



# City of Gonzales

P.O. BOX 647  
PHONE: (831) 675-5000

147 FOURTH ST.  
FAX: (831) 675-2644

GONZALES, CALIFORNIA 93926  
[www.gonzalesca.gov](http://www.gonzalesca.gov)

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**Project Title:** Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant

Maria Orozco  
Mayor

**Project Location:** The project is located in the City of Gonzales (City) in Monterey County. The proposed Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) would be located directly adjacent to the existing City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at the end of Short Road. The proposed wastewater collection line would primarily be within the roadway right-of-way from Puente Del Monte Avenue to Gonzales River Road and Short Road.

Scott Funk  
Mayor Pro Tem

**Lead Agency:** City of Gonzales

Liz Silva  
Councilmember

**Project Description:** The City is proposing a significant upgrade to its wastewater treatment infrastructure and management with the planned construction of a new 2.0 million gallons per day (MGD) separate IWTP. The City's existing municipal WWTP has been challenged the past several years due to the nature of flows discharged to the WWTP by local industrial dischargers. The proposed IWTP would treat wastewater from the Gonzales Agricultural Business Industrial Park (GABIP) separately from the City's domestic wastewater system.

Lorraine Worthy  
Councilmember

There are two components of the proposed project: the IWTP, and the proposed wastewater collection line. The proposed IWTP would be located north of the existing WWTP and would include a headworks with influent screening to remove trash and debris and an influent flow meter; an influent lift station to pump water to the equalization basin; a 2-stage flow equalization basin to buffer flow to the ponds system; a deep-operated aerated pond systems to introduce oxygen into wastewater; and effluent percolation beds to dispose of treated effluent. A solids management area would be set aside for accumulated biosolids, sludge, and debris from the influent screening. The IWTP is designed to be installed in a phased approach with Phase I having wastewater treatment capacity of 2.0 MGD. As the wastewater flows and number of industrial discharges increase, phase II of the IWTP will be constructed with a treatment capacity to 4.0 MGD.

Paul Miller  
Councilmember

René L. Mendez  
City Manager

The proposed wastewater collection line includes approximately 11,100 linear feet (LF) of new gravity sewer pipe located mainly on public street right-of-way. This collection line would convey flows starting near the intersection of Katherine Street and Puente Del Monte Avenue. The pipeline heads south on Puente Del Monte Avenue before turning west onto Gonzales River Road. The pipeline alignment continues on Gonzales River Road then continues west onto Short Road. The proposed collection line would convey flow on Short Road before finally terminating at the new IWTP site.

**Public Review:** The City is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for the project. Public agencies and members of the public are invited to comment on environmental topics to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The comment period is from June 29, 2020 to July 28, 2020. An Initial Study (IS) has been prepared as the first step to evaluating impacts from the proposed project. The EIR will analyze those topics identified as potentially significant in the IS, including agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, land use, and tribal cultural resources. The NOP/IS can be reviewed on the City's website at <https://gonzalesca.gov/services/community-development/community-development-documents>. Written comments, including email, can be submitted to:

Patrick Dobbins, PE  
Director of Public Works  
City of Gonzales  
147 Fourth Street  
Gonzales, CA 93926  
831-675-5000  
[pdobbins@ci.gonzales.ca.us](mailto:pdobbins@ci.gonzales.ca.us)

Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2020.

*Gonzales will continue to be a safe, clean, family-friendly community, diverse in heritage, and committed to working collaboratively to preserve and retain its small-town charm*



# **Initial Study Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant**

*Prepared for:*

## **City of Gonzales**

147 Fourth Street

Gonzales, CA 93926

*Contact: Patrick Dobbins, PE*

*Prepared by:*

**DUDEK**

605 Third Street

Encinitas, California 92024

*Contact: Brian Grattidge*

**JUNE 2020**



# Table of Contents

---

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>
<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Initial Study .....	1
<b>2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Project Location and Setting.....	2
2.2 Background.....	5
2.3 Project Characteristics .....	5
<b>3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	9
3.2 Determination.....	9
<b>4 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST .....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1 Aesthetics .....	15
4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources .....	17
4.3 Air Quality.....	19
4.4 Biological Resources .....	20
4.5 Cultural Resources .....	22
4.6 Energy .....	23
4.7 Geology and Soils .....	23
4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	26
4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials .....	27
4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	29
4.11 Land Use and Planning .....	32
4.12 Mineral Resources .....	32
4.13 Noise .....	33
4.14 Population and Housing.....	34
4.15 Public Services .....	35
4.16 Recreation.....	36
3.17 Transportation .....	36
4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources.....	38
4.19 Utilities and Service Systems.....	39
4.20 Wildfire .....	41
4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance .....	42
<b>5 REFERENCES AND PREPARERS.....</b>	<b>45</b>
5.1 References Cited .....	45
5.2 List of Preparers .....	46

**FIGURES**

Figure 1. Regional Map .....3

Figure 2. Project Location .....4

**TABLES**

Table 2.3-1. Proposed IWTP Design Wastewater Flow .....5

Table 2.3-2. Proposed IWTP Design Wastewater Strength .....6

Table 2.3-3. Probable Waste Discharge Requirements for IWTP .....6

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

---

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CBC	California Building Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DOC	Department of Conservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GABIP	Gonzales Agricultural Business Industrial Park
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IS	Initial Study
IWTP	Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NRHC	National Register of Historic Places
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



# 1 Introduction

---

## 1.1 Initial Study

This initial study has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Gonzales will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Project (IWTP or “project”). This initial study will be used to determine the potentially significant environmental impacts to be analyzed in the EIR, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 (c)(3). The initial study, in addition to comments received in response to the Notice of Preparation of an EIR, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, will be used to determine the scope and contents of the EIR.

