6027	23.5%	2.7%	63.8%	10.0%
Average	*53.4%*	*6.9%*	*31.0%*	*8.63%*
City of Manhattan Beach	**9.4%**	**75.3%**	**0.8%**	**14.5%**
Tract 6202.01	12.2%	76%	2.7%	9.1%

SOURCE: Data obtained from US Census Survey, ACS 2011–2015 5-Year Estimates.

Income

Low income is classified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) using population and income distribution within each county. For the purposes of this analysis, the potentially affected census tracts must have an average median household income at least $10,000 below that of the overall city or CDP to be considered significantly lower income. Furthermore, as household income classification is dependent on household size, the income amount must be equal to or below the low income threshold designated for the average family size within the city or CDP. **Table 6-3** shows the Los Angeles County median household income level classifications for two-, three- and four-person households. **Table 6-4** shows the income data and poverty status within all affected cities and census tract sets.

TABLE 6-3
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AREA MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME CLASSIFICATION IN U.S. DOLLARS

	2 persons in household	3 persons in household	4 persons in household
Extremely low income	21,650	24,350	27.050
Very low income	36,050	40,550	45,050
Low Income*	57,700	64,900	72,100
Median Income	51,850	58,300	64,800
Moderate Income	62,200	70,000	77,750

*Low income exceeding median income is due to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) adjustments to the Very Low income limit to account for high housing costs.

SOURCE: Data obtained from California Department of Community Development 2017 State Income Limits

TABLE 6-4
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND POVERTY STATUS BY CITY AND CENSUS TRACT

City/Census Tract	Median Household Income	Percent Below Poverty Level (Individuals)
City of El Segundo	**$85,727**	**7.3%**
Tract 9800.30	-	-
Tract 9800.13	-	-
Average	-	-
City of Hawthorne	**$44,504**	**20.1%**
Tract 6021.03	$32,632	21.6%
Tract 6021.06	$43,520	13.1%
Tract 6027	$77,708	17.7%
Average	$51,287	17.5%
City of Manhattan Beach	**$144,868**	**3.7%**
Tract 6202.01	$116,761	8.4%

As shown in Table 6-4, there is no median household or poverty level data available for the tracts affected by the Project within the city of El Segundo because there are no residents living in the tracts.

The affected tracts within the city of Hawthorne shows a slightly higher average median household income level compared to the respective overall city data. The city of Hawthorne affected tracts' average median household income differs by $6,783 compared to the rest of the city. With an average household size of three persons in the city of Hawthorne, this income level is considered "very low income" (DHCD 2017).

The tract sets mentioned above also show they do not have a significantly higher percent of population living below poverty level than the respective city. The city of Hawthorne's affected tracts have a percent of population living below the poverty level that is 2.63 percent lower than the overall city. The national poverty level or threshold is determined every year by the U.S. Census Bureau. The national average poverty threshold in 2015 for a family of three was $18,871 (U.S. Census Bureau 2015).

6.3.3 Significance Thresholds and Criteria

For the purposes of this EIR and consistency with NEPA or CEQA-Plus Guidelines, applicable local plans, and agency and professional standards, the Proposed Project would be considered to have a significant effect on environmental justice if it would:

- Affect the health or environment of minority or low-income populations disproportionately.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Generally speaking, operation of proposed facilities including desalination facilities and the pump station, would not create localized impacts that could negatively affect the surrounding environment or community public health (as evidenced in the analyses provided in other sections of this EIR).

Based on all census data presented above, Local Project and Regional Project components in the cities of El Segundo and Hawthorne would not be located in areas with significantly larger minority and/or low-income populations on average, relative to the overall characteristics of their respective cities. The proposed locations of the ocean water desalination facility and pump station have been based on criteria such as elevation and proximity and connectivity to existing facilities. During operation of the Local and Regional Projects, residential areas would not be significantly impacted because the location of the ocean water desalination facility would be within an existing power generating facility site.

Operation of the proposed pump station could occur adjacent to residential areas, but all potential locations are on vacant and/or disturbed land. Even though the proposed regional pump station could be located within an area of the city of Hawthorne with a higher minority population (Black or Hispanic), the area is not considered to have a significantly high minority population because it is within 10 percent of the overall city's minority population percentage. As a result, the census data shows that the location of the Local and Regional Project would not be within areas significantly characterized by low income or minority populations. Nonetheless, the location of such facilities in areas characterized by minority or low income populations would not adversely affect the environment or public health of such communities. Impacts are considered less than significant.

6.4 References

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