



# CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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## **Addendum of Project Changes to The West Point and Wilseyville Wastewater Treatment Facilities Consolidation Project** **SRF Project No. C-06-7850-210** **CEQA SCH No. 2015022050**

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**Public Comment Period: Dec. 16, 2021 – Jan. 3, 2022**  
**Direct Comments to: Charles Palmer, District Engineer**  
**Email: charlesp@ccwd.org**

### **1. Introduction**

This Addendum presents a summary of project changes to the SRF West Point and Wilseyville Treatment Facilities Consolidation Project and a brief analysis of the need for any additional environmental review required under CEQA. CCWD Board of Directors certified and adopted a CEQA Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan in March 2015. These documents were reviewed and approved by the SRF Program's Environmental Unit as fulfilling environmental review requirements for the project's SRF grant. This document serves as an addendum to the original March 2015 certified ISMND. Since 2015, the Project's design team has made the following changes to the original project description:

- A. Realignment of the proposed 4-inch force mains from the Wilseyville Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to the West Point WWTF.
- B. Elimination of the Wilseyville wastewater treatment pond and spray field, including realignment of a new gravity sewer into an existing roadway (P.U.E.).

These deviations from the original project description are described in further detail in the following Sections 2 and 3.

### **2. Original Project Description: Excerpts from CCWD's SRF Project Report**

The following passages have been excerpted from CCWD's SRF Project Report to highlight changes from the original project description:

#### *Force Main*

*The proposed project includes construction of 3,800-ft of 3-inch diameter force main from Wilseyville to the West Point plant. A new lift station will be located on the Wilseyville plant site and intercept the gravity sewer from an existing manhole on Lot 30 of the Wilseyville subdivision. The force main will parallel the existing dirt road and turn north of the abandoned Mill Pond. This route avoids the mill pond, wetlands, drainages, historical resources, potential wildlife habitat and provides accessibility for*

*future maintenance. The force main alignment continues across the West Point effluent disposal field eventually reaching the treatment plant and connecting to an existing manhole upstream of the headworks.*

#### Reuse/Abandonment of Wilseyville Facility

*Given the substantial cost of abandoning the Wilseyville facility, it is proposed to reuse the Wilseyville pond and spray field for effluent storage and disposal by incorporating these facilities into the updated West Point permit. This would require installation of a 3-inch effluent transmission line installed parallel to the new force main to allow effluent to be transferred to the Wilseyville pond via the existing West Point irrigation system. Also, the Wilseyville pond would be drained and dredged to remove sludge and potentially a pond liner installed to prevent seepage. If the Wilseyville facility is to be entirely abandoned, the District will drain the stabilization pond, dredge and dispose of accumulated solids, remove the dam, and grade the site for drainage and to prevent storm water accumulation or other nuisance conditions; any exposed soil will be hydroseeded to establish vegetation. The existing pump station and irrigation system will be removed including demolition of the masonry building, mechanical and electrical equipment, and associated irrigation lines, valves and spray nozzles. The existing electrical power service potentially can be re-routed to serve the new lift station.*

### **3. Proposed Deviations from The Original Project Description**

#### Revised Pipeline Alignment:

The forcemain carrying flows from the Wilseyville site to West Point WWTF is to follow the existing dirt road until reaching the property adjacent to the West Point Facility (referred to as the old mill site). The forcemain will travel through the cleared parcel, following an established dirt pathway, and exit the parcel through a chain link fence at the northwest corner. After passing through the chain link fence, the forcemain will continue on District property. This realignment keeps excavation and construction in pre-disturbed areas (roadways and cleared parcels) to avoid vegetative destruction and complications associated with the old mill pond. Figures 1 and 2 depict the original pipeline alignment and the altered pipeline alignment respectively. Figures 5 through 8 depict current conditions associated with new pipeline alignment.

