

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: City of Long Beach, Community Development Department, Planning Bureau, 411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802

SUBJECT/PROJECT TITLE: Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project - Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report in Compliance with Title 14, Section 15082(a) of the California Code of Regulations

Lead Agency: City of Long Beach

Responsible Agency: California Coastal Commission, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and potentially State Lands Commission

Trustee Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to notify potential Responsible Agencies, interested parties, organizations, and individuals that the City of Long Beach (City) acting as the Lead Agency will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project (Project) and to solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR and the environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIR pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located in the water area between the Cerritos Channel and the San Gabriel River within the AES Alamitos Generating Station (AES Alamitos) site, located at 690 North Studebaker Road in Long Beach, CA (APN: 7237-019-808). See Figure 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would maintain existing water circulation patterns in Alamitos Bay by replacing the existing once-through-cooling (OTC) pumps at AES Alamitos for power generating operations with a new “fish-friendly” pump system that is separate from power generating operations. OTC operations at AES Alamitos are anticipated to cease in December 2026, in accordance with current regulations from the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed project would install new pumps to convey water from Alamitos Bay to the San Gabriel River Estuary, maintaining current circulation patterns and preventing water quality impacts to Alamitos Bay (including Marine Stadium and Colorado Lagoon).

The proposed project includes installation of screens within the existing intake channel that will comply with regulatory criteria for fish impingement, fish entrainment, and trash removal. The new “fish-friendly” pumps will be installed within the intake channel of the existing AES Alamitos Unit 6. The new infrastructure would be installed within the intake channel as well as on land, and require an anticipated construction duration of approximately 2 to 2.5 years. Construction activities are anticipated to require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC), a Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and a Section 401 Certification from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). In addition, to operate the pumps, it is anticipated an NPDES discharge permit will be required from the LARWQCB.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR will examine potential environmental impacts generated by the proposed project in relation to the following Environmental Analysis categories: Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, including the marine environment, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities/Service Systems, and Wildfire. The Draft EIR will also identify appropriate and feasible mitigation measures, if necessary, for each of the environmental impacts listed above.

PROJECT SCOPING PROCESS: Circulation of this NOP starts a 30-day public review and comment period on the scope of the Draft EIR that begins on **May 30, 2024, and ends on July 1, 2024**, at 4:30 p.m. The NOP can also be accessed online at the City's website: <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbcd/planning/environmental/reports/>. Copies are available for review at the City of Long Beach, 411 West Ocean Blvd., 2nd Floor Long Beach, CA 90802.

All interested parties, including the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies, are invited to provide comments and input on the scope of and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. Responsible and trustee agencies should provide comments and input related to the agencies' respective areas of statutory responsibility. Comments received during the scoping period will be considered during preparation of the Draft EIR. Public agencies and interested parties will have an additional opportunity to comment on the proposed project during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR.

The City will accept written comments only during the public comment period. Comments must be submitted via letter or email to the contact below. Comments made via other means, including social media or delivered to other recipients, will not be accepted or considered. The City of Long Beach must receive all written comments relating to the NOP no later than 4:30 p.m. on **Monday, July 1, 2024**.

SCOPING MEETING: As part of the NOP process, the City will conduct a virtual Public Scoping Meeting in order to present the proposed project and the EIR process and to receive public comments. The City invites interested parties to the following public scoping meeting for the proposed project in order to learn more about the project, ask questions, and submit comments:

DATE: June 13, 2024 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** Virtual (see link and call in information below)

LINK:

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://longbeach-gov.zoom.us/j/91843283164?pwd=ODJTTjJOaUg5Q2hPdHM4ZW9UOEJldz09>
Passcode: 138501

Or One tap mobile: +12133388477,,91843283164# US (Los Angeles)

Or Telephone: +1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles) Webinar ID: 918 4328 3164

International numbers available: <https://longbeach-gov.zoom.us/j/91843283164?pwd=ODJTTjJOaUg5Q2hPdHM4ZW9UOEJldz09>

NOP Reviewing Locations

The NOP is available for public review beginning **May 30, 2024** and ending **July 1, 2024** at the following locations:

Online: <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbcd/planning/environmental/reports/>

City of Long Beach

Community Development Dept.
Planning Bureau
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 2nd Floor,
Long Beach, CA 90802

