

# ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

## Mendocino City Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvements and Recycled Water System Expansion

May 18, 2017

Prepared for the Mendocino Community Services District by:



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# Environmental Report

## Mendocino City Community Services District

### Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvements and Recycled Water System Expansion

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Environmental Report

This Environmental Report (ER) has been prepared for the Mendocino City Community Services District (MCCSD) in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) RD Instruction 1970-B Exhibit C. The purpose of this ER is to provide supporting documentation for the MCCSD's application to the USDA for loan funding under the USDA Rural Utilities Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.

The MCCSD provides wastewater services to approximately 900 residents (US Census Bureau, 2010) in its approximately 1.1-square mile service area. The mission of the MCCSD is to provide collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater to reduce the impacts of untreated wastewater to groundwater supplies, which are used as the City's drinking water supply. As part of the disposal of treated effluent, the MCCSD also maintains a recycled water program that sends treated effluent to the Mendocino High School athletic fields for use as irrigation; the use of irrigated water allows for a reduction in the use of groundwater.

There is no public water supply in the City of Mendocino, and the City residents rely on approximately 400 private groundwater wells for their potable water supply. Recent drought conditions have resulted in decreased groundwater levels during the dry summer season, increasing water shortages and impacts to groundwater resources. The use of recycled wastewater for irrigation has helped to reduce the use of groundwater; however, increasing recycled water use for irrigation will reduce the need to use groundwater for irrigation even more, providing relief to other users in the community.

The purpose of this project is to provide for increased treatment, storage and use of recycled wastewater for irrigation and emergency fire flows, which will reduce the demand on the community groundwater supplies, and thus allow for more available potable water supplies during dry season use periods. The project will also provide for improvements to an aging wastewater infrastructure system, originally constructed in 1975. Repair and upgrades to the WWTF will allow the MCCSD to maintain appropriate levels of treatment for use as recycled irrigation water and disposal through the ocean outfall.

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## 2.0 Project Description and Location

### 2.1 Project Location

The MCCSD is located within the unincorporated City of Mendocino, Mendocino County, California along the Pacific Ocean. **Figure 1** provides a Site Location Map. The WWTF and the recycled water use sites are shown on **Figure 2**, Treatment Facility and Recycled Water Use Sites. The project site is located in Section 30, Township 17 North, Range 17 East, Mount Diablo Meridian.

### 2.2 Project Description

As described in detail in the Preliminary Engineering Report (SHN, 2017), included as **Appendix A**, the existing wastewater and recycled wastewater system is situated in the community of Mendocino located on coastal bluffs above the Pacific Ocean. The MCCSD wastewater collection system consists of about 8.6 miles of gravity collection pipelines, 0.42 miles of sewer force main, 148 sanitary sewer manholes, 27 clean-outs and three pump stations.

The MCCSD treats collected wastewater at its existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) that consists of preliminary treatment by automatic bar screen; secondary treatment by extended aeration, secondary sedimentation and sludge treatment by means of aerobic digestion, belt filter press and a biosolids dryer. Tertiary treatment is by a dual media filtration and post-chlorination and dechlorination. Wastewater effluent is discharged to a flow equalization basin, with a constant discharge through a 996-foot outfall to the Pacific Ocean. **Figure 3** provides a diagram of the existing WWTF with the proposed treatment facility improvements.

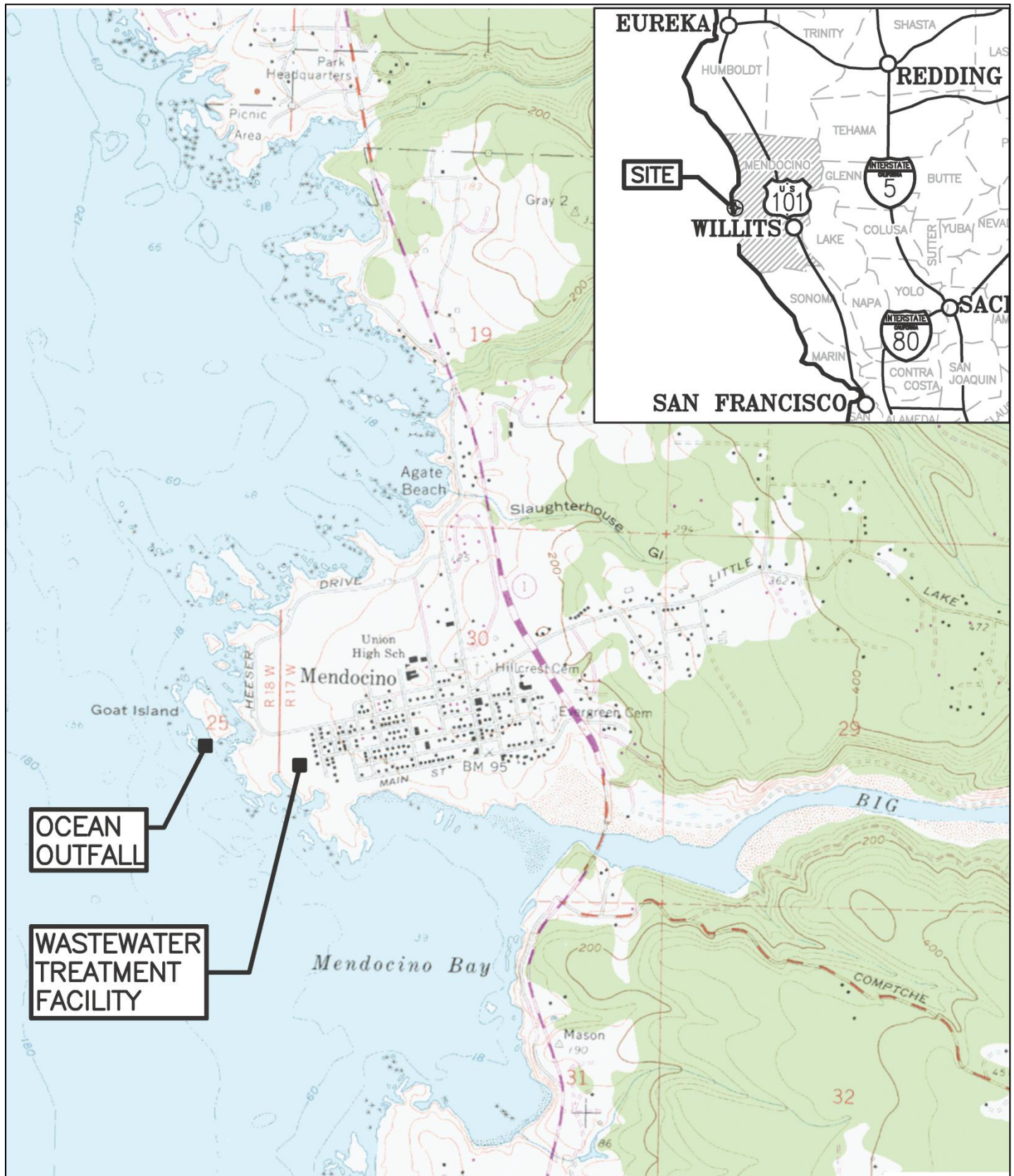
The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) determined that the Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) into the WWTF was approximately 0.070 million, while the Average Wet Weather Flow (AWWF) was 0.090 MGD. Peak Day Flows were determined to be 1.154 MGD, and the Peak Instantaneous Flow was 2.550 MGD. The MCCSD's ocean outfall has a discharge capacity of 1.0 MGD, with peak flows above the 1.0 MGD outfall capacity being diverted to a 300,000 gallon storage pond.