#### Wilseyville WWTF Abandonment

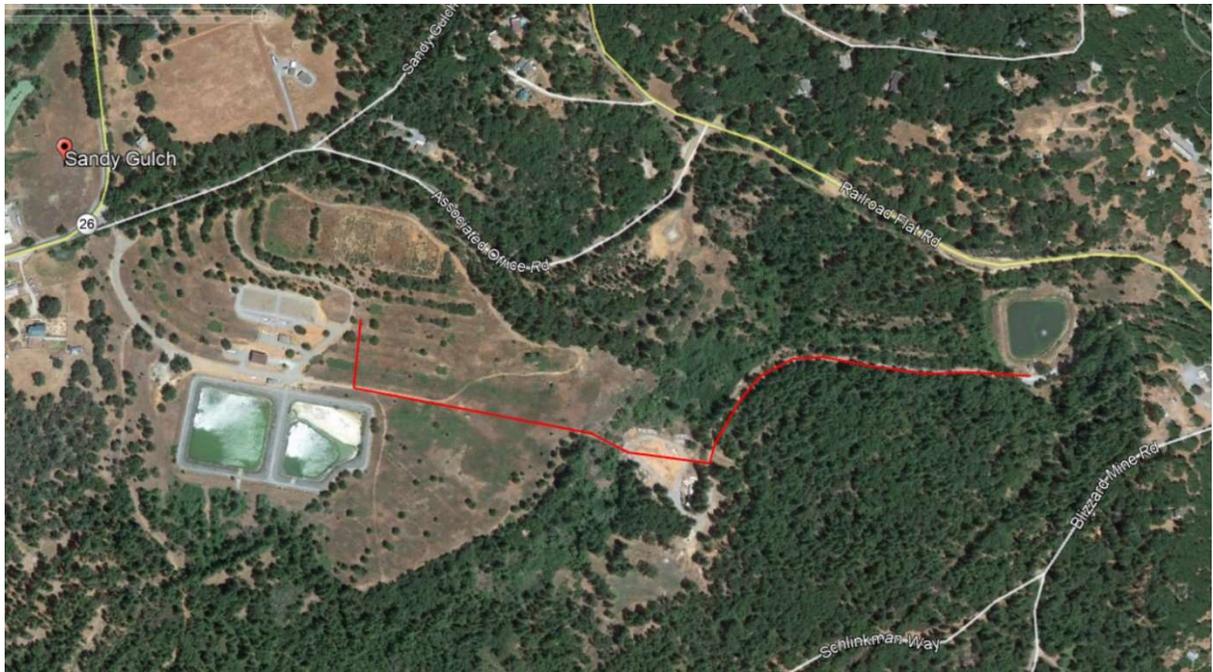
The existing facilities at the Wilseyville WWTF, including the pond and spray fields, are to be abandoned entirely. The Wilseyville pond will be decommissioned by breaching the west-facing levee with a 10 ft wide channel lined with rip rap slope protection. The channel will terminate prior to reaching the outside toe of slope and remain inside the existing Wilseyville fence line. The material resulting from the breach, as well as pipeline excavation and any other excess material, will be used to re-grade the pond's bottom surface as to promote drainage and avoid water accumulation. Figures 3 and 4 show the west pond levee proposed for breaching.



Figure 4: Facilities Location Map

**Figure 1**

Forcemain layout proposed in the original Project Report



**Figure 2**

Approximate revised forcemain layout



**Figure 3**

Wilseyville Pond - west levee as seen from the existing pump station.



**Figure 4**

Wilseyville Pond – west levee cross section as seen from the top of the levee.



**Figure 5**

Wilseyville Pond – gravel road leading from Wilseyville WWTF to the Mill Site .



**Figure 6**

Mill Site accessible via gravel road from Wilseyville WWTF.



**Figure 7**

Mill Site - established dirt pathway from the Mill Site to the chain link gate leading to District property.



**Figure 8**

Mill Site – chain link gate from the Mill Site to the West Point WWTF site.

