

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION	
TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Siskiyou County Clerk 510 N. Main St. Yreka, CA 96097	FROM: City of Yreka 701 Fourth Street Yreka, CA 96097 <div style="text-align: right;"> FILED Siskiyou County JUN 08 2020 </div>
Project Title: Yreka Main Street Water System Improvement Project	BY: LAURA BYNUM, CLERK
Project Location: City of Yreka, Siskiyou County, California; Sections 22 and 27 of Township 45 North, Range 7 West, as depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey's Yreka 7.5-minute quadrangle (Figure 1).	
City: Yreka	County: Siskiyou
Project Description, Purpose, and Beneficiaries: <p>The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging infrastructure, achieve adequate fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for customers in the City's water service area.</p> <p>The proposed project includes improvements to the City's water distribution system. Improvements include replacement of ±8,900 feet of 4-inch water mains with 8-inch water mains; ±100 feet of 4-inch water main with a 12-inch main; installation of ±78 water valves; installation of ±40 fire hydrants; and replacement of ±10 water meters and ±110 meter boxes, and ±5,000 feet of 1-inch water service piping. The new water main in Main Street would be connected to existing water mains at some of the intersections; the connecting pipe includes ±400 feet of 8-inch, 560 feet of 6-inch, 250 feet of 4-inch, and 80 feet of 2-inch pipe.</p> <p>Work would occur in the Caltrans road right-of-way (ROW) along Highway 3 (Main Street) between Montague Road and Oberlin Road. Project staging would occur at the City Corporation Yard and in the affected street ROW throughout the project area.</p> <p>Water mains would be installed using open-cut trenching. The maximum depth of excavation would be five feet, and the maximum width of the trench would be three feet. Paved areas disturbed during construction would be re-paved following completion of the improvements. Replacement water meters and meter boxes would be installed by hand crews without the use of heavy equipment, and minimal ground disturbance would occur. The majority of the fire hydrants would replace existing hydrants. New hydrants would be installed to meet City construction standards for hydrant spacing.</p> <p>Humbug Gulch, an intermittent stream, crosses North Main Street, generally south of Knapp Street and north of E. Lennox Street; the drainage is culverted under Main Street, and the replacement pipe would be installed on top of the culvert. If it is determined that it is not feasible to install the water main over the culvert, the pipe would be installed using a trenchless method (e.g., horizontal directional drill or bore and jack) to avoid impacts to the stream.</p>	
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Yreka	
Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: City of Yreka	
Local Agency Contact Person: Cynthia Lynch, Municipal Projects Manager, 530.841.2326	

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):

Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)

Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)

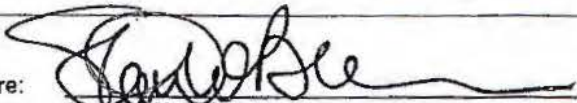
Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

Class 2 covers replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; Class 3 covers construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and Class 4 covers minor trenching and backfilling on land with a slope of less than ten percent where the surface is restored.

The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of replacement of existing water meters and meter boxes, replacement of existing water mains, and installation of fire hydrants. Although the new water mains would be larger than the existing mains, the existing mains are undersized for existing conditions, and larger mains are required to meet minimum California Waterworks Standards and to achieve adequate fire flows. Improvements would occur in previously disturbed areas within public road ROW. Paved areas disturbed during installation of the improvements would be repaved following construction.

As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature:


Steven W. Baker
City Manager

Date:

2/14/20

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jun 08 2020

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachments:

Figure 1: Project Vicinity and Location

Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

ATTACHMENT A
Notice of Exemption
Yreka Main Street Water System Improvement Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction); §15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures); and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in long-term operational impacts; therefore, only construction-related impacts are considered in the cumulative impacts analysis. In determining whether the proposed project's impacts would be cumulatively considerable, the City identified two projects that are proposed within the Main Street corridor. The Yreka Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project, which includes replacement of sewer lines in some of the same locations as the proposed water system improvements, and the Caltrans Street Improvement Project, which includes street improvements in the same location as the proposed water system improvements.

The City's goal is to complete the proposed project and the wastewater collection system project before Caltrans starts road rehabilitation so trenching associated with the City's projects does not compromise the newly paved road corridor. Further, it is not anticipated that the proposed project and wastewater collection system improvements would be completed simultaneously. In addition, all projects under the City's jurisdiction are required to implement best management practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control; projects under Caltrans' jurisdiction must comply with Caltrans' Construction Stormwater Management Program requirements and must implement BMPs for soil stabilization, erosion/sediment control, and dust control.