As noted in the PER (Appendix A, Part 2 c, iv, Recycled Water), the MCCSD re-chlorinates and pumps filtered effluent to a storage tank on the Mendocino High School campus, where it is used to irrigate approximately 4.3 acres of athletic fields. Use of recycled water has been approved by a combination of authorizations:

- Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Resolution 97-1 between the Mendocino Unified School District (MUSD) and the MCCSD.
- Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements Order No. R1-2015-0039 from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Additional detailed engineering analysis of the recycled water process is included in the PER, **Appendix A**, including the Title 22 Engineering Report for the WWTF.

The Proposed Project would provide upgrades the existing WWTF and expand the volume and delivery of recycled water that it provides for existing irrigation and fire protection. The Proposed Project would also install approximately 2,900 feet of new 6-inch recycled water line from the WWTF to two existing recycled water tanks. **Figure 4**, Proposed Recycled Water Line Route, displays the



Source Mendocino, USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle and SHN Engineers & Geologists, 2017

Mendocino City Community Services District  
 Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
 Reference #416076



## Site Location

Figure 1



Source: Esri, Digital Globe, GeoEye, GIS User Community and SHN Engineers & Geologists, 2017

Mendocino City Community Services District  
Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
Reference #416076

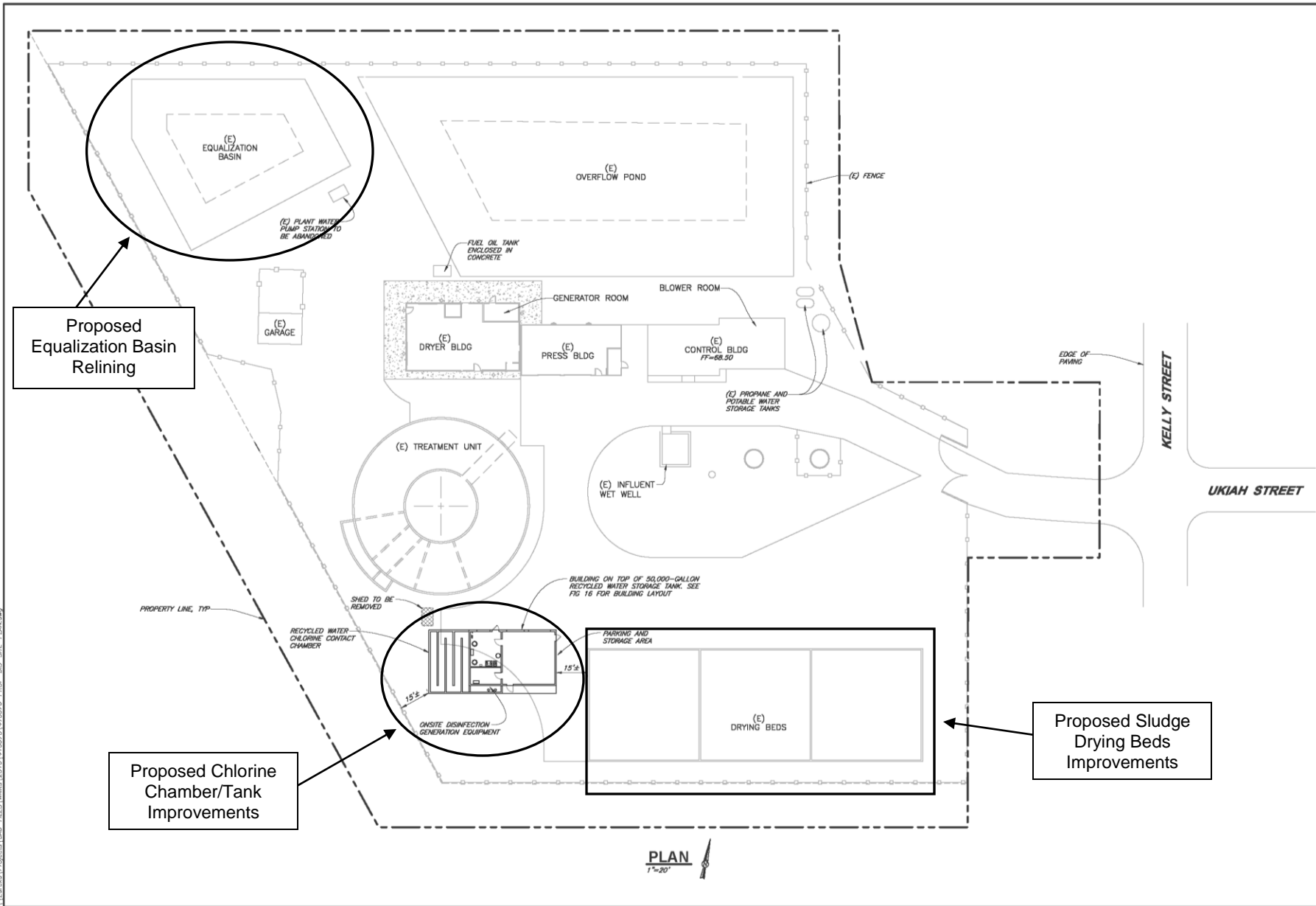
## Treatment Facility and Recycled Water Use Sites

Figure 2



NTS

SAVED: 3/6/2017 2:08 PM NODDINKEY, PL01TEER: 3/6/2017 2:08 PM NATHAN DOWNEY  
 \\Eureka\Projects\CDG-REST\Waters\2016\416076\416076-PROP-05-SITE-PLAN.dwg



**PLAN**  
 1"=20'

<b>SHW</b> CONSULTING ENGINEERS & GEOLOGISTS, INC. 8123 W. MADISON AVE. EUREKA, CA 95501 WWW.SHN-ENR.COM 707-441-8800	
MENDOCINO CITY, CALIFORNIA PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA <b>PROPOSED DISINFECTION SYSTEM UPGRADE SITE PLAN</b>	NO. 11 DATE 03/2017 PROJ. NO. 416076

Source: SHN Engineers & Geologists, PER, 2017.