## 2 Project Description

---

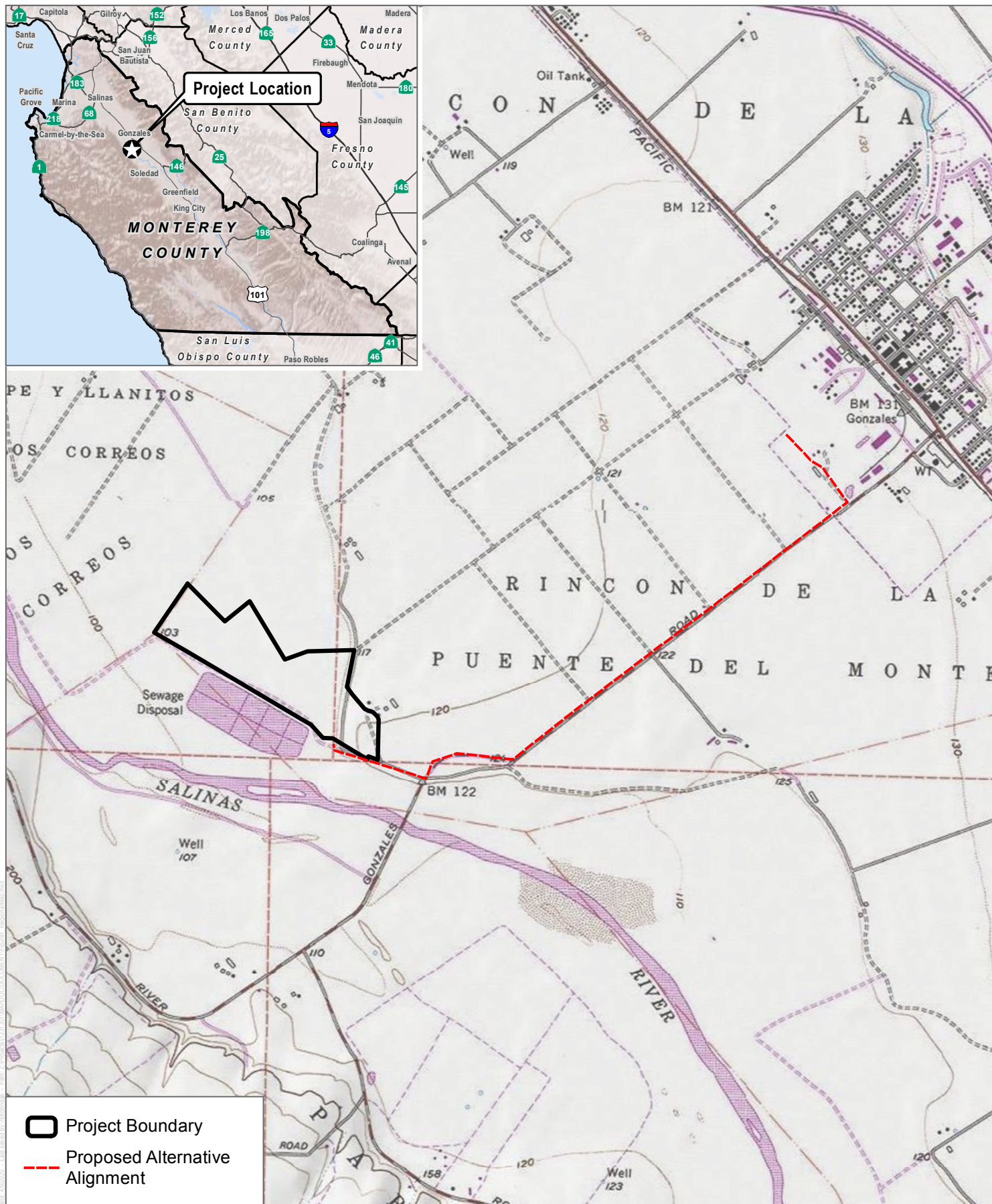
The City of Gonzales (City) is proposing an upgrade to its wastewater treatment infrastructure and management with the planned construction of a new 2.0 million gallon per day (MGD) separate Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). The City's existing municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been challenged the past several years due to the nature of flows discharged to the WWTP by local industrial dischargers. The new plant would treat wastewater from the Gonzales Agricultural Business Industrial Park (GABIP) separately from the City's domestic wastewater system. By separating domestic and industrial waste flows, the City accommodates buildout of the GABIP and protects the existing domestic plant from constituents that impair the traditional biochemical treatment process. The separation of domestic and industrial waste flows requires a separate industrial waste collection system to convey industrial flows to the new treatment facility. This new facility will allow for the City to effectively expand wastewater treatment capacity and protect groundwater quality.

### 2.1 Project Location and Setting

The City is located in Monterey County, California, approximately 16 miles southeast of Salinas. The City has a current population of approximately 8,677 residents as of January 2019 (Department of Finance 2019), which is projected to increase to 24,000 by 2035 (City of Gonzales 2018). The City's wastewater, both domestic and industrial, is currently treated by the existing City-owned WWTP located at the end of Short Road, approximately 2 miles southwest of the intersection of South Alta Road and Gonzales River Road (see Figure 1, Regional Map).