#### 4. CEQA Review of Project Changes

##### Revised Pipeline Alignment:

The original alignment of the pipeline from the Wilseyville WWTF to the West Point WWTF traversed through a small oak woodland forest adjacent to the West Point Facility. For this alignment, trees would need to be removed and a roadway constructed both for the initial pipeline construction and for ongoing pipeline operations and maintenance.

The new pipeline alignment follows an existing gravel road (which involves an existing dedicated public utilities easement) and avoids any impacts to the oak woodland. This change is considered beneficial as it results in less environmental impacts and agency permits when compared to the original plan. The new alignment would avoid the need to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and associated approvals as well as a CDFW 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

**Biological Resources:** The revised pipeline alignment follows an existing gravel road that has little to no biological value when compared to the proposed existing pipeline alignment. The new pipeline alignment is preferable from a biological perspective as it avoids the blue oak woodland ecosystem and does not interfere with wildlife that utilize the woodlands for food and cover.

**Cultural Resources:** The revised pipeline alignment falls within the original Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the 2015 CCWD Cultural Resources Study prepared by Shelly Davis- King. It should be noted that a proposed biomass energy plant, promoted by the California Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) Group, is located at the old mill site. This property was subject to additional cultural resources studies and was evaluated by Julia Costello and Patrick McGreevy of Foothill Resources, Ltd. The additional study concluded the site is not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR (CHIPS 2015). Therefore, construction of two 4-inch diameter HDPE pipelines through the old Associated Lumber & Box Company Mill Site (the Mill Site) would not cause significant adverse historical or cultural impacts to this area or affect its eligibility into the NRHP or CRHR.

This change is considered beneficial as it avoids several adverse biological impacts associated with the original alignment, reduces permitting requirements, and does not interfere with cultural or historical resources.

##### Wilseyville WWTF Abandonment

The revised project includes decommissioning the existing Wilseyville sewage oxidation pond. This unlined pond currently receives untreated septage and wastewater from the Wilseyville service area (about 20 homes). The pond has been in operation for over 50 years and although no data are available to support this statement, there may be some shallow groundwater degradation from operations.

The elimination of the pond is viewed as a beneficial environmental impact by eliminating any further potential for groundwater degradation in the area around the pond. Additionally, public health and safety issues concerned with undisinfected wastewater sprayed on adjacent forest lands are mitigated in this project alteration. There is seasonal drainage to the west of the pond, however as long as the contractor stays outside of the bed and banks of this small ephemeral drainageway (via an appropriate buffer and protective fencing to ensure no fill enters the drainageway) there would be no need for formal state or federal agency permitting. The existing sludge will be removed, tested for hazardous materials, and hauled to a

permitted landfill. The pond will be partially filled in and sloped using soil excavated from the existing levees to prevent ponding within the decommissioned structure.

**Biological Resources:** The elimination of the raw sewage pond would increase wildlife habitat value after the pond is regraded and reseeded with native plant mix when compared to baseline conditions. The 2-acre area would provide additional forage for deer and wildlife in the West Point/Wilseyville area and is therefore considered a beneficial change when compared to existing conditions.

**Cultural Resources:** The Wilseyville pond was part of an intensive study conducted by Shelly Davis-King and falls within the study's APE. The study concluded that the Mill Site and associated roads did not meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historic Resources.

Therefore, this change in the project does not result in new significant cultural or biological resources impacts.

## 5. Summary

The two changes to the Project described above do not result in any new significant adverse impacts. This CEQA Addendum shall be included in the administrative record for the Project in CCWD project files for future reference. This memo is intended to be an addendum with supporting information to the original 2015 certified ISMND. CCWD will implement all the mitigation measures that were adopted in the MMRP and prepare required reports to fulfill CEQA compliance for the SRF grant.

CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

 12/9/21

Michael J. Minkler  
General Manager

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)