Mendocino City Community Services District  
 Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
 Reference #416076

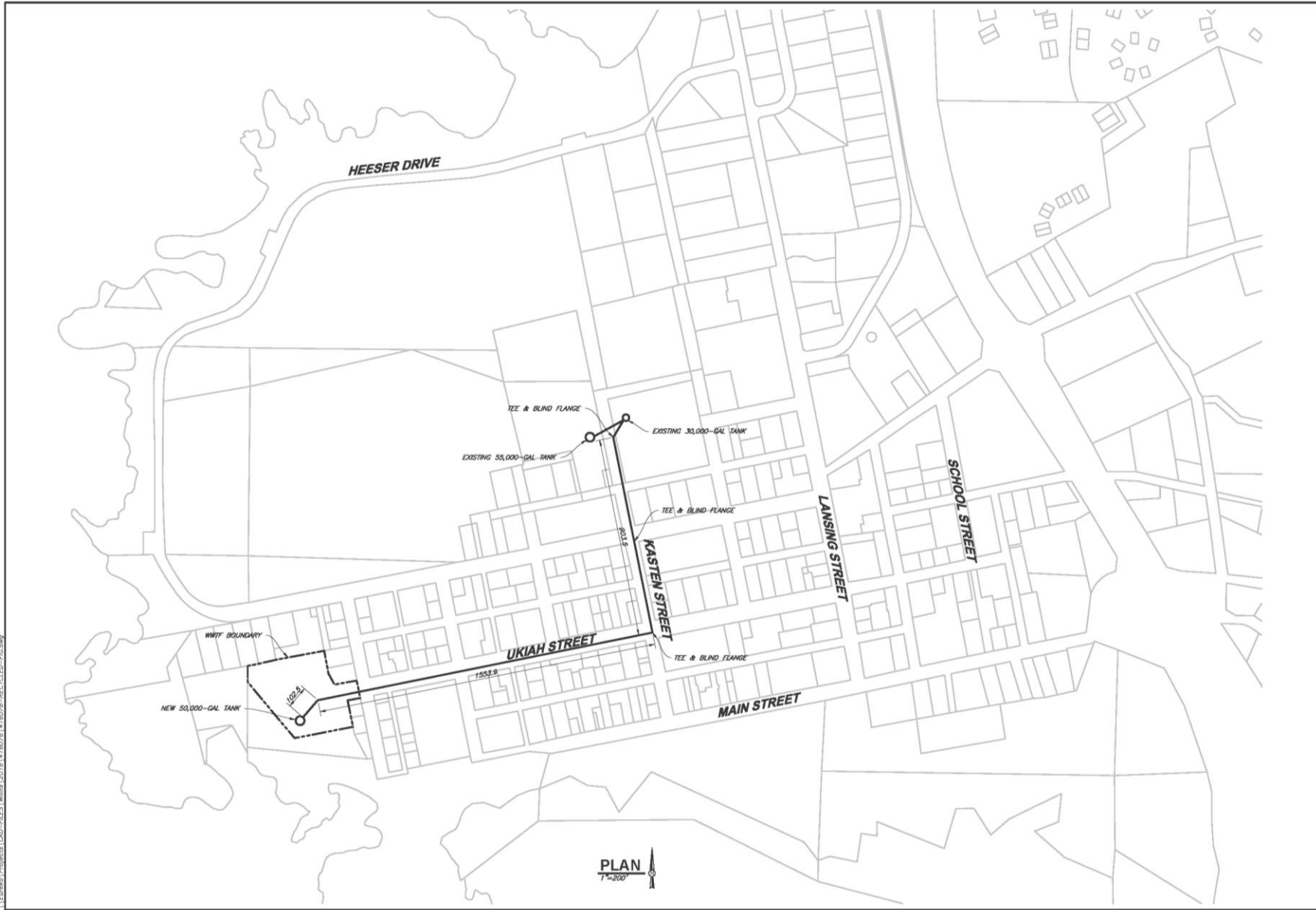


# Proposed Treatment Facility Improvements

Figure 3



SHEETS: 1/16/2017, 2/11, PER WORKSHEET, PLOTTED: 1/16/2017, 9:10 AM, INITIAL: JDM/NEY  
 1: Licensed Professional Civil Engineer, No. 50191, License No. 4416076 - RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM



**PLAN**  
 1"=200'

		<b>CONSULTING ENGINEERS &amp; GEOLOGISTS, INC.</b> 1100 S. MAIN STREET EUREKA, CA 95501 WWW.SHN-ENRGS.COM TEL: 707-441-8888	
USER: JDM DATE: 03/2017 NO.: 416076	TITLE: PROJECT MANAGER NAME: JDM NO.: 416076	REVISION: 1 DATE: 03/2017 NO.: 416076	BY: JDM
MENDOCINO CITY, CALIFORNIA PRELIMINARY REPORT MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA <b>PROPOSED RECYCLED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</b>			
FIGURE <b>13</b>			
DATE: 03/2017 PROJ. NO.: 416076			

Source: SHN Engineers & Geologists, PER, 2017.

Mendocino City Community Services District  
 Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
 Reference #416076



# Proposed Recycled Water Line Route

Figure 4

location for the new water line. Recycled water would be used for irrigation on existing use sites. The Proposed Project would not change the size of the service area or increase the number of customers who are serviced by the MCCSD; wastewater flows into the WWTF would not change with the implementation of the Proposed Project.

## 2.2.1 Project Components

The Proposed Project consists of: 1) constructing a new below grade recycled water chlorine contact chamber and 50,000 gallon recycled water storage tank with a new storage building, parking and storage area on top of the new recycled water tank; 2) installing approximately 2,900 feet of new 6-inch recycled water supply lines to the existing supply tanks, and the associated interconnecting piping between existing tanks; 3) rehabilitation of the existing sludge drying system at the WWTF; 4) replacing the liner of the equalization basin; and 5) installing new control equipment inside buildings.

The construction and installation of the facilities and equipment is described in detail in the PER included as **Appendix A**. Components of the Project are summarized below.

### **Recycled Water Chlorine Contact Chamber, Storage Tank and Building**

Upgrades to the disinfection system include the construction of a new chlorine contact chamber and a 50,000 gallon underground storage tank. The chlorine contact chamber will ensure that recycled water meets Title 22 regulations for disinfection, and the storage tank will provide an onsite reservoir for water for the treatment plant, water supply to the recycled water system and for fire suppression in the town of Mendocino. A new building will be constructed on top of the tanks that will provide equipment and storage rooms, and an electrical room. An architectural rendering is found in the PER in **Appendix A**.

### **Recycled Water Supply Line**

A new 6-inch recycled water line will be installed from the WWTF to the High School to provide for irrigation at the high school athletic fields (**Figure 4**). Along the route, the line will have tees and flanges installed for later installation of fire hydrants (not a part of this project) by the Mendocino Fire Protection District to aid in fire suppression within the community. At the high school, the project would connect the two existing water tanks (30,000 and 55,000 gallons) to provide increased recycled water storage; the combined capacity would be 135,000 gallons of water (high school tanks and new 50,000 gallon tank at the WWTF), which would be available for irrigation, public filling and fire suppression.

### **Rehabilitation of Sludge Drying System**

The existing sludge drying system would be rehabilitated and have new distribution and drainage systems installed, as well as access ramps for easier cleanout.

### **Replacement of Equalization Basin Liner**

The existing equalization basin liner is degraded from ultra-violet (UV) exposure from the sun, and is fragile. This liner would be replaced and reconfigured to allow for enhanced performance and to reduce the potential for leakage.

### **New Control Equipment**

New electrical control equipment would be installed to replace the existing outdated equipment. Installation of the new control equipment would be inside of the new facility building.

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## 2.2.2 Mitigation Measures

The following Mitigation Measures (MITIGATION MEASURES) are included to ensure minimal impacts to the environment from the implementation of the Proposed Project.

### Air Quality

The following MITIGATION MEASURES shall be implemented during construction to reduce the generation of fugitive dust and vehicle emissions:

- Water exposed graded surfaces, or apply other dust control materials as needed to control dust from leaving the construction sites.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Cover all exposed stockpiles.
- Sweep streets daily (with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent streets.
- Equipment idling shall be kept to a minimum when equipment is not in use. No piece of equipment shall be left to idle in one place for more than 15 minutes.
- Construction equipment must meet off/on road heavy-duty vehicle reduced-emission standards as stated in the California Code of Regulations.

