

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT: Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Percolation System Upgrade

LEAD AGENCY/CONTACT PERSON: City of Fortuna, Community Development Department; Liz Shorey, Deputy Director of Community Development; 621 11th Street; P.O. Box 545, Fortuna, CA 95540; phone: (707) 725-1408; fax: (707) 725-7610; e-mail: lshorey@ci.fortuna.ca.us

INITIAL STUDY and CHECKLIST PREPARED BY: GHD, Inc. 718 Third St., Eureka, CA 95501

PROJECT LOCATION: The treatment plant upgrades will be located within the footprint of the City's existing developed WWTP (APNs 200-352-004 & 200-353-028) on Dinsmore Drive, Fortuna. The new effluent percolation system will be located on the western side of the Eel River, in Humboldt County (sAPN 106-091-030 and 106-091-040) currently (owners Troy Land and Trudy Ehmke). The nearest roads are Pleasant Point Road and Renner Lane. A temporary construction easement will be needed on APN 106-041-016 (owner Lester Pedrazzini) for the drill exit pit and pipe trenching. Humboldt County, CA.

PROJECT PROPONENT: City of Fortuna

PROPERTY OWNERS:	Troy Land and Trudy Ehmke 1113 West White Road Spokane, Washington 99224	Lester Pedrazzini 720-D Capitola Ave Capitola, CA 95010	City of Fortuna 621 11 th Street Fortuna, CA 95540
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PROJECT SUMMARY: The "Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Percolation System Upgrade" project consists of development of a treated effluent subsurface percolation field on the western side of the Eel River, and supporting infrastructure upgrade of the City's existing developed WWTP site. The new percolation facility is located approximately 2,800 feet from the water's edge during low flow conditions. This site is more than 15 times further from the river than the existing percolation ponds and thus has much greater hydrologic separation from the Eel River. Under the proposed project, treated effluent would be pumped from the existing treatment plant under the Eel River through a new, directionally-drilled pipeline. A new pump station and piping modifications at the treatment plant would be required, along with a network of subsurface percolation pipes at the percolation site. The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is regulated under the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) Order No. R1-2017-0005. The City obtained funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for planning of the project. The objective of the project is to address compliance issues related to the disposal of treated effluent and construct a new disposal system to replace the historic May 15th through September 30th use of the existing percolation ponds at the City's plant and avoid the potential connection to the Eel River during the discharge prohibition period.

COMMENT PERIOD: May 5 through June 4, 2020. Written comments must be submitted to the city no later than June 4, 2020 and addressed to: Liz Shorey, Deputy Director of Community Development; 621 11th Street; P.O. Box 545, Fortuna, CA 95540, or by email to lshorey@ci.fortuna.ca.us.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE: The initial study and additional Information on the project is available for review at the Community Development Department at City Hall, 621 11th Street, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

Aesthetics

Hazards & Hazardous
Materials

Public Services

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potential significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Liz Shorey, Deputy Director of Community Development

Date: May 4, 2020