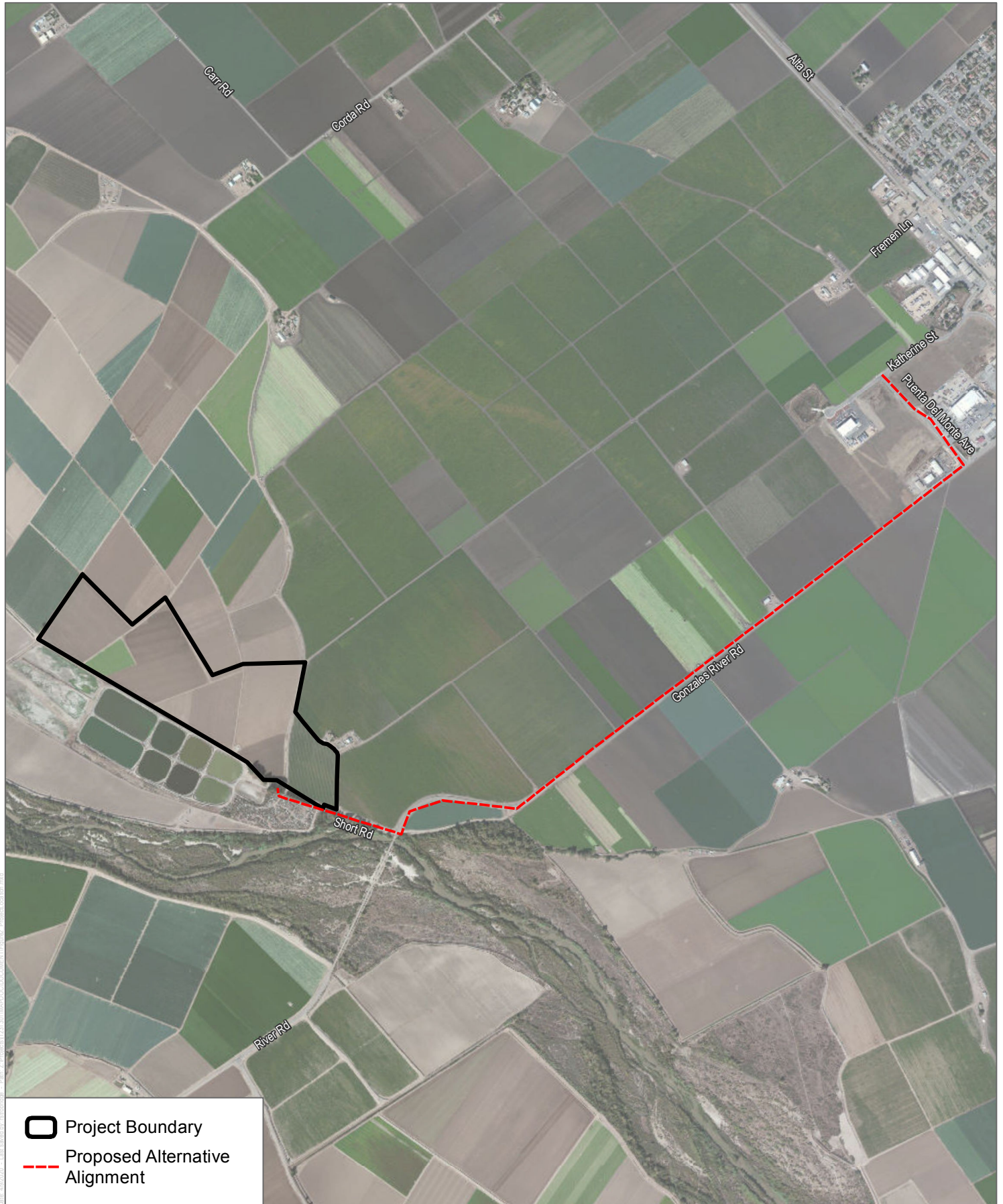
The City is home to the GABIP, which is an approximately 75-acre area bounded by Alta Street to the east, Gonzales River Road to the south, and agricultural land to the north and west. The GABIP includes several large agricultural processing businesses. Additional acreage is planned to be added to the GABIP in the future to accommodate industrial business growth. A separate wastewater collection system was constructed for GABIP that ends near the intersection of Katherine Street and Puente Del Monte Avenue, but it is not in use. It is envisioned that all industrial wastewater flow will be diverted away from this sewer, and to a new IWTP dedicated gravity sewer, which will extend to the new IWTP (Wallace Group 2020).

The proposed IWTP would be located adjacent to the existing WWTP. The proposed wastewater collection line would primarily be within the roadway right-of-way from Puente Del Monte Avenue to Gonzales River Road and Short Road (see Figure 2, Project Location). The proposed IWTP would comprise of the entire Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 223061017000, -10200000, -1019000, -1014000, and partially of APNs -1023000 and 223011032000. The proposed IWTP site is approximately 78 acres. Parcels -1014000, -1023000, and 223011032000 are zoned and designated F/40 (Farmlands with minimum building site of 40 acres) in unincorporated Monterey County (Monterey County 2020). The existing WWTP is zoned Public Facilities (PF) and designated as Public/Quasi Public in the City's General Plan (City of Gonzales 2010a). The part of the proposed project site within the City boundary is designated as Pubic/Quasi Public but is not zoned (City of Gonzales 2010b).



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series Gonzales and Palo Escrito Creek Quadrangles





SOURCE: Esri Clarity Basemap 2019

**FIGURE 2**  
**Project Location**

# 2.2 Background

The City owns and operates an existing municipal WWTP, currently permitted at 1.3 MGD capacity (maximum month flow), with approximately half of the entire plant flow from industrial sources (Wallace Group 2020). The City provides wastewater collection and treatment for residents and businesses within the City, and expects an increase in wastewater flows in the upcoming years due to new development. Therefore, the City is motivated to expand wastewater treatment capacity for its customers as quickly and efficiently as possible. The City has prepared multiple studies of the existing facilities and alternatives for upgrade and expansion in recent years in order to evaluate the collection system, plant capacity, and condition; investigate treatment and expansion alternatives; and estimate capital costs. A Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan (LTWMP) was prepared to aggregate relevant information contained in the City's past studies. The LTWMP recommended a number of alternatives for the City to expand treatment capacity to 3.0 MGD, one of which was to construct a separate industrial treatment facility with separate collection system for agricultural industrial wastewater treatment, under a separate, non-municipal waste discharge permit. Ultimately, the City decided to move forward with the preliminary design of a separate industrial WWTP at a location adjacent to the north side of the existing WWTP.

# 2.3 Project Characteristics

There are two components of the proposed project: the IWTP, and the proposed wastewater collection line.

The proposed IWTP would be located north of the existing WWTP and would include a headworks with influent screening to remove trash and debris and an influent flow meter; an influent lift station to pump water to the equalization basin; a 2-stage flow equalization basin to buffer flow to the ponds system; a deep-operated aerated pond systems to introduce oxygen into wastewater; and effluent percolation beds to dispose of treated effluent. a solids management area would be set aside for accumulated biosolids, sludge, and debris from the influent screening.

The IWTP is designed to be installed in a phased approach with Phase I having wastewater treatment capacity of 2.0 MGD. As the wastewater flows and number of industrial discharges in the GABIP increase, phase II of the IWRF will be constructed with a treatment capacity to 4.0 MGD. Table 2.3-1 below provides a summary of the design flows for the IWTP.

**Table 2.3-1. Proposed IWTP Design Wastewater Flow**

Parameter	Existing Industrial Flow	Design Criteria (Phase I)	Design Criteria (Phase II)
ADMMF, MGD	0.6	2.0	4.0
PHF, MGD	NA	5.0	10.0

Source: Wallace Group 2020

Notes:

ADMMF= Average day, maximum month flow

PHF= Peak hourly flow

MGD= million gallons per day

As part of the proposed IWTP, design criteria is established for the treatment facilities to define biological treatment capacity. Table 2.3-2 provides a summary of proposed design wastewater influent waste strength.