### Biological Resources

The following MITIGATION MEASURES will be implemented to provide protection of biological resources:

#### **Botanical Mitigation Measures**

To mitigate any potential impacts to botanical species of special concern that may be present at the construction sites, the following MITIGATION MEASURES should be implemented:

##### **Botanical Mitigation Measure 1-Special Status Avoidance**

Should special status plant species be located in construction areas, the MCCSD will provide protection of these species from damage during construction by installing construction barrier fencing (or another form of protection) around the species location, and sufficient area to protect the plants identified. Locations of protected plants will be designated on construction documents and the selected contractor (and sub-contractors) will be required to protect these sites and maintain the construction fencing during construction operations.

If protection of identified special status plant species is not possible, then the MCCSD will designate a mitigation area as identified in Botanical Mitigation Measure 2.

##### **Botanical Mitigation Measure 2-Mitigation Area**

If special status plants are located within the construction areas (prior to construction), and the protection of these plants is not practicable due to the specific siting requirements of the WWTF improvements, or required locations of the recycled waterline, the MCCSD will designate a mitigation area on MCCSD property, outside of the operational area of the WWTF, and set aside this area to be used as an undisturbed mitigation site for botanical resources. The mitigation area will be evaluated by a qualified biologist/botanist to ensure suitability, and be of sufficient size, location and quality to provide habitat for the species to be impacted. Coordination/consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will be undertaken to verify suitability of the site.

Once the final location of the mitigation area is identified, the area shall be mapped and physical markers shall be placed for re-identification of the mitigation area in the future. Upon completion of the mapping, the MCCSD shall have the mapping available for use by WWTF and other MCCSD staff with copies located in the WWTF offices and separate copies located in the facility files of the MCCSD.

### **Wildlife Mitigation Measures**

The following MITIGATION MEASURES are made to provide protection for nesting bird species that may be present during the construction season, and comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

#### **Wildlife Mitigation Measure 1-Protection of Migratory Birds**

To provide protection of migratory birds that might nest within vegetation located at the project site, the following is recommended:

- A. Mow or cut grass at the proposed WWTF construction site to ground level after September 15 and prior to February 1, then continue to mow on a regular basis to reduce the potential for birds to nest in clumps of grass at the construction site.
- B. Cut back, or remove, any roadside vegetation that might be impacted by construction of the recycled waterline along Ukiah and Kasten Streets after September 15 and prior to February 1 to eliminate use by nesting birds.
- C. Mow, or cut back vegetation around the existing recycled water tanks to ground level after September 15 and prior to February 1 and then continue to mow/cut on a regular basis to reduce the potential for use by nesting birds.
- D. Should vegetation need to be removed at the project site from February 1 to September 1, nesting bird surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist, no more than one week prior to vegetation removal during this period.
  - i. If no nesting birds are located during the survey, then vegetation removal may proceed.
  - ii. Should the survey determine that an active nest is located in the vegetation to be removed during the survey, the biologist shall delineate an exclusion area that is adequate to prevent nesting failure. Active nests, or active nesting activity, may be indicated by the presence of a nest, vocalization by the bird, defensive flight patterns, or other agitated behaviors as observed by the wildlife biologist.
  - iii. Should work cease for fifteen calendar days or more, after the focused nesting survey has been completed, a new focused nesting survey may be required before vegetation removal can be reinitiated. Documentation for the re-survey will be developed by the wildlife biologist.

### **Cultural and Paleontological Resources Mitigation Measures**

The MCCSD shall require that, in the event of any inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources, all such finds shall be subject to Public Resources Code (PRC) 21083.2. Procedures for inadvertent discovery include the MITIGATION MEASURES shown below.

#### **Cultural/Paleontological Resource Mitigation Measure 1-Inadvertent Discovery**

All work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist, or paleontologist if the find is of a paleontological nature, can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California

Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) criteria.

If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, or paleontologist as appropriate, then project proponents shall meet with the archaeologist, or paleontologist, to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan shall be prepared by an archeologist (or paleontologist), outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find. The Treatment Plan shall be submitted to the MCCSD for review and approval prior to resuming construction.

All significant cultural or paleontological materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional curation, and a report prepared by the professional archaeologist, or paleontologist, according to current professional standards.

### **Cultural/Paleontological Resource Mitigation Measure 2-Paleontological Resources**

If vertebrate fossils are discovered during project activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find until a qualified professional paleontologist as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Conformable Impact Mitigation Guidelines Committee (2011) can assess the nature and importance of the find and recommend appropriate treatment. The MCCSD will also be notified of the discovery and the qualified professional paleontologist's opinion within 48 hours of the initial finding. Treatment may include preparation and recovery of fossil materials, so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection, and also may include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds. Project activities shall not resume until after the qualified professional paleontologist has given clearance and evidence of such clearance has been submitted to the MCCSD.

All significant cultural or paleontological materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis, professional curation, and a report prepared by the professional archaeologist, or paleontologist, according to current professional standards.

### **Cultural/Paleontological Resource Mitigation Measure 3-Human Remains**

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, work shall halt immediately in the vicinity and the Mendocino County Coroner should be notified in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must, in accordance with PRC Section 5097, notify Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of this identification. Project activities may resume after clearance is given by the Mendocino County Coroner to the MCCSD.

## **Geology and Soils**

The following erosion control measures and MITIGATION MEASURES shall be required during construction:

- Temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales, and temporary revegetation) shall be employed for disturbed areas based on the requirements outlined in the project Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, prepared by a licensed Civil Engineer.
- Construction activities shall be scheduled to minimize land disturbance during peak runoff periods and to the immediate area required for construction. Soil conservation practices shall be completed during the fall or late winter to reduce erosion during spring runoff. Existing vegetation shall be retained where possible. To the extent feasible, grading activities shall be

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limited to the immediate area required for construction.

- No vehicle fueling areas will be located on the project site. All fueling of construction vehicles will be at offsite locations, or by mobile fuel trucks that are not stored on the project site.
- Disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated after completion of construction activities, as proscribed by the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Personnel shall follow written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for filling and servicing construction equipment and vehicles. The SOPs, which are designed to reduce the potential for incidents involving hazardous materials, shall include the following:

- Refueling shall be conducted only with approved pumps, hoses, and nozzles;
- Catch pans shall be placed under equipment to catch potential spills during servicing;
- All disconnected hoses shall be placed in containers to collect residual fuel from the hose;
- Vehicle engines shall be shut down during refueling;
- No smoking, open flames, or welding shall be allowed in refueling or service areas;
- Refueling shall be performed away from bodies of water to prevent contamination of water in the event of a leak or spill;
- Service trucks shall be provided with fire extinguishers and spill containment equipment, such as absorbents;
- Should a spill contaminate soil, the soil shall be put into containers and disposed of in accordance with local, State, and federal regulations;
- All containers used to store hazardous materials shall be inspected at least once per week for signs of leaking or failure. All maintenance and refueling areas shall be inspected monthly. Results of inspections shall be recorded in a logbook that would be maintained on site; and
- The amount of hazardous materials used in project construction and operation shall be consistently kept at the lowest volumes needed.

