Luxembourg, 24th July 2012

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: **LIMASSOL SEWERAGE III**

Project Number: 2012-0143

Country: Cyprus

Project Description:

The project supports the Limassol-Amathus Sewerage and Drainage Project, which, having commenced in 1992, is being implemented in several phases. The main objective is to provide sewerage and drainage services within the Sewerage Board of Limassol-Amathus (SBLA) in line with the requirements of the EC Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The project will include upgrading of the existing main collector system, extending the service area for wastewater collection, an additional wastewater treatment plant with capacity of 100,000 population equivalent, sludge processing facilities for the existing and new wastewater treatment plant, storm water drainage and retention structures, and related works.

EIA required: YES

(Details are provided in section: "Environmental Assessment")

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: NO

(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is planned to be located on the borders of the town in what is currently an orange orchard. The plant and one pumping station are also near Akrotiri wetlands, a Natura 2000 and Ramsar site. The plant, which shall be of the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) type, will minimise the footprint of the plant. By treating the water, the plant will ensure important environmental benefits, particularly to the coastal and marine environment of Limassol. Also, the plant will produce water treated to a high standard, some of which will be for the benefit of the Akrotiri wetland.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

- The update of the Master plan was completed in 2004, well ahead of law enforcement for the preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) studies according to the SEA Law 102(I)/2005. For this reason, only an Environmental Impact Assessment was prepared which was granted Environmental Approval by the Department of Environment in 01/2012. Further to the update of the above Master Plan in 2004, in 2007 the projections of the flows were extended up to the year 2050. The Master plan update carried out in 2007 had no significant changes to the content or the works proposed in the 2004 Master Plan. For this reason no SEA was deemed necessary and none was requested by the Department of Environment, particularly due to the fact that an EIA had been already carried out and approved for the 2004 Master plan. A written confirmation hereof from the competent authority (screening decision) is awaited and will be required prior to

[1] Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

disbursement. Instead, the Department of Environment requested that the EIA should be carried out for the works which included the Limassol West WWTP, Pumping Station Z and the Station Z force and gravity mains. This was carried out and the environmental approval for the above works was granted in January 2012.

- According to the Department of Environment's statement, the 'test of significance' concluded that the project – alone or in combination with other projects – is not likely to have significant effects on the Akrotiri wetlands, Natura 2000 site, hence no Appropriate Assessment on the conservation objectives of the sites was required under section 10 of the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance 26/2007 or section 10 of the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 21/2008.
- The project will provide a significant positive environmental and public health impact and contribute to meeting the country's needs in the water and sanitation sector, in relation to compliance with EU Environmental Legislation, in particular the EC Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.
- The project has national priority as it will enable Cyprus to fully comply with the key EU water sector directives and has overall very positive environmental impact. The design of wastewater facilities foresees a full re-utilisation of effluents in line with good practice in Mediterranean countries that are prone to further droughts caused by climate change.
- The project contributes to climate change mitigation through the application of best available technologies with high level of energy efficiency and therefore emission savings, and to climate change adaptation through the re-use of treated water and the protection of existing surface and ground water sources from pollution and/or over abstraction.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - the EIB draft "Carbon Footprint Methodologies" only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.

Social Assessment, where applicable

N.A.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Whilst the EIA, including consultation was successfully concluded (with 67 conditions imposed), objections were raised at the political level during the building permitting phase by local residents' representatives. The objections concern the location of the new west wastewater treatment plant which despite the scrap yard and other small industrial type activities lying between the plant site and the residential area, was deemed too close and could thus cause odour and noise nuisance. The municipality is assessing the matter currently under the normal procedures and construction will not take place until the building permit is issued. The Membrane Bioreactor type of plant (activated sludge with membrane separation of mixed liquor) has a minimal footprint and following the EIA prescriptions comes with thorough odour and noise mitigation measures.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

n/a

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