**Table 2.3-2. Proposed IWTP Design Wastewater Strength**

Parameter	Design Criteria (Phase I)	Design Criteria (Phase II)
Influent BOD5, mg/L (lb/day)	600 (6,255) <sup>a</sup>	600 (12,510) <sup>a</sup>
Influent TSS, mg/L (lb/day)	600 (6,255) <sup>a</sup>	600 (12,510) <sup>a</sup>
Influent Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	40	40
Influent TDS (mg/L)	1,000	1,000

Source: Wallace Group 2020

Notes:

<sup>a</sup>Based on ADMMF design flow

MGD= million gallons per day

BOD5= biochemical oxygen demand

TSS=total suspended solids

TDS=total dissolved solids

The City would use General Waste Discharge Order No. R3-2004-0066 (Fruit & Vegetable Order) as a means of regulating this new facility. The Fruit & Veg Order includes a number of provisions related to wastewater, including Provision C.8, which states that in land-applied applications, the treated fruit and vegetable wastewater effluent shall not have an organic loading rate that exceeds 100 pounds of BOD5 per acre per day (30-day average).

Table 2.3-3 below summarizes the anticipated effluent quality parameters for the proposed IWTP, consistent with the regional Basin Plan.

**Table 2.3-3. Probable Waste Discharge Requirements for IWTP**

Parameter <sup>1</sup>	Effluent Limitation <sup>2</sup>
BOD5 (mg/L; lbs/acre/day)	45 <sup>3</sup> , 100 <sup>4</sup>
TSS (mg/L; lb/acre/day)	45 <sup>3</sup> , 100 <sup>4</sup>
Boron	0.5
Chlorides	250
TDS	1,500
pH (pH Units)	6.5 – 8.3 <sup>4</sup>
Sodium	250
Nitrate as N	10
Sulfate	600
Other Constituents	Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards <sup>5</sup>

Source: Wallace Group 2020

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>All units expressed in mg/L unless otherwise indicated.<sup>2</sup>Basin Plan water quality objective for groundwater, unless otherwise indicated.<sup>3</sup>Secondary treatment standards for facilities such as pond systems, that are “equivalent to secondary treatment standards”, EPA NPDES Permit Writers’ Manual, USEPA, September 2010. If other than a pond system is proposed, BOD and TSS limitations may be more stringent than listed.<sup>4</sup>Fruit & Vegetable Order No. R3-2004-0066. Note, for BOD5, current limitations are expressed in pounds per acre per day.<sup>5</sup>Effluent discharged from new IWRf should meet all other federal and state drinking water standards.

The proposed wastewater collection line includes approximately 11,100 linear feet (LF) of new gravity sewer pipe located mainly on public street right-of-way. This collection line would convey flows starting near the intersection of Katherine Street and Puente Del Monte Avenue. The pipeline heads south on Puente Del Monte Avenue before turning west onto Gonzales River Road. The pipeline alignment continues on Gonzales River Road then continues

west onto Short Road. The proposed collection line would convey flow on Short Road before finally terminating at the new IWTP site.

### **Circulation and Parking**

The proposed IWTP site is accessible via Short Road from Gonzales River Road. This is the same path used to access the existing WWTP. Limited employee and visitor parking would be constructed on the project site.

Located largely within County of Monterey and City of Gonzales right-of-way, the proposed IWTP wastewater collection line is accessible for operations and maintenance procedures, with manholes installed at- or near-grade.

### **Project Construction and Schedule**

Construction of the IWTP is scheduled to begin in 2021, and is expected to take 8-12 months.

Construction of the proposed wastewater collection line would be achieved by open cut construction methods. Open cut construction would involve installation of the sewer pipe in a trench. The trench is expected to be up to 3-feet wide and depth will vary based on the required hydraulics, but may range from 6 – 10 feet deep. The requirement for trenchless construction techniques is not anticipated because there are no significant crossings identified along the proposed wastewater collection line, such as waterways, environmentally-sensitive areas or busy intersections. Much of the construction will take place within the public right-of-way. Construction of the wastewater collection line is scheduled to begin in 2020, and is expected to take 3-6 months.

### **Potential Permits and Approvals Required**

The IWTP will require the approval of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The City's WWTP is permitted under Regional Board Order Number R3-2006-0005, dated March 7, 2006.

The design and construction of the proposed wastewater collection line will require an encroachment permit from the County of Monterey for construction within County road rights of way.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required for General Construction by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) if the proposed project's total area of disturbance is greater than 1 acre.

An air permit will likely be required for the plant standby generator and treatment plant.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



## 3 Summary of Findings

---

### 3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

- |                                                                 |                                                                        |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

### 3.2 Determination

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 “potentially 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 adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



for Patrick Dobbins

Signature

6/25/20

Date

## Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# 4 Initial Study Checklist

---

**1. Project title:**

Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

**2. Lead agency name and address:**

City of Gonzales  
147 Fourth St  
Gonzales, CA 93926

**3. Contact person and phone number:**

Patrick M. Dobbins, PE  
Public Works Director/City Engineer  
City of Gonzales  
831-675-5000

**4. Project location:**

The proposed IWTP would be located directly adjacent to the existing WWTP located at the end of Short Road. The proposed wastewater collection line would primarily be within the roadway right-of-way from Puente Del Monte Avenue to Gonzales River Road and Short Road (see Figure 2, Project Location). The proposed IWTP would comprise of the entire Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 223061017000, -10200000, -1019000, -1014000, and partially of APNs -1023000 and 223011032000.

**5. Project sponsor's name and address:**

City of Gonzales  
147 Fourth St  
Gonzales, CA 93926

**6. General plan designation:**

City property: Public/Quasi Public

Unincorporated Monterey County property: F/40 (Farmlands with minimum building site of 40 acres)

**7. Zoning:**

The part of the proposed project site within the City boundary is not zoned (City of Gonzales 2010b).

Unincorporated Monterey County portion: F/40.

- 8. Description of project. (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary):**

See Section 2, Project Description.