Bay Shore Neighborhood Library

195 Bay Shore Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90803

Billie Jean King Main Library

200 W. Broadway
Long Beach, CA 90802

Send Comments on the NOP to:

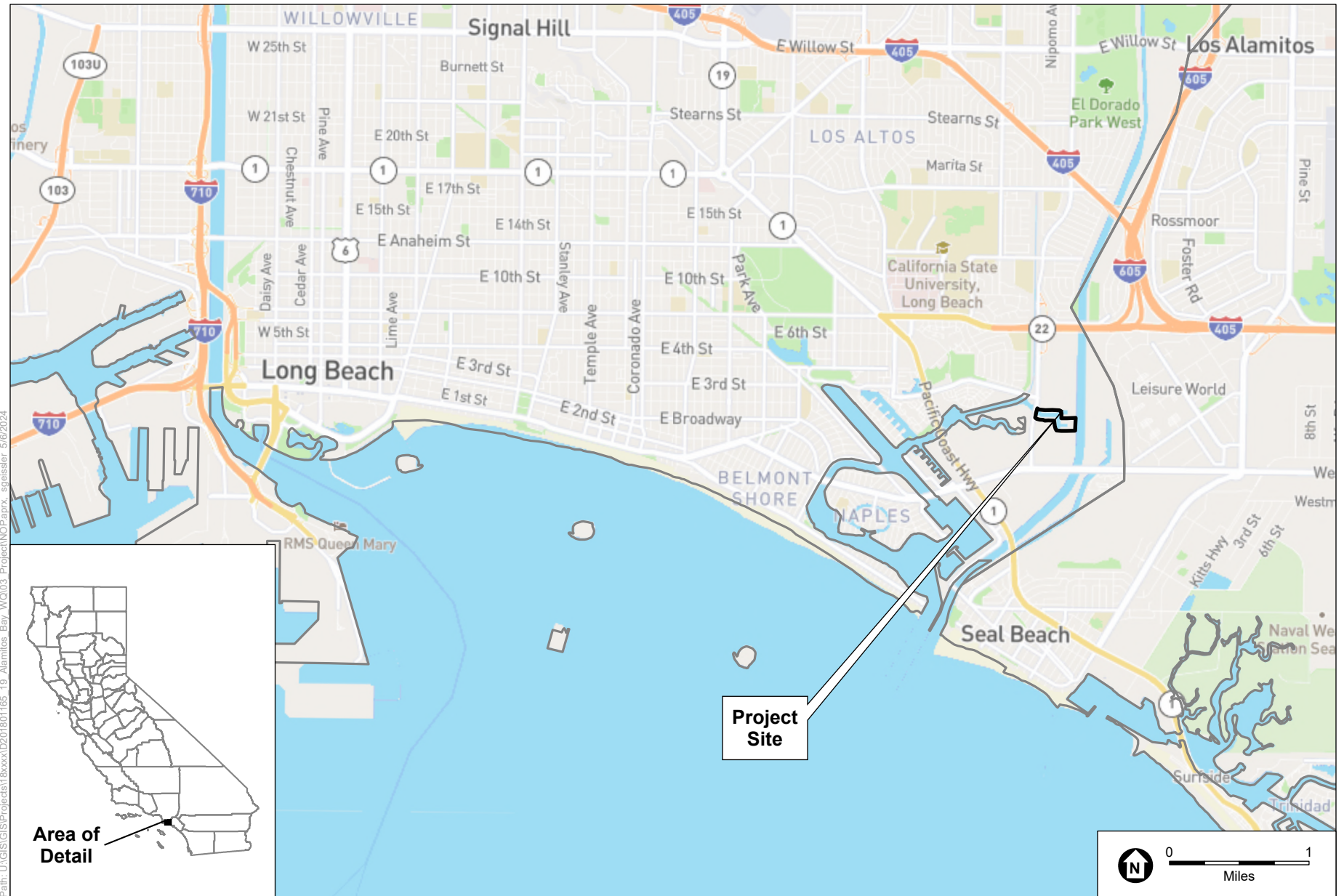
Email (include “Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project” or “ABWQE Project” in the subject line):

LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov

Mail: City of Long Beach Development Services, Planning Bureau

Attention: Amy Harbin, Planner
(562) 570-6872

411 West Ocean Boulevard, Third Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802



SOURCE: ESA, 2024

Alamitos Bay Water Quality Enhancement Project

Figure 1
Regional Location Map