During construction, staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other materials that could serve as fire fuel. To the extent feasible, the contractor shall keep these areas clear of combustible materials in order to maintain a firebreak.

Any construction equipment that normally includes a spark arrester shall be equipped with an arrester in good working order. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles and heavy equipment.

### **Noise**

Construction shall occur only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Construction contractors shall use power construction equipment with noise and muffling devices. All internal combustion engines used on the project site shall be equipped with adequate mufflers and shall be in good mechanical condition to minimize noise and vibration created by faulty or poor maintained engines or other components.

Construction contractors shall locate stationary noise and vibration generating equipment as far as

possible from sensitive receptors.

### **Transportation**

The MCCSD shall follow all rules and regulations within the encroachment permits issued by Mendocino County for work on County Roads, or in immediate areas of County Roads controlled by Mendocino County Department of Public Works.

## **2.3 Construction Activities**

Construction activities would occur for the various parts of the Proposed Project as outlined in the Project Components (**Section 2.2.1**). The majority of the project construction activities would occur within the fenced WWTF, with only pipeline construction occurring within local streets and the high school.

### **Construction Within the WWTF**

Construction within the WWTF includes 1) the excavation and construction of the new underground chlorine contact chamber, 50,000 gallon storage tank, and new building; rehabilitation of the sludge drying beds; 3) replacement of the equalization basin liner; and 4) installation of new control equipment. All work would comply with the California Building Code (plumbing, mechanical, electrical, etc.) as required, and Mendocino County building permits. Construction would not interrupt the delivery of public services, or otherwise negatively impact the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater from the service area.

Components of the Proposed Project would require general construction activities including excavation, trenching, minor grading, demolition, and import and export of materials, and import of concrete and other building products.

### **Recycled Water Line Construction**

Construction of the recycled water line would generally take place within local streets in the town of Mendocino, from the WWTF to the high school. The 6-inch recycled water line would be installed per California Building Codes and meet the requirements for installation of recycled water line, including the use of "purple" pipe that denotes recycled water. Along the water line, tees and flanges would be installed for later (not a part of this project) installation of fire hydrants. The two existing water tanks at the high school would be connected together and new water line installed to provide irrigation water to the athletic fields. Other than connecting the two tanks together with a new water line, there is no additional work anticipated for these tanks.

### **2.3.1 Construction Equipment**

Energy efficient construction equipment would be utilized to the extent feasible. The following equipment may be utilized occasionally during construction of the Proposed Project:

- Backhoes and excavators;
- Trenchers and rollers;
- Dump trucks;
- Concrete trucks;
- Loaders;
- Vibratory Compactors (both hand and machine mounted);

- 
- Water trucks;
  - Pump trucks;
  - Shoring equipment;
  - Service trucks with crane attachments;
  - Paving equipment including pavers and rollers; and
  - Miscellaneous hand tools.

## 2.4 Operation and Maintenance Activities

The MCCSD would continue to provide all operating and maintenance activities, facility monitoring and other operations procedures at the WWTF and recycled water use facilities. All components of the Proposed Project would be located within the MCCSD's existing WWTF property, within road easements of Mendocino County Roads, and on public property administered by the MUSD, allowing ease of access for maintenance activities. The MCCSD would inspect components of the Proposed Project regularly and replace equipment that reaches the end of its lifetime or fails during use.

## 2.5 Permits and Approvals

The Proposed Project will require the following permits/approvals for development of the project:

- Acquisition of encroachment permits from the County to construct the recycled waterline within County maintained roads.
- A building permit from Mendocino County for construction of the project.
- Approval from the California Coastal Commission that the project is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act, to comply with federal consistency requirements.



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## 3.0 Land Ownership and Land Use

### 3.1 Land Ownership

As described in **Section 2.2** above, the Proposed Project would be constructed on public lands managed by the MCCSD (wastewater treatment facility property), Mendocino County (area roads) and the MUSD (for work at the high school). No new land entitlements are needed, and no new ROW will be required.

### 3.2 Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in the vicinity of the project site are dominated by public service facilities, residential, and commercial developments. Zoning at the project site (WWTF and recycled water line and use sites) are comprised of the following Mendocino County Zoning designations: Mendocino Public Facility (MPF), which provides for public utility and school uses; Mendocino Town Residential (MTR), which provides for single-family residential housing developments and associated uses; and, Mendocino Multi-Family Residential (MRM), which provides for multi-family residential housing and associated uses (Mendocino, 2017a).

The WWTF improvements, recycled water use sites and some of the recycled water pipeline are located on lands within the MPF zoning designation. These uses are consistent with the zoning of the sites. Similarly, portions of the recycled water pipeline are on lands designated as MTR and MRM zoning, and the uses proposed by the Proposed Project are also consistent with these sites.

### 3.3 Minority and Low-Income Populations

Executive Order 12898, signed in 1994, requires the identification of adverse effects on minority and low-income populations. Guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) clarifies minority and low-income populations to have cumulative percentages of minority or low-income populations of greater than 50 percent (CEQ, 2017). According to the U.S. Census Bureau<sup>1</sup>, about 18.96-percent of the people residing in Mendocino County are considered minorities with 20.3-percent of the County having incomes that are below the poverty level<sup>2</sup>; therefore, as this does not exceed 50 percent, it is not considered a minority or low-income population. There are no census tracts or specific census data for the area of the Proposed Project. Refer to Table 1 for a breakdown of the 2010 US Census and 2015 American Community Survey data for Mendocino County.

The Proposed Project would improve wastewater operations, reduce the amount of groundwater that would be needed for irrigation, and provide additional water supplies for fire protection, which would be a positive benefit for all classes and income populations. Based on the criteria and data, no adverse effects would occur to minority or low-income populations from the development of this project.

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<sup>1</sup> Data was taken from the US Census Bureau based on the 2010 census data for Mendocino County; there was no available census data breakdown for the community of Mendocino.

<sup>2</sup> Poverty data was taken from the US Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey.

<p align="center"><b>Table 1</b>  <b>Minority Population and Population Below Poverty Level</b>  <b>Mendocino County, California</b></p>				
<b>Total Population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Minority Population<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>Percentage Minority</b>	<b>Population Below Poverty Level<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Percentage Below Poverty Level</b>
87,841	16,653	18.96%	17,832	20.3%
<p>1. US Census Bureau data, 2017  2. Minority population is taken from the US Census Bureau calculations for "One Race", and comprises "Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders, and 'Some Other Race'".  3. 2015 American Community Survey Data</p>				

### 3.4 Formerly Classified Lands

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wildlife Refuge System, no Wildlife Refuge areas are located within 50 miles of the project site. According to the National Parks Service (NPS), there are Federal Parks or Monuments within or near the project. The NPS does list the Pygmy Forest as a National Natural Landmark near the project site, located within the Jackson State Forest, Jug Handle State Natural Reserve, approximately 5 miles north of the project site. The Proposed Project will not impact this National Natural Landmark.

According to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, no Wild and Scenic Rivers are located on or in the vicinity of the project site.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages the Mendocino Headlands State Park, which is located immediately adjacent and to the north, west and south of the MCCSD WWTF. The Proposed Project is located within the fenced and previously disturbed MCCSD property, and would not have an impact on the State Park, as the improvements would be on lands outside of the Park property, and would not result in a change in land use or otherwise affect the uses of the State Park.