- 9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):**

The proposed project is surrounded by agricultural land to the north, east, and west, and the existing WWTP and Salinas River to the south.

- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

The IWTP will require the approval of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The City's WWTP is permitted under Regional Board Order Number R3-2006-0005, dated March 7, 2006.

The construction of the proposed wastewater collection line will require an encroachment permit from the County of Monterey.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required for General Construction by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) if the proposed project's total area of disturbance is greater than 1 acre.

- 11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

The City has notified California Native American tribes pursuant to section 21080.3.1. Notified tribes will have 30 days to request consultation with the City regarding the proposed project.

## 4.1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS</b> – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**

The existing visual character of the City is influenced primarily by agricultural lands that slope gently eastward toward the foothills of the Gabilan Mountains. Agricultural fields and low-density residential uses are the primary visual features. No major landscape features are visible except for long-distance views of the Gabilan Mountains to the east and the Sierra de Salinas to the west of town. The City's General Plan considers the view of citrus and avocado orchards, grazing land, and vineyards from Gonzales River Road to be a scenic vista (City of Gonzales 2018b).

The proposed project would construct a new IWTP and underground wastewater collection line. The proposed project would be adjacent to the existing WWTP and would not cause a substantial change in the views of the area. The project would not block any views of the surround Mountains or the view of agricultural lands from Gonzales River Road. While the new wastewater collections line would involve construction, the resulting visual impacts would be temporary in nature and above-ground conditions would be restored to existing conditions. The project would comply with the applicable standards of the General Plan and Gonzales City Code related to aesthetics. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

- b) *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

The project is not visible from an officially designated State Scenic Highway (Caltrans 2017). There would be no impact.

- c) *In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

The City's General Plan EIR determined that adoption of the General Plan, which includes expansion of wastewater facilities, would result in the conversion of the rural/open space landscape to a built landscape associated with urban uses. The General Plan recommends preservation of views and the maintenance of distinct edges to the city. Views to surrounding hills and farms contribute to perceptions of the city as a small town and provide easy orientation for residents. The proposed project would not substantially impact the visual character of the area. Although the project site is currently agricultural land, the new IWTP would be adjacent to the existing WWTP and would be similar in visual character. The IWTP would not be located in an area frequently seen by the public, as Short Road serves primarily as an entrance to the existing WWTP. There are also no sensitive receptors nearby. Overall, the project would not substantially degrade visual character or quality of public views and impacts would be **less than significant**.

- d) *Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

The project would include additional on-site safety and security lighting. All lighting would be hooded or screened to direct light downward, preventing unintentional light and glare impacts to nearby viewpoints. There are also no sensitive receptors nearby. Impacts would be **less than significant**.



## 4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</b> – In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) ***Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?***

The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), administered by the California Department of Conservation (CDC), produces maps and statistical data for use in analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources (CDC 2008). FMMP rates and classifies agricultural land according to soil quality, irrigation status, and other criteria. Prime Farmland is a classification for farmland with the best

combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. These lands have the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields.

The IWTP site contains approximately 70 acres of Prime Farmland (FMMP 2012). The proposed project would have a **potentially significant** impact related to farmland conversion that will be further examined in the EIR.

**b) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?***

The project site includes land under a Williamson Act contract. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (commonly referred to as the Williamson Act) which allows local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of preventing conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses (CDC 2013). The project site is not yet zoned by the City. The existing WWTP is zoned Public Facilities. A portion of the project site is zoned Farmland (40-acre minimum) by Monterey County. Conflicts with Williamson Act contracted land would be **potentially significant** and would be further addressed in the EIR.

**c) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?***

California Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) defines “forest land” for the purposes of CEQA as land that can support 10% native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

California Government Code Section 51104(g) defines “Timber,” “Timberland,” and “Timberland Production Zone” for the purposes of CEQA as either trees of any species maintained for eventual harvest for forest production purposes (“Timber”); privately owned land, or land acquired for State forest purposes, used for growing and harvesting timber (“Timberland”); or “Timberland Production Zone” which means an area zoned and used for growing and harvesting timber.

The proposed project site does not include any forest land or timberland. There would be **no impact**.

**d) *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?***

As stated previously, the project site does not include any forest land. There would be **no impact**.

**e) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?***

The project would involve the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use by building the proposed IWTP. This would be a **potentially significant** impact and will be addressed in the EIR.

## 4.3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>III. AIR QUALITY</b> – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**

The project is located within the North Central Coast Air Basin, within the jurisdictional boundary of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD). Short-term construction emissions, as well as operational emissions from IWTP pumps and other system components would potentially contribute to changes in air quality that would conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plans. Thus, this impact would be **potentially significant** and would be further analyzed in the EIR.

**b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?**

The air quality analysis in the EIR will discuss the proposed project's consistency with plans and strategies to meet ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter, both of which are nonattainment pollutants in the North Central Coast Air Basin. The project would potentially result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone or particulate matter and thus impacts would be **potentially significant** and analyzed in the EIR.

**c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

While there are no sensitive receptors close to the proposed project site, a further analysis will be done in the EIR to determine whether pollutant concentrations will be significant. This impact is **potentially significant**. The EIR will evaluate whether the project, including construction, could lead to potential exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial localized concentrations of air pollutant emissions, specifically carbon monoxide (CO) "hot spots."

- d) *Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

Wastewater treatment plants are considered by MBARD to be a potential odor source. Although the project site is 2 miles from the City of Gonzales, odor impacts may be **potentially significant** and will be further analyzed in the EIR.

## 4.4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> – Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a-b, d) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

*Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

*Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

The proposed project would involve new construction of a wastewater treatment plant and a wastewater collection line that would potentially involve substantial adverse effects on protected species, sensitive natural communities, and/or native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or nursery sites. The project site is located close to the Salinas River and may include sensitive natural communities or riparian habitat. Species of particular concern include burrowing owl, nesting birds, San Joaquin kit fox, among others. These impacts would be **potentially significant**. While it is anticipated that biological impacts will be avoided through feasible mitigation measures, this potential impact will be further discussed in the EIR. The EIR will include the results of a biological investigation and habitat assessment to determine potential impacts and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels, if necessary.

