

CR1.1 – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Level of Achievement:

CONSERVING

Summary:

The project is a former industrial site converted to public open space with walking trails. The project includes Brownfields cleanup and wetlands restoration. The project team was involved in converting the land use designation of the site from Light Industrial to Open Space. According to the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR), green house gas (GHG) emissions would be reduced following implementation of the South Los Angeles Wetland Park. Project includes walking trails that would encourage walking/biking instead of car transportation, leading to further reductions in air pollutant emissions.

Supporting documentation:

- Section 3.3 – Air Quality from EIR

Section 3.3 – Air Quality from EIR

Operation

Long-term impacts would be generated by emissions generated by motor vehicles from both employees and visitors to the proposed Wetlands Park. As the existing operations at the site consist of approximately 38 employees, it is projected that the proposed Project would result in a reduction of 28 employees at the site. Default assumptions from URBEMIS regarding area and operational sources at the proposed park were used to estimate long-term emissions from the park. Area sources include natural gas combustion for heating, landscape maintenance equipment, and emissions from the reapplication of architectural coatings.

Results of the analysis for operational emissions for the proposed Wetlands Park are shown in Table 3.3-12. Daily emissions associated with the proposed Wetlands Park would be less than the SCAQMD thresholds; therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Table 3.3-12
Maximum Daily Operational Emissions (lb/day) for the Proposed Wetlands Park

Source	ROG	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀ ^a
Area Emissions (Summer) ^b	2	1	5	≤1	≤1
Area Emissions (Winter) ^b	1	1	1	≤1	≤1
Operational Emissions (Summer) ^{c,d}	9	8	87	≤1	8
Operational Emissions (Winter) ^{c,d}	9	12	89	≤1	8
Maximum Emissions	11	13	92	<1	8
Thresholds of Significance	55	55	550	150	150
Exceed Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:

^a Emissions from PM_{2.5} are not available from URBEMIS and are therefore not provided. If it is conservatively assumed that PM_{2.5} emissions are equal to PM₁₀, then emissions would be less than the 55 lb/day threshold of significance for PM_{2.5}.

^b Area emissions including activities such as landscape combustion and natural gas combustion that would occur on the site.

^c Operational emissions include increased vehicle trips on the vicinity of the site and do not occur on the site.

^d Emissions from trips are conservative since the net reduction in employees at the site is not taken into consideration.

Source: CDM 2007

Localized Impacts

In addition to the traditional significance thresholds presented in the CEQA Handbook, SCAQMD has also developed emission lookup tables for CO, NO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} based on localized significance thresholds (LST) methodology. These emission thresholds are applicable to small (five acres or less) construction or facility sites. The use of these thresholds is voluntary and will be used in this analysis to determine if a more detailed dispersion analysis of construction source emissions is warranted.

Although the proposed Wetlands Park is larger than five acres, the screening levels in the LST will be used to provide a preliminary review of emissions. The screening level values are dependent on the site location in the region and the distance between the construction site and the receptor. The park is located in the South Central LA County source receptor area (SRA) and the nearest receptor is conservatively assumed to be 25 meters (82 feet) from the proposed site.

As is shown in Table 3.3-13, emissions of PM₁₀ may potentially cause localized impacts from construction; however, emissions meet the screening levels at 50 meters (164 feet). The operational emissions are primarily due to motor vehicles traveling to or from the park, thus do not actually occur on park property. Those emissions that do not occur on park property come from park maintenance equipment and heating/cooling equipment for the buildings. Localized impacts would be insignificant for all pollutants with the exception of PM₁₀ emissions from construction. Peak daily emissions for PM₁₀ are caused by building demolition during the first phase of construction. The URBEMIS Model does not contain any mitigation measures or controls for demolition operations, emissions are reported here as uncontrolled. Since building demolition would occur over a short timeframe (approximately two months), impacts are expected to be minor. Furthermore, the long-term benefits of the park would counteract the short-term localized impacts from PM₁₀.

Table 3.3-13
Proposed Wetlands Park Localized Significance Thresholds at 25 Meters (82 feet)

Pollutant	Allowable Emissions (lbs/day)	Peak Daily Emissions (lbs/day)	Significant?
NO _x	295	112	No
CO	412	157	No
PM ₁₀ (Construction)	13	20	Yes*
PM ₁₀ (Operation)	4	≤1	No
PM _{2.5} (Construction)	7	6	No
PM _{2.5} (Operation)	2	≤1	No

* The worst-case LST PM₁₀ impact is expected to occur during the demolition phase of construction. During excavation and grading, the PM₁₀ level would not be expected to exceed the LST threshold with implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403 compliance.

Source: CDM 2007.

GHG Impacts

A detailed analysis of GHG emissions was not completed since information regarding their potential impacts, including significance thresholds, is not currently available. Emissions of GHG may be caused by on- and off-road vehicles, electricity, combustion sources, refrigerants, and other sources; however, based on the nature of these environmental issues, impacts are most appropriately considered on a cumulative basis since emissions on an individual project-level would not contribute substantially to GCC. Several sources, such as vehicular traffic, cannot be considered new sources since they are simply relocated from other areas and would have no net increase in GHG emissions.

It should also be noted that, qualitatively, it is assumed the energy requirements of the existing facilities on-site, which includes the lighting of seven structures and paved areas, are more likely greater than the energy requirements of the new facilities proposed at the location, which includes the reuse of one of the existing buildings, a parking area and low-level security lighting. As such, it follows that GHG emission associated with electricity consumption on-site would be reduced following implementation of the proposed Wetlands Park, and therefore the emissions of GHG with Project implementation would be less than under existing conditions.