Potential adverse impacts of the proposed project and cumulative projects identified above are limited to temporarily increased air emissions, temporarily increased noise levels, temporarily increased traffic, temporarily increased risk of indirect effects on surface waters and aquatic habitats, and the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds during construction activities.

Therefore, because the projects noted above are not anticipated to be constructed simultaneously, BMPs would be implemented throughout construction, and impacts for all three projects would be temporary and cease at completion of the project, the proposed project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

2. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics

The proposed improvements would be installed in urbanized areas developed with retail commercial uses, offices, gasoline stations, restaurants, and some residences. Other features in the built environment include power poles and overhead power lines, light poles, traffic signals, and signage.

With the exception of fire hydrants, all improvements would be subsurface, and the surface would be restored following construction. The fire hydrants would be installed at the back of sidewalks and would be compatible with other features in the built environment. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements. Therefore, the project's aesthetic impacts would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

Improvements would occur in urban area within the public road ROW. In addition, there are no properties in agricultural use or forest resources in the project area. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NOx, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NOx emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources

To determine the presence/absence of special-status plant and wildlife species, a field survey of the project area was completed by an ENPLAN Biologist on March 28, 2018. Most of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted; however, their potential presence was readily determined on the basis of observed habitat characteristics. No special-status species were observed during the survey. Because improvements would occur in an urbanized area in the paved road ROW, no special-status species are anticipated to be present in the project site.

Natural Communities

Based on the field evaluation, the predominant natural community type present in the study area is urban, and is characterized by road ROW covered with concrete or asphalt. Urban communities are not natural communities described in CDFW's Natural Community List, and are therefore not considered sensitive.

Field review confirmed the presence of one linear aquatic feature in the study area, Humbug Gulch. Humbug Gulch is a channelized intermittent stream that flows through a box culvert under North Main Street just north of Dexter Street, and is tributary to Yreka Creek east of the study area. As an intermittent stream, Humbug Gulch is subject to jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If it is not feasible to install the water main on top of the box culvert, the pipe would be installed under Humbug Gulch using a trenchless method (e.g., horizontal directional drill or bore and jack) to avoid impacts to the stream.

In addition, Chapter 12.40 of the City's Municipal Code (*Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control Ordinance*) requires implementation of BMPs for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. Compliance with City regulations would ensure that no significant indirect impacts to the stream.

Nesting Migratory Birds

Construction activities would not directly affect nesting birds because work would be completed in surfaced roadways and no woody vegetation would be removed. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels, are likewise not expected given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Energy

Energy consumption during construction would consist primarily of the use of diesel and gasoline fuels for construction equipment, haul trucks, and construction workers travelling to and from the work sites. Due to the nature of the project, construction-related traffic would be limited, as would use of construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term.

Geology and Soils

According to the California Geological Survey, the nearest potentially active fault to the project area is the Yellow Butte Fault, approximately 17 miles southeast of the project area. The nearest recently active fault (within the last 10,000 years) is the Cedar Mountain Fault, located approximately 35 miles east of the City. The City's General Plan states that over a 120-year period, only nine or ten earthquakes capable of considerable damage have occurred in the region. No deaths have been connected to these earthquakes, and reported building damage has never been more than minor. Improvement plans for the project will be prepared by a registered professional engineer to ensure implementation of standard seismic design measures.

Soils in the project site are mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Dumps; Stoner gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes; and Stoner gravelly sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes. These soils are found throughout the Yreka area and are not unique to the project site.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction, and no long-term impacts would occur. As stated under Biological Resources above, implementation of BMPs for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. There is nothing unique about the proposed project that would result in significant impacts.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06093C15570D, effective January 19, 2011), some of the pipeline improvements are located within the 100-year floodplain of Yreka Creek; however, improvements in the floodplain would be subsurface, and no structures that could impede flood flows are proposed.

Land Use and Planning

The proposed project is consistent with the City's Master Water Plan and applicable goals, objectives, and programs of the City's General Plan and associated land use plans.

Mineral Resources

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the project site. In addition, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned for mining activities.

Noise

Construction activities would generate noise and may temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, there is nothing unique to the Project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction projects in the area. In addition, all construction projects must comply with the City's construction noise standards, which include limiting construction hours in proximity to residences. The project does not include any components that would result in an increase in long-term noise impacts.

Population and Housing

The purpose of the project is to replace aging infrastructure, achieve adequate fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for customers in the City's water service area. The project would not increase capacity in the City's water system, and no direct or indirect population growth would occur.