- c) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

The project site is located to the Salinas River and may include or intrude upon protected wetlands. This would be a **potentially significant** impact. The EIR will include the results of a jurisdictional delineation for the wastewater collection line and IWTP and will identify mitigation measures, if needed, to reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

- e) *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

The only trees in the vicinity of the project site are the trees lining Short Road. Gonzales River Road and the IWTP site both do not include any trees. If construction of the portion of the wastewater collection line through Short Road would affect any of these trees, it may result in a **potentially significant** impact per the City's tree protection ordinance (Chapter 9.16 of the Gonzales City Code). Potential impacts will be further discussed in the EIR.

- f) *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

The proposed project site is not within any adopted habitat conservation plan and thus there would be **no impact**.

## 4.5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a,b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

**Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

Dudek has requested a California Historic Resource Information System (CHRIS) records search for the project site and a 0.5 mile radius. In addition, a Sacred Lands File search from the Native American Heritage Commission has been requested. Dudek will conduct an intensive/reconnaissance-level field survey for archaeological resources within the project area that may not have been previously surveyed and to also document the current baseline conditions. Outreach will be conducted to the Native American community using the list of tribal contacts provided by Native American Heritage Commission for tribal groups associated with project area vicinity. Pending these results, impacts related to historic and archaeological resources are **potentially significant**. A summary of these record searches and engagement with Native American tribes will be included in the EIR, and mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels.

**c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?**

Construction of the proposed project would have the potential to disturb or unearth human remains. Thus, this impact is **potentially significant** and would be further analyzed in the EIR.

## 4.6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VI. Energy</b> – Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a-b) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

**Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?**

The proposed project could result in significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation, and has the potential to conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency due to new energy uses. These impacts would be **potentially significant**. The EIR will include an analysis of potential impacts from electricity, natural gas, petroleum, and fuel consumption and will propose mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant, if required.

## 4.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS</b> – Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**

- i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.**

The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone as designated by the California Geological Survey. There would be **no impact**.

**ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?**

Nearby active or potentially active faults include the Reliz fault, located approximately three miles southwest of the city; the Monterey Bay-Tularcitos fault, located approximately 11 miles southwest of the site; and a creeping segment of the San Andreas fault, located 15 miles northeast of the City (City of Gonzales 2018b). Because the area is located in an alluvium-filled valley, the ground responds strongly to seismic waves generated by an earthquake. According to the City's General Plan EIR, the project site is within an area of high seismic hazard. Action S-1.1.5 of the City's General Plan states that any major development proposals on areas of high seismic hazards will require a soils analysis and geotechnical investigation. The policies and actions contained in the Gonzales 2010 General Plan lessen the potential impacts related to seismic events, and the California Building Code (CBC) is designed to mitigate major



seismic hazards. The project would also comply with recommendations set forth in the soils analysis and geotechnical investigation. Nevertheless, due to the presence of a high seismic hazard area, this issue is considered **potentially significant** and be further analyzed in the EIR.

*iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Liquefaction is a type of ground failure that involves the temporary transformation of soil into a fluid mass. Liquefaction typically occurs in areas where groundwater is less than 30 feet below the surface, and where the soils are composed predominantly of poorly consolidated fine sand. The City's General Plan states that liquefaction typically occurs in areas where soils are sandy or water-saturated, including the existing WWTP site. The proposed project is adjacent to the existing WWTP site and is also within this area of high liquefaction hazard. Liquefaction hazards would be addressed in the required soils analysis and geotechnical investigation(s) for the proposed project, as detailed in General Plan Actions HS-1.1.4 and HS-1.1.5. Implementation of the recommendations included in these investigations, as well as compliance with the CBC and other applicable regulations related to seismic hazards, would lessen the potential impacts related to liquefaction and ground failure. However, per the General Plan analysis, the seismic impacts are **potentially significant** and will be analyzed in the EIR.

*iv) Landslides?*

The project site is located on relatively flat to gently sloping topography, adjacent to the Salinas River, with no nearby slopes susceptible to failure. There would be **no impact** related to landslides.

*b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

The proposed project would involve ground disturbance for construction of the wastewater collection line and IWTP. The City's General Plan EIR indicates that the project site is in an area of low erosion potential. Nevertheless, all construction and grading activities for the proposed project would comply with Chapter 10.28, Storm Water Quality Management and Discharge Control, of the Gonzales City Code. This includes the implementation of pre- and post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are required to be consistent with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board to eliminate run-off and erosion and sediment controls. All future construction would be reviewed for compliance with the County SWPPP. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

*c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

As discussed above, the proposed project is an area that may be subject to seismic ground shaking and liquefaction. The project would implement the recommendations included in the required soils analysis and geotechnical investigation(s) and would adhere to the CBC guidelines. Thus, while it is anticipated that impacts will be avoided through feasible measures, this is a **potentially significant** impact that will be addressed in the EIR.

- d) ***Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?***

Expansive soils are those that greatly increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. When buildings are placed on expansive soils, foundations may rise each wet season and fall each dry season. This movement may result in cracking foundations, distortion of structures, and warping of doors and windows. According to the General Plan EIR, the project site is in an area of low expansion potential. The project would be designed and constructed in compliance with applicable building standards and the CBC, and would be constructed to appropriate site-specific conditions identified by geotechnical investigations required to be conducted for the project site. Thus, impacts would be **less than significant**.

- e) ***Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?***

The project does not propose the use of septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems. There would be **no impact**.

- f) ***Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?***

According to the City's General Plan, most of the fossils found in Monterey County are of aquatic vertebrates. Due to the proximity to the ocean, the area lacks large, terrestrial fossils found in other regions of the United States. Most of Monterey County's fossils are micro-organisms or assemblages of mollusks and barnacles most commonly found in sedimentary rocks ranging from Cretaceous age (138 to 96 million years old) to Pleistocene age (1.6 million to 11 thousand years old). The project could potentially disturb previously unknown paleontological resources or unique geological features during project construction. This would be a **potentially significant** impact. Paleontological resources will be discussed in further detail in the EIR. The discussion will include the results of a paleontological records search at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County for the proposed project area. If needed, mitigation measures will be provided to ensure that impacts related to paleontological resources are less than significant.

