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FIVE-MILE OUTFALL SCHEDULED FOR INTERNAL MAINTENANCE INSPECTION

LOS ANGELES (November 17, 2006)— The City of Los Angeles’ Hyperion Treatment Plant is sending divers into the Plant’s Five-Mile Outfall on November 28th to 30th (weather permitting) to assess its structural condition, evaluate its reliability and identify potential trouble spots before they could become problems.

Hyperion Plant’s Five-Mile Outfall is a pipe that runs under the ocean and through which Los Angeles’ processed wastewater, called effluent, is discharged on a daily basis. It was built in 1960, and is inspected externally every year. The Five-Mile Outfall has never been inspected internally during its near 50-year existence.

In order to assess the condition of the pipe and to ensure the safety of divers during the operation, Hyperion’s highly treated secondary effluent will be diverted from the Five-Mile Outfall to the Plant’s One-Mile Outfall over the three-day period. As a precaution, beaches will be closed from Ballona Creek to the Manhattan Beach Pier, and an extensive water monitoring program will be implemented throughout the diversion.

“The Five-Mile Outfall has never been inspected from the inside, and an assessment is prudent to ensure it is structurally sound, safe and reliable and that it meets the highest safety standards,” said Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz.

The inspection includes several scientific and engineering exams, including an internal dive inspection, external remote operated vehicle inspection, field studies, hydraulic analyses, pressure evaluations and

seafloor mapping. A six-month study will follow the inspection, and recommendations may be made for repairs or other work to the ocean pipeline to ensure it meets the highest safety standards.

The City's monitoring plan will be extensive: The Environmental Monitoring Division's "*Extensive Receiving Water Monitoring Plan*" includes the beach closure in conjunction with the Department of Public Health and Heal the Bay; compliance with all *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* permit requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency and Regional Water Quality Control Board; laboratory studies to evaluate potential indicator bacteria and effluent plume tracking (where effluent goes after discharge through the One-Mile Outfall); and assessment of the immediate and eventual environmental impact of the diversion.

For more information, including updates on the inspection, visit www.lasewers.org.

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's third largest municipal division. The department oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management.

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