

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County operate and maintain the Joint Outfall System (JOS), Los Angeles County's main sewer system, which collects and treats the wastewater (sewage) from over 5 million people in the Los Angeles basin. The largest wastewater treatment facility in the JOS, the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson, uses two large tunnels to convey treated water to the ocean. These tunnels are nearly 60 and 80 years old.

In 2012, the Sanitation Districts' Board of Directors approved a master plan to protect local waterways by addressing aging critical infrastructure. This master plan, called the Clearwater Project, identified improvements needed to ensure the reliability of the JOS and provide sufficient system capacity through the year 2050. One of the key recommendations resulting from this comprehensive, multi-year effort was a new tunnel.

The Clearwater Project includes a new, 7-mile long tunnel that will be almost entirely underneath public right-of-way (streets). Construction is anticipated to start in 2018 in Carson and finish in 2025 at Royal Palms Beach, where the tunnel will be connected to existing outfalls.



NEW TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

CONSTRUCTION (2018-2025)

The new tunnel will begin at the JWPCP with the construction of an access shaft. This shaft will be used throughout the project as the entry/exit point for construction workers, tunnel materials (e.g., liner segments), and equipment. Further, the shaft will be the exit point for all the excavated material. A noise barrier, approximately 20 feet in height, will be erected between the site and nearby sensitive receptors.

At Royal Palms Beach, the new tunnel will connect to the existing ocean outfalls. This work will take a little over two years to complete. All construction work will occur Monday through Friday and will mostly be underground such that, once complete, the site will look similar to pre-construction conditions. Approximately 50 parking spaces will be needed during this work. The beach will be accessible at all times.

WHY THE CLEARWATER PROJECT?

Aging infrastructure concerns - The existing tunnels, which were built in 1937 and 1958, cannot be taken out of service because they are needed to continuously carry flow.

Earthquake concerns - The existing tunnels do not meet current earthquake standards and cross two earthquake faults.

Overflow concerns - The capacity of the existing tunnels was almost exceeded twice during major rainstorms, including January 2017. If the combined tunnel capacity is exceeded, partially treated or untreated wastewater would be discharged to surrounding waterways, resulting in the degradation of water quality.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. HOW LONG WILL THE CLEARWATER PROJECT TAKE?

Construction will begin in 2018 at the JWPCP in Carson. Tunneling will start in 2020 and end in 2024. Work at Royal Palms Beach to connect the new tunnel to the existing outfalls will begin in 2023. The project will conclude in 2025.

2. WHICH CITIES/COMMUNITIES WILL BE INVOLVED?

The tunnel will start under the southwest side of the JWPCP, then under Figueroa Boulevard, Harbor Regional Park, North Gaffey Street, Capitol Drive, Western Avenue (through South Dodson Avenue), and terminate under Royal Palms Beach. The tunnel must pass under commercial property to make the turn from Gaffey to Capitol and from Capitol to Western. The tunnel alignment passes through or near the City of Carson, City of Lomita and City of Ranch Palos Verdes as well as the communities of Wilmington and San Pedro within the City of Los Angeles.

3. WILL THE NEW TUNNEL RESULT IN MORE LOCAL TRAFFIC?

As part of the environmental impact analysis for this project, it was determined that potential traffic impacts will be less than significant.

4. WHAT ASSURANCES/GUARANTEES CAN THE SANITATION DISTRICTS PROVIDE REGARDING THE POTENTIAL FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE DUE TO TUNNELING ACTIVITIES?

For the Clearwater Project, over \$7 million will be invested in a comprehensive geotechnical monitoring system to ensure safe tunneling and avoid any property damage. Furthermore, as a public agency, we are responsible for any damage caused by our construction projects.



5. HOW WILL TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION AFFECT MY HOME, MY COMMUNITY, AND ME?

The Sanitation Districts will construct a tunnel utilizing a state-of-the-art, balanced pressure, tunnel boring machine (TBM). This multi-million dollar system will be specifically built for this project. The new tunnel will mostly be located within public right-of-way (e.g., under streets) and will be 30 to 450 feet deep, so there will be little to no noticeable vibration or noise. The new tunnel alignment will not pass under any homes. Tunnel construction will be closely monitored using an extensive vibration and settlement detection system, which will be installed along the tunnel alignment. Tunneling will be slowed or stopped if any significant vibration or settlement is detected. The most visible element of the project will be the access shaft at the JWPCP in Carson, which is needed to lower the TBM and construction material into the ground, remove soil from the underground excavation, and provide labor access during construction. The construction shaft site will be screened with barriers as necessary to minimize visual and noise impacts. A smaller exit shaft site is needed at Royal Palms Beach to remove the TBM and connect the new tunnel to the existing ocean outfalls.

For updates, email us at ClearwaterProject@lacsdc.org, call (877) 300-WATER, or visit our [Clearwater Project Facebook page](#):

 [Facebook.com/ClearwaterProjectLA](https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterProjectLA)



Converting Waste Into Resources