

SECTION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), following the completion of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the lead agencies are required to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies with legal jurisdiction governing a proposed project and provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the Draft EA/EIR. For any significant environmental points raised during the review and consultation process, the lead agencies are required to prepare responses.

This Final EA/EIR has been prepared to address comments received by Placer County (County/CEQA Lead Agency) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE/NEPA Lead Agency) on the Draft EA/EIR for the County's proposed Sewer Maintenance District 3 (SMD 3) Regional Sewer Project (Proposed Project). This Final EA/EIR contains the public and agency comments received during the state agency and public review period on the Draft EA/EIR. The Final EA/EIR incorporates by reference the Draft EA/EIR (AES, 2012), which was circulated separately in June 2012. The Draft EA/EIR and the Final EA/EIR are available for public review on the County's Community Resource Development Agency website at: www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/EIR/SMD3.aspx and may be reviewed at 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603 during normal business hours.

The Draft EA/EIR and this Final EA/EIR together comprise the EA/EIR for the Proposed Project. The EA/EIR is an information document that must be considered by the lead agencies prior to making a decision on the Proposed Project.

Chapter 1 of this Final EA/EIR provides background information and objectives for the Proposed Project, an overview of the public review process for the Draft EA/EIR, and an outline of the contents of this Final EA/EIR.

1.2 Background

Project Description

The Proposed Project consists of decommissioning the SMD 3 (Horseshoe Bar area) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and constructing a pump station and force main to convey wastewater from the existing WWTP to the SMD 2 (Granite Bay area) collection system for treatment at the City of Roseville Dry Creek WWTP. The goal of the project is to bring the SMD 3 system into compliance with waste discharge requirements and a Cease and Desist Order issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Project Location

The project area includes the SMD 3 WWTP located at 4928 Auburn-Folsom Road (APN: 036-110-011-000) in the unincorporated area of Loomis and proposed alternative alignments of the sewer force main that would extend south for approximately 4.5 miles to connect to the SMD 2 collection system.

Alternative pipeline alignments considered within the Draft EA/EIR would be located within the Auburn-Folsom Road and Joe Rodgers Road right-of-way (ROW), as well as within a Placer County utility easement extending through land designated as open space in the Hidden Valley subdivision and adjacent to the existing SMD 2 gravity sewer.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Within the Draft EA/EIR, three alternative force main alignments were evaluated: Alternative A, Hidden Valley Force Main Alignment; Alternative B, Road Right-of-Way Alignment; and Alternative C, Hidden Valley Pipe Upsizing. Within the Draft EA/EIR, Alternative A, which included construction of a portion of the force main through the Hidden Valley open space area, was identified as the County's Proposed Project. During the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR, the County received several comment letters expressing concerns related to implementation of Alternative A through the Hidden Valley open space area. Based upon information and input gained during the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR, the County has changed its preferred force main alignment from Alternative A to Alternative B. The Alternative B force main would be constructed entirely within County road right-of-ways along Auburn Folsom Road and Joe Rodgers Road. Additional discussion regarding the County's selection of Alternative B as the Proposed Project is provided within General Response 1 in Chapter 3.0 of this Final EA/EIR.

1.3 Opportunities for Public Involvement

Public Scoping

The process of environmental review for the Proposed Project was initiated with public release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on December 27, 2011. The purpose of the NOP was to provide notification that an EIR was being prepared for the Proposed Project and to solicit public input on the scope and content of the document. Placer County held a scoping meeting on January 18, 2012, in the Planning Commission Hearing Room located at the Community Development Resources Center. No agency representatives or members of the public attended the scoping meeting.

Public Review of Draft EA/EIR

On June 22, 2012, the Draft EA/EIR was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2011122079) and a Notice of Availability (NOA) was released and distributed to interested parties. The NOA announced a 45-day comment period running from June 22, 2012 through August 6, 2012.

1.4 Contents of the Final EA/EIR

In accordance with the requirements of NEPA and CEQA Guidelines, this Final EA/EIR consists of a revision of the Draft EA/EIR (Draft EA/EIR, together with Chapter 4.0 - Text Revisions to the Draft EA/EIR, of this Final EIR), comments received on the Draft EA/EIR, a list of all agency and public persons that commented on the Draft EA/EIR, and the responses of the lead agency to key issues raised during the review period.

This Final EA/EIR is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 1, “Introduction”**, describes the purpose of the Final EA/EIR, includes background information and objectives of the Proposed Project, and provides an overview of the opportunities for public involvement.
- **Chapter 2, “Comments on the Draft EA/EIR”**, includes a list of all agencies, organizations, and individuals who submitted written comments during the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR. The list is followed by copies of written comments received during the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR. Comment letters are each assigned a number, and individual comments are bracketed in the margin.
- **Chapter 3, “Responses to Comments”**, provides a general response to key issues raised in comments and individual responses to each written comment submitted during the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR. Responses are keyed to the bracketed comment numbers provided in Chapter 2.0.
- **Chapter 4, “Text Revisions to the Draft EA/EIR”**, presents any revisions to the Draft EA/EIR text that were made in response to comments received during the public review period for the Draft EA/EIR. These revisions are organized by the section and page number as they appear in the Draft EA/EIR. Additions are indicated with an underline (e.g. new text) and deletions are designated with a strikethrough (e.g. ~~deleted text~~).
- **Chapter 5, “List of Preparers”**, identifies individuals who participated in the preparation of the Final EA/EIR.
- **Appendix A, “Final Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan (MMRP)”**, presents the mitigation measures to be implemented by the County.
- **Appendix B, “Consultation and Coordination”**, includes letters documenting the coordination completed to date between the USACE and various Federal agencies.