

Q.5.10 - Noise

The following impact evaluation is based on the environmental setting, regulatory setting, and thresholds of significance discussions provided for the proposed projects in Draft EIR Section 5.10, Noise, and in Appendix L-1, Expanded Noise Analysis. These previous discussions are not repeated in the following evaluation. The evaluation is a comparative analysis between the Preferred Project and Proposed Project 4.

Noise Levels in Excess of Standards and Substantial (Permanent) Increase in Noise Levels

Q5.10-A: **The project would result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies and result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Collection System

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the collection system under the Preferred Project is a gravity system that consists of a combination of conventional gravity sewers (GS) and low-pressure grinder pumps (LPGP). As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. Based on a review of the additions and modifications of the collection system facilities, the Preferred Project could expose persons to long-term noise levels in excess of standards similar to Proposed Project 4.

The addition of collection system facilities under the Preferred Project compared to Proposed Project 4 would result in a similar noise levels during on-going operation and maintenance activities for on-lot improvements. With the addition and modifications of pipelines within the in-town collection system, the Preferred Project could create significant impacts from on-going operations of back-up diesel generators used for the collection system. Similar to Proposed Project 4, noise levels created by back-up diesel generators could be significant. Furthermore, similar to Proposed project 4, stationary noise associated with the on-going operations of the out of town conveyance system would be less than significant under the Preferred Project.

Treatment Plant Site

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed treatment plant facilities under the Preferred Project include treatment facilities, appurtenant structures and storage facilities located on the Tonini parcel. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project will include an Oxidation Ditch or Biolac® facility. In addition, a 30,000-gallon water storage tank and enclosed diesel water pump would be installed under the new project. Based on the analysis under the Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would have similar long-term noise impacts to exposing persons to noise levels exceeding

existing standards. Therefore, the Preferred Project may have a significant impact from noise generated by the treatment facilities, similar to Proposed Project 4.

Disposal Sites

The effluent disposal for the Preferred Project would be the same system as described for Proposed Project 4. Therefore, the Preferred Project's operational noise impacts would be similar to what was calculated above for Proposed Project 4, which found that the stationary noise impacts associated with the on-going operations of the Broderson Leachfield and Tonini Sprayfield would be less than significant.

Combined Project Effects

The stationary noise created by the simultaneous on-going operations of multiple portions of the Preferred Project would not create a noticeable increase over the operational noise levels for the different sites. However, the on-going operations associated with each site would produce additional on-road vehicular traffic, which may create a combined traffic noise impact. The combined on-going operations of the collection system, treatment plant site, and disposal site for the Preferred Project would generate long-term traffic noise levels; however, due to the nominal change in traffic with the Preferred Project compared to Proposed Project 4, noise level would be nominally different. As a result, similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in less than significant long-term traffic noise.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Since the Preferred Project would result in a nominal change in traffic compared to Proposed Project 4, the cumulative impacts identified for Proposed Project 4 would be similar to the Preferred Project. Based on the contribution of traffic noise levels of Proposed Project 4 to cumulative noise level were 1.5 dB or less, the implementation of the Preferred Project would be similar. Since, the County's threshold of significance includes a 3 dBA CNEL increase, the traffic noise levels associated with the Preferred Project would be less than significant which is similar to the finding for Proposed Project 4.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

- 5.10-A1** The project applicant shall require that the treatment plant be designed so that the mechanical aeration system is located a minimum of 250 feet away from the nearest residence.
- 5.10-A2** The project applicant shall require that the treatment plant be designed so that the backup diesel generator is enclosed in a structure and is located a minimum of 250 feet away from the nearest residence.
- 5.10-A3** The County will require that the backup power facility structures for the in-town collection system be designed so that the noise created from the backup diesel generator that would be located inside the structure would not exceed 45 dBA Leq at

the nearest property line. The noise from the backup diesel generator may be attenuated through the use of a “manufacturer enclosure” or through incorporation of noise attenuation design features into the backup power facility structure.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

Less than significant.

