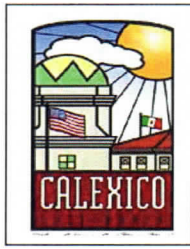


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AGENDA STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 20, 2021

TO: Mayor and City Council

APPROVED BY: Miguel Figueroa, City Manager *MF*

PREPARED BY: Jose Carlos Romero, Acting City Engineer
Lilliana Falomir, Public Works Manager – Administrative *JCR*

SUBJECT: Approval of Project Modifications and Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2009011092

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Recommendation:

Approval of Project Modifications and Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse (SCH#2009011092))

Background:

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Council with the information necessary to consider the approval of proposed project modifications and the Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Expansion Project (SCH#2009011092), prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Calexico served as lead agency under the CEQA. The addendum to the EIR was completed in August 2020 and found that there are no new significant impacts identified for the proposed modifications to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and expansion.

Discussion & Analysis:

The City proposes to replace obsolete and older equipment with newer technology and expand the wastewater treatment capacity of the existing City of Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant WWTP, located at 298 West Second Street in Calexico, Imperial County (proposed project).

A Final EIR was completed for the project, and the EIR was certified and Mitigation Measure Monitoring Program (MMRP) was approved on September 22, 2009, SCH#2009011092 (herein referred to as the



2009 EIR).

Since the certification of the EIR, the City has further evaluated wastewater treatment processes and upgrades that were proposed for the WWTP expansion in the 2009 EIR (herein referred to as the original project). As a result of this reevaluation, several project modifications have been recommended for cost effectiveness and increased treatment process reliability (herein referred to as proposed project modifications).

The City prepared an addendum in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 to evaluate the proposed project modifications to, and the resulting environmental effects of, the original project evaluated in the 2009 EIR.

Summary of Proposed Modifications:

The proposed project modifications consist of changes to the proposed treatment processes and technology. An air-activated sludge treatment process is proposed that would allow for an average daily wastewater treatment capacity of 5.8 mgd, or approximately 0.7 mgd less than that proposed with the original project, and an average daily peak flow of 11.6 mgd.

Some of the existing on-site facilities would also be repurposed rather than demolished as proposed under the original project. The aerated lagoons would be converted to extended aeration basins for use in the modified treatment process for extended aeration. Stormwater facilities, including a pump station and stormwater detention basin, would also be constructed to accommodate stormwater runoff from the modified facility components.

Summary Addendum Findings:

The proposed project modifications were determined to be within the scope of the analysis for the 2009 EIR. The proposed modifications would not result in any new significant or potentially significant environmental effects and would not substantially increase the severity or intensity of previously identified effects. In addition, that the City herein finds:

- the proposed project modifications will not have new significant or potentially significant effects,
- the proposed project modifications will not have substantially more severe effects than those analyzed in the 2009 EIR,
- no mitigation measures or alternatives previously found to be infeasible will in fact be feasible, or
- no mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the 2009 EIR will substantially reduce one or more significant or potentially significant effects on the environment.

Thus, none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred. For this reason, an addendum to the 2009 EIR, consistent with Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, is the appropriate mechanism to address the proposed project modifications.

Based on the Addendum review of the proposed project modifications for the Calexico WWTP Upgrade and Expansion Project, no subsequent Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report is required for the for the project because the changes to existing circumstances and the modifications of the project do not involve any new significant impacts or substantial increase in severity of impacts previously identified in the 2009 EIR and do not raise the need for additional mitigation measures beyond what was included in the approved MMRP associated with the 2009 EIR.

Therefore, the certified 2009 EIR (SCH#2009011092) together with the 2020 Addendum constitutes adequate documentation in compliance with CEQA for the Calexico WWTP Upgrade and Expansion Project. No public notice is required for an Addendum to a previously certified Final EIR and the Addendum does not need to be circulated for public review.

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact at this time.

Coordinated With:

Public Works Department.
Engineering Division.
Michael Baker International.

Attachment:

1. Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2009011092), August 2020.
2. Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2009011092), May 2009.
3. Final Environmental Impact Report for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2009011092), September 2009.
4. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade Project.

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