

**FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
CROTON WATER TREATMENT PLANT
METHODOLOGIES**

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4.6. NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

4.6.1. Introduction

The character of a neighborhood is a composite of elements that give a neighborhood its identity, including land use patterns, urban design, visual resources, historic resources, socioeconomic characteristics, traffic, and noise. These elements are evaluated individually in other sections of this document; however, an analysis of a neighborhood's character considers how these elements combine and interact to create the context and feel of a neighborhood.

4.6.2. Baseline Conditions

4.6.2.1. Existing Conditions

The existing character of the neighborhood surrounding each site was described using publications and information collected during field surveys, such as land use data, photographs, and data associated with other parameters evaluated in this document (refer to Section 4.9, Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Traffic and Transportation; Section 4.3, Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Visual Character; and Section 4.7, Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Socioeconomic Conditions; etc.). This analysis used the study areas delineated for the Land Use, Zoning and Public Policy analysis. In addition, supplemental documents including *Patterns for Westchester: The Land and the People*¹; *Borough Waterfront Plans* for the Bronx and Manhattan²; and *Community District Needs Statements, Fiscal Year 2004* for the Bronx and Manhattan³ were consulted.

4.6.2.2. Future Without the Project

Planning departments were consulted about future development, planning policies, and zoning changes that may affect each site and study area (Section 4.2, Data Collection and Impact Methodologies; Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy). Also, observations noted during field visits, photographs, data from various other sections within this document, and previous studies by the boroughs and municipalities were used in projecting future conditions without the project.

4.6.3. Potential Impacts

4.6.3.1. Potential Project Impacts

The potential for the project to result in significant changes to neighborhood character was assessed. Potential impacts to neighborhood character may be related to project impacts associated with other parameters evaluated in this document, including land use, transportation, open space, visual character, noise, and socioeconomic conditions. The discussion of potential

¹ *Patterns for Westchester: the Land and the People* is Westchester County's long range planning policy document. This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.westchestergov.com/patterns/>.

² The Borough Waterfront Plans were issued in conjunction with New York City's 1992 *Comprehensive Waterfront Plan* by the New York Department of City Planning. The Bronx and Manhattan Plans were released in 1993.

³ *Community District Needs Statements* are prepared by New York City's Community Boards.

changes to neighborhood character addresses the potential impacts identified in these other analyses and the extent to which they disrupt or change the existing or future anticipated characteristics of the study areas. Also, the accumulation of moderate impacts in the study areas may be considered significant if the cumulative effect would adversely and permanently alter neighborhood character.

4.6.3.2. *Potential Construction Impacts*

The areas affected by construction were determined based on the proposed limits of construction activity and the surrounding areas affected by construction-related disturbances. The impact analysis was conducted in a similar fashion to that described in the Potential Project Impacts section, above.

4.6.4. Mitigation

Specific mitigation measures were developed when significant adverse impacts were identified. Mitigation measures were developed to reduce or eliminate potential impacts associated with other parameters evaluated in this document, including land use, open space, noise, traffic, aesthetics, and socioeconomic conditions, all of which contribute to neighborhood character.