ITEM:
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SUBJECT:

PURPOSE:

RECOMMENDATION:
Adoption of the tentative Order No. R9-2012-0007 is recommended.

KEY ISSUES:
The Project will permanently impact 1.66 acres of Vernal Pool habitat. Of the 1.66 acres, 1.23 acres is documented to be occupied by the San Diego fairy shrimp (Branchinecta sandiegonensis), a federally listed endangered species.

DISCUSSION:

Background Information:
The San Diego Unified School District (District) proposes to build a new elementary school on a 13.1-acre site, including a new parking lot, paved and landscaped play areas, and a large joint use playing field. The Project is located southwest of the intersection of Parkdale Avenue and Flanders Drive in the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California.

The purpose of the Project is to construct an elementary school within the Mira Mesa community that will support the present and future enrollment of the community and allow the District to reduce projected overcrowding and achieve the enrollment standard set forth in its long range plans. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) adopted by the District for the project assessed avoidance and minimization of significant environmental effects of the project by considering off-site and on-site alternatives. No off-site alternatives were found to be practicable or feasible in meeting the overall project purpose.
The Project adds 7.0 acres of impervious surface. The Project will capture and treat the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event from 100 percent of the added impervious surfaces, and conform to the City of San Diego’s Storm Water Standard manual.

The Project assumes impacts to all existing vernal pools on the school site including pools previously surveyed as unoccupied pools with San Diego fairy shrimp, and pools not surveyed but currently assumed to be occupied by the San Diego fairy shrimp. The District proposes to mitigate for impacts to these vernal pools by enhancing and/or restoring a total of 3.32 acres of vernal pool habitat at the McAuliffe Vernal Pool Mitigation Site and the Carroll Canyon Mitigation Site. The restoration plans for both mitigation sites will require approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:
1. Location Map
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2012-0007
3. Notice of Availability

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notification of this action was sent to the known interested parties via e-mail on April 30, 2012. The tentative waste discharge requirements were noticed and posted on the San Diego Water Board website on the May 1, 2012.