Excessive Groundborne Vibration

Q5.10-B: The project could expose people to or generation of excess groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Collection System

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the collection system under the Preferred Project is a gravity system. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed construction of the Preferred Project will consist of pile driving which may cause significant groundborne vibrations. Based on a review of the additions and modifications of the collection system facilities, the Preferred Project could pose the same significant vibration impacts during construction of the collection system as the impacts that could occur with Proposed Project 4.

Treatment Plant Site

The treatment of the raw wastewater for the Preferred Project would consist of raw wastewater being transported to the Tonini site where the raw wastewater would then be treated through the use of Biolac® systems or an Oxidation Ditch as described in Table Q.5-1. The greatest construction vibration impacts are anticipated to occur during the grading operations when the simultaneous operation of earthmovers and other grading equipment occurs. Since the Preferred Project would require less excavation for the treatment facility compared to Proposed Project 4, less overall vibration would occur, but daily vibration levels could be similar. Since vibration levels associated with the Preferred Project would be similar to Proposed Project 4, the potential vibration impacts for the Preferred Project would be less than significant, similar to Proposed Project 4.

Disposal Sites

The effluent disposal for Proposed Project 4 would be the same system as described for the Preferred Project. Although the Preferred Project includes approximately 73 more acres of sprayfields, this increase would not alter the level of vibration expected at the Tonini site that were identified for the Proposed Project. Therefore, vibration impacts during construction of the disposal sites for the Preferred Project would be less than significant, similar to Proposed Project 4.

Combined Project Effects

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed facilities for the treatment and sprayfields under the Preferred Project would be located on the Tonini parcel. The combination of the two facilities on the Tonini parcel would encompass approximately 262 acres of the approximate 650-acre parcel. The combined project on-going operations vibration impacts for the Preferred Project would be similar as described for Proposed Project 4, and would result in less than significant impacts. Since vibration impacts during construction of the collection system could be significant, combined project vibration effects could be significant.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative vibration impacts, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative vibration impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

5.10-B1 Prior to initiation of construction of the collection system, the contractor/designer shall identify all areas where pile driving, or other construction methods that would result in severe ground vibrations, could occur. Deep pile foundation designs shall favor techniques that can be constructed with minimal vibration effects. Prior to construction, the contractor shall calculate the vibration effects of pile driving and other high vibration activities using the Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) metric, and shall ensure that the PPV does not exceed the following thresholds at any affected building: 0.5 at modern industrial/commercial or residential buildings; 0.3 for any building composed of masonry, unreinforced concrete, lath & plaster interiors or of similar construction; and 0.25 for any building identified as particularly sensitive to vibration impacts. Alternative design and/or construction methods shall be used to meet these limits. In addition, the construction contractor shall notify all property owners and tenants adjacent to the proposed pile driving or other vibration inducing activities of the days and hours of operation. Prior to construction activities associated with this type of work, the construction contractor shall inspect all structures within 100 feet of the proposed work to document existing characteristics of the structures. If damages to structures (e.g., residences, pools) occur during the work, the property owner shall be fairly compensated for the cost of remediating damages.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Temporary or Periodic Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

Q5.10-C: **The project could result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.**

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Collection System

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the collection system under the Preferred Project is a gravity system. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional collection system facilities such as pump stations, standby power stations, and pipelines, as well as modifications to specific locations and size of facilities such as the central pump station, pipelines within streets, and pipelines crossing creeks compared to Proposed Project 4. Based on a review of the additions and modifications of the collection system facilities, the Preferred Project could create significant temporary impacts to ambient noise levels during construction activities, similar to Proposed Project 4. Specifically, pile driving associated with the installation of pump stations has the potential to cause a significant temporary noise impact.

Treatment Plant Site

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed treatment plant facilities under the Preferred Project include treatment facilities, appurtenant structures and storage facilities located on the Tonini parcel. As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project will include an Oxidation Ditch or Biolac® facility that encompasses less area and requires substantially less grading than the facultative ponds proposed under Proposed Project 4. Approximately 20-acres of the Tonini site would be disturbed during construction of the treatment plant site and would include excavation for the new facilities, site grading for stormwater drainage and the access road, and 1.5 acres for the staging areas for construction equipment and supplies. The greatest construction noise impacts are anticipated to occur during the grading operations when the simultaneous operation of earthmovers and other grading equipment may operate simultaneously.