### 3.5 Intergovernmental Review

Development of this project is subject to review by State of California and Mendocino County agencies, as well as the public through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once the project has been approved for funding, the MCCSD, as the CEQA Lead Agency, will prepare an Initial Study and make a determination as to the level of environmental documentation required for adherence to CEQA. At that time, a Notice of Completion will be submitted to the California State Clearinghouse with a copy of the appropriate CEQA documentation. This information will then be circulated to applicable state and local agencies for review and comment, which will meet the requirements for consultation with State and local governments.

### 3.6 Environmental Site Assessment/Transactions Screen Questionnaire

No collateral property has been identified for use in this project.

## 4.0 Historic Preservation

A Cultural Resources Study was conducted for the Proposed Project and is included as **Appendix B** to this report.

### 4.1 Methodology

#### 4.1.1 Records and Literature Search

A records search was conducted at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) by CHRIS staff researchers (NWIC File No. 16-0977), and Jay Flaherty, RPA #10330, of Flaherty Cultural Resource Services (FCRS). Additional research was conducted at the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) reviewing *The Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Mendocino County*, as well as using files and literature maintained at the FCRS offices and internet resources.

The records search and literature review for this study were done to (1) determine whether known cultural resources have been recorded within or adjacent to the study area and determine if the project site has been subject to survey in the past; (2) assess the likelihood of unrecorded cultural resources based on archaeological, ethnographic, and historical documents and literature; and (3) to review the distribution of nearby archaeological sites in relation to their environmental setting.

Additional sources reviewed included the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Mendocino County, and historical Department of the Interior, General Land Office (GLO) Maps of Township 17N, Range 17W, Mount Diablo Meridian

Research information can be found in the Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Report, Record Research found in **Appendix B**.

As shown in **Table 2**, the NWIC records search revealed four previously recorded cultural resources within a 1/8-mile radius of the APE but no resources within the APE.

Table 2 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within 1/8-Mile of the Project Site			
Primary Number	Trinomial	Site Type	Date Recorded
P-23-000804	CA-MEN-000869	Prehistoric	1975
P-23-004227	CA-MEN-003303/H	Prehistoric, Protohistoric, Historic	1956, 1975, 1981, 1984, 2006, 2010, 2015
P-23-004859	CA-MEN-003471/H	Prehistoric, Historic	1987,2009
P-23-005555	CA-MEN-003658H	Historic	2015
Source: Cultural Resources Report, Appendix B			

The records search also reported 11 previously conducted cultural resource surveys within a 1/2-mile radius of the APE, only one of which included portions of the Proposed Project, specifically the Survey S-013245 (conducted in 1991) that reviewed the MCCSD WWTF site. Table 3 provides a summary of the 11 previous studies.

<b>Table 3 Archaeological Surveys Within 1/2-mile of the Project Site</b>				
<b>Survey</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Includes APE (Y/N)</b>
S-587	1977	Bingham, Jeffery C. and Paulette Barclay	Mendocino Headlands State Park-The Ford House Archaeological Project	No
S-013245	1991	Flaherty, Jay M.	Cultural Resources Reconnaissance of Use Permit#U35-91 near Mendocino, Mendocino County, California	Yes
S-27820	2003	Van Bueren, Thad M.	Archaeological Survey Report for a Property of Mendocino Center Associates in the Town of Mendocino, California, Within a Block Bounded by Calpella, Ford, Lansing and Ukiah Streets	No
S-31069	2005	Psota, Sunshine	Archaeological Investigations of CA-MEN-3149/H on the Northern Third of APN 019-234-09 ON Calpella Street, Mendocino, Mendocino County, California	No
S-31310	2006	Psota, Sunshine	Archaeological Investigations for Four Utility Trenches through CA-MEN-3149/H within APN 019-234-09 on Calpella Street near Ford Street in Mendocino, Mendocino County, California (Letter Report)	No
S-35807	2009	Parkman, E. Breck	An Historical Burial from Mendocino Headlands State Park, Mendocino County, California	No
S-36983	2009	Van Bueren, Thad M.	Archaeological Survey of the Aguilar Property at 10401 Heeser Street, Mendocino, California; Assessor's Parcel #119-217-08	No
S-37634	2010	Van Bueren, Thad M.	Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Mendosa's Market Property at 10575 Lansing Street in Mendocino, California; Assessor's Parcel #119-150-01	No
S-46340	2015	Van Bueren, Thad M.	Historical Resource Evaluation Report for the Lascurettes Property in the Town of Mendocino, Mendocino County, California	No
S-47408	2015	Van Bueren, Thad M.	Archaeological Survey Report for the Kelley House Museum Property in the Town of Mendocino, Mendocino County, California	No
S-47662	2016	Mikkelssen, Patricia, et al	Extended Phase I Investigations at CA-MEN-3303/H, on the Mendocino Headlands, Mendocino County, California, Work Order #25-060000-05	No
Source: Cultural Resources Report, Appendix B				

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**P-23-000804**

This site consists of the prehistoric habitation debris.

**P-23-004227**

This is a mixed prehistoric, protohistoric and historic complex that contains foundation/structure building pads, landscaping, orchard, dumps, road/trails and railroad grades, lithic scatter, burials and other habitation debris.

**P-23-004859**

This site overlaps P-23-004227 and consists of similar prehistoric and historic artifacts of human uses and their debris. Site includes historic water tower and garage buildings.

**P-23-005555**

This site is a single family property with historic buildings and development (Howard G. Brown House).

#### **4.1.2 Field Methods**

FCRS completed a survey of the APE on January 27, 2017, consisting of an intensive foot survey. Transects through the project site were conducted approximately 2 meters apart. The Proposed Project region consists generally flat developed and partially developed headlands within the developed community of the Town of Mendocino. Ground visibility was limited in some areas due to grass cover, gravel road shoulders, asphalt paving and concrete. A hand trowel was used in some areas to clear vegetation for better visibility.

The survey did not result in the identification of any prehistoric or historic cultural resources.

#### **4.2 Section 106 Consultation and Correspondence**

In January 2017 Flaherty Cultural Resource Services (on behalf of the MCCSD) sent a letter to the NAHC requesting a Sacred Lands File search and a list of Native American contacts who may have information about the area of the Proposed Project. The NAHC responded in a letter dated February 13, 2017 with a list of Native American organizations and individuals that may have information about the area.

Letters were sent to the five individuals named by the NAHC on February 28, 2017 and March 1, 2017. No reply has been received from the correspondents. Copies of correspondence may be found in Appendix B of the Cultural Resources Study (**Appendix B**).

#### **4.3 Discussion and Conclusions**

The cultural resources records search, additional historical research, and the Native American consultation did not identify previously unrecorded resources within the APE. The field survey also did not reveal any unrecorded prehistoric or historic cultural remains. Therefore, the MCCSD recommends a finding of *no adverse effects on historic properties*.

## 5.0 Threatened and Endangered Species/Biological Resources

A Biological Resources Technical Memorandum was prepared for the Proposed Project and is included as **Appendix C** to this report.

### 5.1 Methodology

#### 5.1.1 Database Searches

Prior to conducting a site reconnaissance survey, the following databases were reviewed for records of special-status species and sensitive plant communities in the vicinity of the project site within the Mendocino and surrounding five terrestrial quads (three adjacent quads are within the Pacific Ocean). Results can be found in the Biological Resources Technical Memorandum, **Appendix C**.