## 4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a-b) *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

*Would the project generate conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

The proposed project would involve greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from construction and operation that could potentially have a significant adverse effect on the environment or conflict with the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted in 2018. Thus, impacts would be **potentially significant** and would be discussed further in the EIR. The GHG emissions assessment in the EIR will include estimates of the GHG emissions associated with construction and operation of the proposed project, and will discuss the project's consistency with the CAP.

## 4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b> – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a-b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

***Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?***

Plant operations would require routine delivery of common water treatment chemicals. All chemical uses are pre-existing and chemicals are transported, delivered, and dispensed by qualified, licensed vendors in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Operational use of chemicals following implementation of the proposed project would be consistent with established practices for water treatment and existing plant operations. Hazardous materials used in construction and equipment and facilities maintenance activities include paints and sealant coatings, petroleum-based fuels, hydraulic fluids, and lubricants used in vehicles and equipment. These materials would be used, stored, and transported to the site in accordance with applicable regulations and product labeling and safety data sheets. All construction waste materials would be disposed of in compliance with state and federal hazardous waste requirements and at appropriate facilities. The proposed project would comply with all regulations related to hazardous materials and would prevent a significant risk of upset or accident conditions that would involve the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Construction would be carried out in compliance with a SWPPP prepared in compliance with the requirements of the State Construction General Permit. The SWPPP includes the use of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for spill prevention during construction. Although the project may involve the use of hazardous materials, which may have a **potentially significant** impact on the environment. This issue will be addressed in the EIR.

- c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

The proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or waste within one-quarter mile of a school. The closest school is La Gloria Elementary School, located approximately 0.65 miles northwest of Puente Del Monte Avenue. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

- d) Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

Based on a search of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database, the project is not a site with known contamination (DTSC 2020). The project is not located on a hazardous materials site and there would be **no impact**.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

The proposed project site is not within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The closest airport is Quail Creek Airport located more than 8.4 miles northwest of the proposed project site. There would be **no impact**.

- f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Monterey County has designated Gonzales River Road as a "Pre-Designated Emergency Evacuation Route" to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and personnel during declared emergencies (City of Gonzales 2010c). The proposed project would involve construction along Gonzales River Road but would not create any long-term impacts that would interfere with the evacuation plan. Thus, impacts would be **less than significant**.

- g) *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?*

The proposed project is within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and is not designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by CAL FIRE. The closest Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is located in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the proposed project site (CAL FIRE 2008). Impacts would be **less than significant**.

## 4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?***

The existing WWTP operates under a permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and has a permitted capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day. Negative impacts associated with agricultural chemicals has resulted in the RWQCB requiring the City to develop a compliance work plan and long-term wastewater management plan to demonstrate the City's plan to improve effluent water quality and protect local groundwater resources. The project is located adjacent to the Salinas River, which extends throughout the Salinas Valley. The lower Salinas River, which extends from Gonzales Road to the estuary, has been impacted by numerous contaminants with established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), including pesticides, bacteria, chloride, nitrates, total dissolved solids, pH, and PCBs. Project construction and operation could potentially involve impacts to water quality, and impacts would therefore be **potentially significant**. The EIR will discuss in detail the potential impacts to groundwater quality and surface water quality, with sources including applicant provided, site-specific geotechnical reports, if available; applicant provided hydrology/hydraulics report and water quality report, if available; and information provided in the City of Gonzales General Plan and General Plan EIR (City of Gonzales 2018b, 2010c).

**b) *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?***

The proposed project would involve conversion of pervious surface to impervious surface, and would thus have the potential to interfere with groundwater recharge. This impact is **potentially significant** and will be discussed in detail in the EIR.

- c) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*

*i-iii) result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;*

*substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;*

*create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or*

The proposed project would result in the addition of impervious surfaces that could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the area. This would be a **potentially significant** impact. While a SWPPP would be prepared for the project to protect water quality during and following construction, potential impacts will be further analyzed in the EIR, and mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels, if necessary.

*iv) impede or redirect flood flows?*

The proposed IWTP site is located within a 100-year flood zone (FEMA 2020). Impacts related to flood flows would be **potentially significant** and will be further analyzed in the EIR.

- d) *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

Due to the absence of large bodies of water close to the planning area, the potential for tsunamis or seiches is considered nonexistent. However, the IWTP is within a 100-year flood zone and could potentially release pollutants due to project inundation. This impact would be **potentially significant** and will be discussed in further detail in the EIR.

- e) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

As discussed, project construction and operation could potentially involve impacts to water quality and groundwater recharge. These impacts would potentially conflict with applicable plans related to water quality or groundwater, and thus are **potentially significant**. The EIR will discuss in detail the potential impacts to water quality and groundwater will determine if the proposed project is consistent with applicable plans.

## 4.11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING</b> – Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) Would the project physically divide an established community?**

The project includes no components that would result in a physical division of any established communities, as no established communities are in the project vicinity and no above-ground linear features are proposed. There would be **no impact**.

**b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

The proposed project would establish a wastewater treatment plant on agricultural land, adjacent to the existing WWTP. While impacts related to land use are anticipated to be **less than significant**, the EIR will discuss the consistency of the project with applicable plans intended to reduce or avoid an environmental impact. The EIR section will include a discussion of the General Plan and any specific plans or regional plans that apply to the proposed project.

## 4.12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES</b> – Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



- a-b) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

*Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?*

According to the General Plan EIR, the City does not contain any valuable mineral resources or mineral resource recovery site (City of Gonzales 2010c). Review of the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Geologic Map data shows that the project site is not within a mineral resource zone district (DOC 2015). There would be **no impact**.

## 4.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIII. NOISE</b> – Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

The proposed project would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise from construction activities, and a permanent increase in ambient noise from the new IWTP and its operations. The City of Gonzales does not have established standards for ambient noise. Additionally, the project is adjacent to the existing WWTP and is surrounded by agricultural land. There are no noise-sensitive land uses located near the project site. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

**b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

The proposed project would not create a permanent new source of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. A temporary increase, not anticipated to exceed prescribed thresholds, in groundborne vibration and noise may result from construction activities. There are no sensitive receptors near the proposed project site. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

**c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or near a public or private airport/airstrip. There would be **no impact**.

## 4.14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a-b) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

**Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

The proposed IWTP site does not include existing housing units. The project would not result in the direct construction of housing units. The proposed project could possibly induce additional population growth by providing for additional employment in the area. However, this growth is not expected to be substantial. The proposed project would allow the City to accommodate growth within the City that is already anticipated in the General Plan. Thus, impacts would be **less than significant**.