Public Services and Utility/Service Systems

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreation, or other public services, and utility and service systems in the area would not experience a permanent increase in demand.

Transportation/Traffic

There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic.

Wildfire

The project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

3. **Scenic Highways.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in Siskiyou County. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4. **Hazardous Waste Sites.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to determine whether the project site is identified as a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code §65962.5:

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- SWRCB GeoTracker Database
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The Geotracker and EnviroStor databases identify three active clean-up sites in proximity to the proposed improvements at the following locations:

- Southwest corner of N. Main Street and North Street; possible heating oil/fuel oil spill associated with an old coal gas plant; reported in 1992.
- Northwest corner of S. Main Street and South Street; prior dry-cleaning service that had disposed of dry-cleaning solvent to the sewer system; reported in 1993.
- Southwest corner of Main Street and South Street; potential contamination from a leaking underground heating-oil tank; detected in November 2016 following removal of the tank.

The first two sites listed above are designated as Category 1 sites (contamination does not pose an immediate human health threat and does not extend off-site onto neighboring property). None of these three sites has monitoring wells within the public ROW where improvements would occur. The third site is currently undergoing site investigation to determine the extent of contamination; however, proposed excavation and installation of monitoring wells associated with this clean-up site would not occur in the road ROW; therefore, the project would not be located on a hazardous waste site or impact active cleanup sites in the project area.

5. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource:

A Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) was completed by ENPLAN in 2018 for a wastewater collection system improvement project in and adjacent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed water system improvement project.

The study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS), and review of historical maps, the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historic Interest, and the directory of properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Siskiyou County.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) on February 23, 2018; the search did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations. Notification letters were sent to all 15 tribes and individuals on the NAHC contact list; follow-up correspondence in the form of telephone calls and emails was conducted on April 18, 2018. No concerns were submitted by any of the tribes.

Archaeological fieldwork took place on February 27 and April 19, 2018. One resource was identified in the APE as a result of the cultural study: the Yreka Trail (P-47-001728). The Yreka Trail served as a major transportation route for wagon trains headed for the gold fields of Siskiyou County from the 1840s to the 1860s. A portion of the Yreka Trail is documented within the APE near the intersection of S. Main Street and E. Oberlin Road; however, the pedestrian survey did not identify any visible remnants of the trail. The route has been incorporated into the modern roadway and the resource is no longer apparent in the APE.

The evaluation concluded that no cultural resources would be impacted by the project; however, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during site excavation. The following standard construction measures will be included in construction contracts for the project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the City shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archaeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the City shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Department of Conservation. 2020. California Important Farmland Finder.
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/cif/>. Accessed February 2020.

_____. 2020. SMARA Mineral Land Classification Maps.
<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed February 2020.

_____. 2018. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation.
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed February 2020.

- _____. 2010. Fault Activity Map of California. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>. Accessed February 2020.
- California Department of Transportation. 2020. California State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Siskiyou County. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed February 2020.
- California Environmental Protection Agency. 2020. Cortese List Data Resources. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed February 2020.
- City of Yreka. 2003. City of Yreka General Plan. <http://www.ci.yreka.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/119/General-Plan-PDF?bidId=>. Accessed February 2020.
- _____. 2018. Yreka Municipal Code. https://library.municode.com/ca/yreka/codes/code_of_ordinances. Accessed February 2020.
- ENPLAN. 2018. Cultural Resources Inventory, City of Yreka Collection System Improvement Project.
- _____. 2020. Biological Study Report, Yreka Main Street Water System Improvement Project.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2020. National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06093C3025D, effective January 19, 2011). <https://hazardsfema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>. Accessed February 2020.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2020. Web Soil Survey. <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed February 2020.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2020. Green Book, *California Whole or Part County Nonattainment Status by Year Since 1992 for all Criteria Pollutants*. https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/phistory_ca.html. Accessed February 2020.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 2020. U.S. Quaternary Faults Interactive Map. <https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a6038b3a1684561a9b0aadf88412fcf>. Accessed February 2020.



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2020 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/19) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:

47-06/08/2020-024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY CITY OF YREKA	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 06/08/2020
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SISKIYOU COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2020-47-024	
PROJECT TITLE		

YREKA MAIN STREET WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME CITY OF YREKA	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 701 FOURTH STREET	CITY YREKA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 96097

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 3,343.25 \$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,406.75 \$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,112.00 \$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
☒ County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____ 50.00
☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☒ Check ☒ Other CHECK #00000115546 TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ 50.00

SIGNATURE

ENDORSED-W. WINNINGHAM
X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Winningham Wendy Deputy Clerk