- USFWS list of federal listed special-status species;
- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Geographical Information System was queried for a report on all special-status species and sensitive plant and animals; and
- The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Geographical Information System was queried for special-status plant

#### 5.1.2 Biological Survey

A wildlife and fisheries biologist conducted a survey of the project site on January 17, 2017, and a botanist conducted surveys of the project site on January 31, March 16 and May 12, 2017. Habitats in the project site were assessed to determine the potential for the project site to support special-status species identified based on the USFWS, CNDDDB, and CNPS lists (**Appendix C**).

## 5.2 Habitat Types

The project site is defined by essentially three types of work areas; (1) disturbed sites within the WWTF, (2) roads and road shoulders along the pipeline route, and (3) slopes adjacent to the existing water tanks and roads. Work sites are approximately 2.92 acres, of which 2.31 acres are located at the WWTF, 0.6 acres within roads and road shoulders and less than 0.1 acres on vegetated areas adjacent to the water tanks. All of the work sites are previously disturbed by past development or on-going operations (WWTF, roads, water tanks, pedestrian uses, vegetation maintenance, high school activities).

The areas directly adjacent to the project site consist of developed residential/commercial sites and coastal headlands grasslands. The majority of the vicinity around the Project has had historical development and human disturbances (WWTF, roads, sidewalks, water tanks, buildings, etc.) which has converted much of the site. A map showing the vegetation types in the vicinity of the Project is provided as **Figure 5**.

## 5.3 Special-Status Species and Sensitive Plant Communities

For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species include those species that are:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (or



Source: Google Earth, 2017

- Developed Residential/Commercial
- Grassland/Coastal Headlands
- Ocean
- Project Site and Alignment

Mendocino City Community Services District  
 Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
 Reference #517006

## Vegetation Types in Vicinity of Project

Figure 5



formally proposed for, or candidates for, listing).

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (or proposed for listing).
- Designated as endangered or rare, pursuant to the CDFW Code (§1901).
- Designated as fully protected, pursuant to the CDFW Code (§3511, §4700, or §5050).
- Designated as species of concern to the CDFW.
- Defined as rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Fifty (50) plant and twenty nine (29) animal species that are State or federally listed, a State species of special concern, or CNPS 1 and 2 listed plants that had the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project area were evaluated for their potential to occur on the project site (refer to the Biological Resources Technical Memorandum [Appendix C]). No listed critical habitat occurs on the project site. Portions of the project site are paved, highly disturbed, un-vegetated, or only support sparse ruderal vegetation, and thus are unlikely to support special-status species. Review of all of the potential species of concern revealed that fourteen (14) sensitive plant species and eight (8) wildlife species had potential habitat or could be potentially present at the Project site.

### 5.3.1 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plant species have the potential to occur on the project site. Of the fourteen special status plant species that were considered to have the highest potential to occur within the Project site, botanical surveys on March 16 and May 12, 2017, determined that the project site did not contain any of the special status plants. Based on these surveys no follow-up surveys are required. The botanical resources report is included in the Biological Resources Technical Memorandum (Appendix C).

### 5.3.2 Special-Status Animals

Of the eight species of special concern that had potential to be present at the project site, site investigations for these species were conducted and determined that there was no habitat present in the areas of the Proposed Project that would provide suitable habitat for these species; no special status species were observed during investigations. Evaluation documentation and a list of the species of special concern are provided in Appendix C.

### 5.3.3 Sensitive Communities

CDFW tracks natural communities that are considered rare in California and maintains a list that is periodically updated with new data within the CNDDB system. No sensitive communities were found on or adjacent to the project site.

## 5.4 Migratory Birds and Birds of Prey

Migratory birds and other birds of prey protected under 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Wildlife Code § 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3800 have very limited habitat at the project site, and there are not considered any suitable nesting sites located within the Proposed Project area. Potential nesting sites could occur offsite on adjacent private property. Vegetation removal by the project is not expected to impact nesting bird habitat, but provisions for the protection of migratory birds is provided through the implementation of



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mitigation measures that implements vegetation removal timing under the

## 5.5 Conclusions

No affect to state or federally listed or threatened species or listed critical habitat would occur as a result of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project does not contain jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the United States. No special-status plant or animal species were identified during the 2017 surveys, and no additional surveys are required for the development of this project.

Special-status plant and animal species may occur within the lower coastal headlands and grasslands adjacent to the project site. However, these habitats will not be impacted by the Proposed Project. If habitats adjacent to the Project site, with the potential to support special-status species including protected migratory or birds of prey species, are to be disturbed by this Project and its development as described in this ER, additional surveys would be required. Because the Proposed Project will occur under and along existing paved roadways and previously disturbed areas, no impact to biological resources is expected to occur.

## 6.0 Wetlands

Wetlands were evaluated in the Biological Resources Technical Memorandum (**Appendix C**). Based on this evaluation, there are no potential wetlands or waters of the United States on the Project site that would be regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) or as waters of the State. Wetlands and other waters are not present on the Project site.

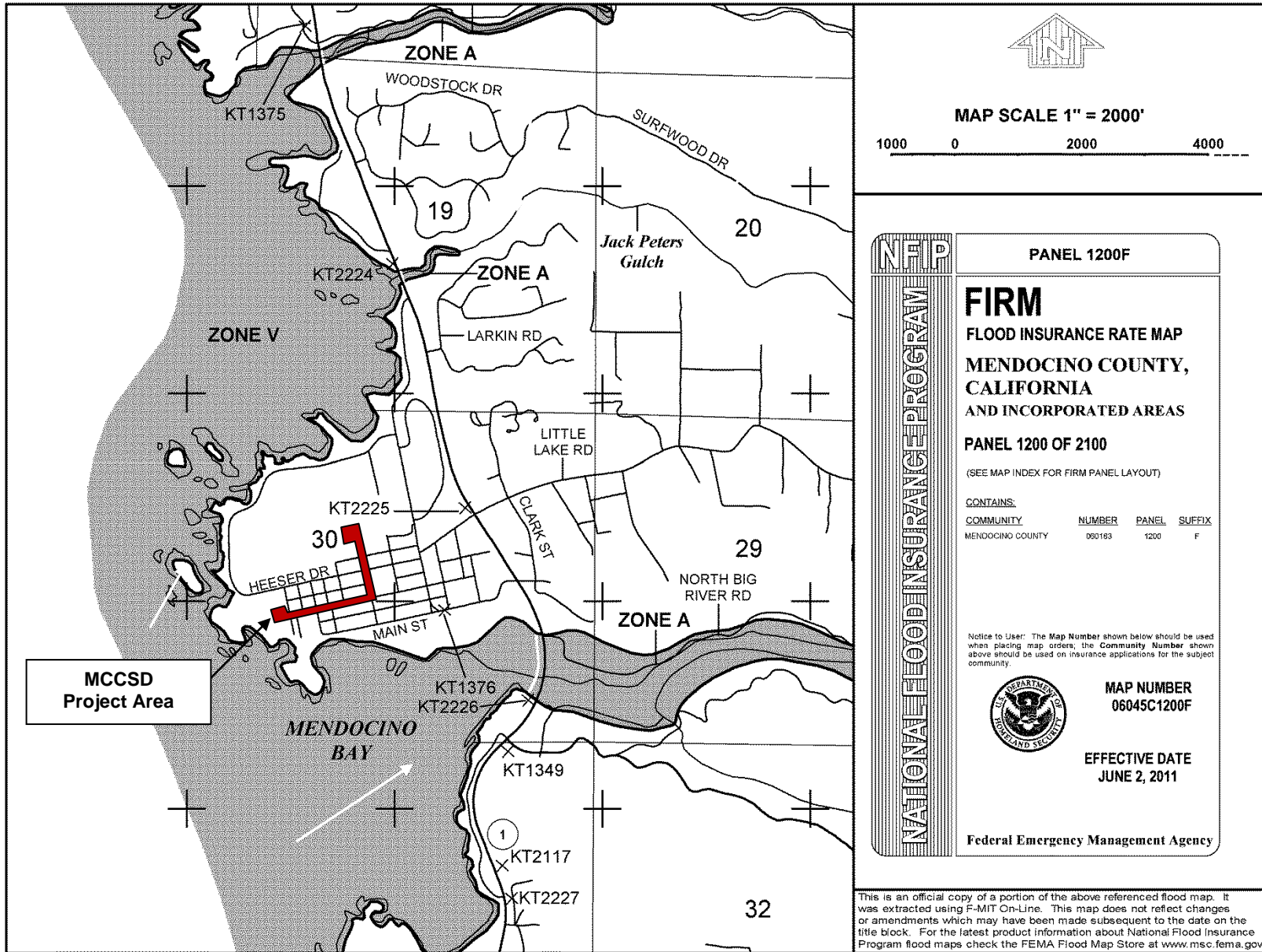
The Proposed Project would not require a Nationwide General Permit, a Regional General Permit, an Individual Permit, to mitigation adverse effects to wetlands.