With the Preferred Project, construction noise impacts onto the nearby sensitive receptors are expected to be similar as the impacts under Proposed Project 4. The nearest residence is located approximately 350 feet south of the Tonini site. The construction noise could exceed the County

stationary noise standard of 50 dBA L_{eq} , therefore a significant temporary noise impact would occur, similar to Proposed Project 4.

Disposal Sites

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the proposed disposal systems under the Preferred Project include sprayfields at the Tonini parcel and leachfields at the Broderson parcel. Under the Preferred Project, the type of spray was revised to exclude percolation and as a result approximately 73 more acres of sprayfields are necessary to accommodate the 842 acre-feet of spray at Tonini compared to Proposed Project 4. The analysis of the Preferred Project found that the greatest noise impacts associated with the construction of the disposal sites would occur during construction of the Broderson Leachfield. Therefore, with the Preferred Project, a significant temporary noise impact would occur, similar to Proposed Project 4.

Combined Project Effects

The collection system, treatment plant site, and disposal sites for the most part are not near one another. However, all three components would, individually, cause a temporary significant impact to ambient noise levels during construction of the facilities. These impacts are similar to Proposed Project 4.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Since there are no related projects that would contribute to cumulative noise impacts, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative temporary and periodic noise impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

5.10-C1 The project applicant shall require construction contractors to adhere to the following noise attenuation requirements:

- Construction activities shall be limited to between the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday or between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.
- All construction equipment shall use noise-reduction features (e.g., mufflers and engine shrouds) that are no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturer.
- Construction staging and heavy equipment maintenance activities shall be performed a minimum distance of 300 feet from the nearest residence, unless safety or technical factors take precedence.
- Stationary combustion equipment such as pumps or generators operating within 100 feet of any residence shall be shielded with a noise protection barrier.

5.10-C2 The construction contractor shall notify all property owners and tenants adjacent to the proposed pile driving activities of the days and hours of operation. The construction contractor shall also require that a noise damper be utilized between the pile driver and the object that is being driven into the ground.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

Airport Noise Levels

Q5.10-D: For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Project Specific Impact Analysis

The San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport would not expose people residing in the project area to excessive noise levels. The San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport is located approximately 14 miles Southeast of Los Osos. Los Osos is not within the flight plan area of the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport and is therefore not at risk for any excessive noise levels. As a result, the operations of the facilities under the Preferred Project would not be impacted by airport noise similar to Proposed Project 4.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Since the operational activities of the Preferred Project would not be exposed to any excessive aircraft noise levels, the project would not add to any potential cumulative impact associated with excessive aircraft noise levels. This finding for the Preferred Project is the same findings for Proposed Project 4.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Private Airstrip Noise Levels

Q5.10-E: For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Project Specific Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project is not within the vicinity of any private airstrips and therefore would not expose people residing in the proposed area to excessive noise levels.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The Preferred Project would not result in the risk of any excessive aircraft noise levels from a private airport and the project would not add to any potential cumulative impact associated with excessive aircraft noise levels.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

No mitigation measures are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

No impact.

Cumulative

No impact.

Consistency with General Plan Goals and Policies

Q5.10-F: The project would be consistent with the General Plan goals and policies.

Project Specific Impact Analysis

As described in Table Q.5-1, the Preferred Project includes additional facilities as well as modifications to facilities compared to Proposed Project 4. Based on a review of the County of San Luis Obispo goals and policies related to noise, the additional and modified facilities associated with the Preferred Project would result in the same finding of “potentially significant impact” to existing local noise goals and policies as the finding for Proposed Project 4.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Similar to Proposed Project 4, the Preferred Project would result in potentially significant impacts to existing local goals and policies related to noise. However, since there are no related projects that could contribute to cumulative noise impacts, implementation of the Preferred Project would not contribute to cumulative noise impacts to existing local noise goals and policies.

Mitigation Measures

Project-Specific

Implementation of Mitigation Measures 5.10-A1, 5.10-A2, and 5.10-A3 are required.

Cumulative

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-Specific

Less than significant.

Cumulative

No impact.