## 7.0 Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees the delineation of flood zones and the provision of federal disaster assistance. FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and publishes the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which show the expected frequency and severity of flooding by area, typically for the existing land use and type of drainage/flood control facilities present. The Project site is located on FIRM Map No. 06045C1200F, dated June 2, 2011 (FEMA, 2017). As shown in **Figure 6**, areas of the Project are within the FEMA Zone X designation, which are areas outside of known flood hazard areas and are an area that FEMA has determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance of being in a floodplain, indicating that flooding hazards are minimal

## 8.0 Coastal Areas

The Project site is located on the Pacific Coast, in a coastal zone managed by the California Coastal Commission. The Project site is not located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System, which is predominantly located on the east coast of the United States. Implementation of this Project is within the developed community of Mendocino, on areas that have been previously disturbed and developed for wastewater collection, treatment and disposal; roadways, road shoulders and driveways; water storage tanks.



FEMA Map Service Center, 2017

Mendocino City Community Services District  
Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recycled Water System Improvements  
Reference #517006

**FEMA FIRM Map 0604561200F**

Figure 6



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## 9.0 Important Farmland

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Project site does not contain important farmland (NRCS, 2017). The development of this Project would not change land uses or otherwise affect important farmlands.

## 10.0 Environmental Risk Management

No collateral property has been identified for use by this Project, and therefore no Transaction Screen Questionnaire is required.

### 10.1 Existing Conditions

The Cortese list, maintained by the California DTSC, is a planning document that provides information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. It lists 527 hazardous waste facilities in the state of California. Four of these sites occur in Mendocino County, but none of these sites occur at or near the Project site. Of the sites in Mendocino County, three are located on the Pacific Coast; two sites in Fort Bragg and one site in Point Arena. The Fort Bragg sites are located approximately 9.5 miles to the north and the Point Arena site is located approximately 32 miles to the south, of the Proposed Project (DTSC, 2017).

In addition to the Cortese list, discussed above, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database was accessed to determine if there are any hazardous materials sites in the vicinity of the Project site. According to the GeoTracker database, there are six leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites in a one-mile radius around the WWTF. Four of these sites are listed as closed cases and are associated with commercial operations or public facilities such as gas stations, hotels and schools. The other two sites are currently open, with one site in active remediation and one site being inactive, with no remediation or closure planned (SWRCB, 2017).

Neither of the open sites pose a threat to the Proposed Project, and the Proposed Project will not have an impact on the current or future remediation and site closures of these two facilities, because the Proposed Project will provide recycled water for irrigation and does not propose to pump groundwater from near these two sites, or irrigate recycled water at these locations, both of which could have an impact on the fate and transport of underground contaminants.

### 10.2 Construction and Operation Activities

During construction, limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances such as fuels, solvents, oils, and paint could potentially be used during installation of new pumps, tanks, generators, and other project components listed in **Section 1.0**. If properly used, stored, and disposed of, these materials would not be a hazard to people or the environment. The use of such materials during construction would be considered minimal and would not require these materials to be stored in bulk form. During operation, some hazardous materials may be stored at the WWTF for use during maintenance; however, these materials would be stored in accordance with applicable regulations and would not be stored in bulk. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the production of unpermitted hazardous materials or waste, or consist of construction of a new Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous materials handling facility.

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## 11.0 Other Resources

### 11.1 Sole-Source Aquifers and Wellhead Protection Areas

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Project site is not located on a sole source aquifer (USEPA, 2017). The Proposed Project would involve upgrades to the existing wastewater infrastructure, and this action would not alter water within the wellheads or watersheds in the vicinity of the Project site.

### 11.2 Coral Reef Ecosystems

The Project site is located in California, and no coral reef ecosystems exist. Therefore, coral reefs or protected aquatic habitats (in locations such as American Samoa, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Marianna Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) would not be adversely effected.

### 11.3 Air Quality

The Project area is part of the Mendocino County North Coast area as designated by the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD), and consists of the urbanized area of Fort Bragg/Casper/Mendocino which is an urbanized strip along US Highway 1 (roughly 15 miles in length). Development in this urbanized area is typically low to moderate density, visitor serving commercial. Traffic congestion can be extreme during summer weekends, especially when special events are held. Highway 1 is the primary transportation corridor in the area with Highway 20 (north of the Project site in Fort Bragg) providing a link to Willits and Highway 101, and Highway 128 (south of the Project site and along the Navarro River) providing a link to Boonville, Ukiah and Sonoma County. Few alternatives exist so traffic generated in one area can have an impact on the entire length of Highway 1 in this area. Moderate Industrial development exists in Fort Bragg, including Georgia Pacific West, categorized as a major source under EPA Title V.

The North Coast, along with the rest of Mendocino County is non-attainment for the State PM-10 standard (particulate matter less than 10 microns in size). The primary manmade sources of PM-10 pollution in the area are wood combustion (woodstoves, fireplaces and outdoor burning), fugitive dust, automobile traffic and industry. The MCAQMD maintains full time monitoring equipment in Fort Bragg (approximately 5 miles north of the Project site). All other pollutants are in attainment.

The Proposed Project is not expected to significantly increase PM-10 emissions due to the small scale and short time period of construction activities. Construction activities that could generate dust would be managed to reduce dust emissions through the implementation of the MITIGATION MEASURES during construction (refer to **Section 2.2.2**). Additionally, the Proposed Project includes additional MITIGATION MEASURES that would reduce the generation of vehicle emissions from construction equipment during project development, keeping overall construction equipment emissions low.

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