## 4.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES</b>				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

*Fire protection?*

*Police protection?*

*Schools?*

*Parks?*

*Other public facilities?*

The project would not result in additional population in the area (see Section 4.14, Population and Housing) and thus would require no new or expanded facilities to support adequate fire or police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. Therefore, the project would result in **no impact** from physical impacts associated with providing new or modified facilities.

## 4.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVI. RECREATION</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*a-b) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

*Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The project would not result in an increase of the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities because the project would not induce substantial population growth (see Section 4.14, Population and Housing), nor would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. There would be **no impact**.

## 3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a) *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?***

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new wastewater collection line and IWTP adjacent to the existing WWTP. The wastewater collection line would be underground and would only involve minor, temporary construction impacts to Puente Del Monte Avenue, Gonzales River Road, and Short Road. Production rates and work hours may be reduced to accommodate for traffic procedures control and public safety. Access through these roads would be maintained during construction and would involve no long-term impact. The proposed project would not significantly intrude on any transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. As mentioned above, impacts from construction of the wastewater collection line would be temporary in nature. Additionally, the project would be consistent with the City's General Plan, which contains actions such as Action CIR-1.1.9 which states that there shall be a periodic system of traffic monitoring to ensure that the impacts of new development are evaluated.

The IWTP site would be built on what is currently farmland, adjacent to the existing WWTP. The IWTP would be accessed through Short Road, as currently by the WWTP. Increase in vehicle trips to the IWTP would be minor, as the new facility would be adjacent to the WWTP and would likely be visited by the same personnel, delivery vehicles, and other services necessary for wastewater operations. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with any programs, plans, ordinances, or policies addressing the circulation system. The impact would be **less than significant**.

**b) *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?***

According to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 Subdivision (b)(1), a project's vehicle miles traveled or VMT that exceeds an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Projects that decrease VMT in the project area compared to existing conditions should be considered to have a less-than-significant transportation impact. The City has not yet adopted significance thresholds for VMT. The proposed project would include development of an undeveloped site; thereby potentially increasing VMT in comparison to existing conditions.

The project is currently proposing an IWTP and associated wastewater collections line. Wastewater facilities are typically low trip generators as compared to commercial uses and result in a lower than City-wide average VMT. With consideration of the above, this impact would be considered **less than significant**.

- c) **Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

The proposed project does not include any geometric design features such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections, and would not involve any new and incompatible uses. There would be **no impact**.

- d) **Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?**

Monterey County has designated Gonzales River Road as a “Pre-Designated Emergency Evacuation Route” to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and personnel during declared emergencies (City of Gonzales 2010c). The proposed project would involve construction along Gonzales River Road but would not create any long-term impacts that would interfere with the evacuation plan. Thus, impacts would be **less than significant**.

## 4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>				
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:*
- i) *Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?*
- ii) *A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?*

Refer to Section 4.5, Cultural Resources. Dudek has requested a Sacred Lands File search from the Native American Heritage Commission and will conduct outreach to the Native American community using the list of tribal contacts provided by Native American Heritage Commission for tribal groups associated with project area vicinity. Pending these results, impacts related to tribal cultural resources are **potentially significant**. A summary of these records searches and engagement with Native American tribes will be included in the EIR, and mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels.

## 4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) ***Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

The project is the construction of the IWTP and wastewater collections. Consideration of wastewater facilities is integral to the environmental analysis and will be considered throughout the EIR, rather than a specific utilities section. The IWTP is adjacent to the existing WWTP and would be served by extended utilities connections including electric power, water, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities and all disturbance associated with provision of utilities to serve the project is included in the analysis of each resource category in this Initial Study. On-site drainage would be routed to the existing drainage system on the premises. Impacts related to the extension of non-wastewater utilities would be **less than significant**.

- b) ***Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?***

The proposed project would accommodate industrial wastewater flows, which are tied to the use of process water for agricultural industries. Future projects served by the IWTP would comply with the City's General Plan, which contains actions related to water supply. Action FS-2.1.1 calls for the protection of existing water service, requiring that the City allow new development only "when public water can be supplied and delivered without threatening water supply or water quality in the rest of Gonzales." The General Plan EIR concluded that the policies and implementing actions of the General Plan, plus the requirement for collaborative planning and documentation of water sources required by Senate Bills 610 and 221, including preparation of Water Assessments, serve to protect groundwater supplies and to reduce the environmental effects associated with water supplies to a level of **less than significant**.

- c) ***Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?***

The proposed project itself is the construction of a wastewater facility. As previously discussed, the proposed project would accommodate existing industrial wastewater flows and prevent future capacity shortfalls. This impact would be **less than significant**.



- d-e) *Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*

*Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

The proposed project is not expected to generate solid waste in amounts significantly greater than the existing WWTP or the amount typical for a wastewater facility. The Johnson Canyon Road Landfill is expected to provide landfill services through the year 2042 and had 2.2 million tons of capacity remaining as of 2010 (City of Gonzales 2010c). The project would also comply with the requirements of any federal, state, or local policies related to solid waste, recycling, and organic waste. Thus, impacts would be **less than significant**.

## 4.20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XX. WILDFIRE</b> – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a-d) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

*Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

*Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

*Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

The proposed project is within an LRA and is not designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by CAL FIRE. The closest Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is located in an SRA approximately 2.0 miles southwest of the proposed project site (CAL FIRE 2008). Impacts would be **less than significant**.

## 4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

As discussed in this IS, it is possible that the proposed project would degrade air quality, water quality, or have a substantial impact on cultural or archaeological resources, or wildlife population and habitat. These impacts are considered **potentially significant** and would be discussed in further detail in the EIR. Mitigation measures would be identified, as necessary, to address the potential impacts to air, water, and biological and cultural resources.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

The properties adjacent to the ITWP site are largely agricultural lands, with the exception of the existing WWTP to the south. It is possible that the construction of the IWTP would have cumulatively considerable impacts combined with the effects of past, current, and probably future projects in the City. This is a **potentially significant** impact. The EIR will further address the current and probable cumulative conditions within the City, air basin, and general project area and will provide mitigation measures to reduce impacts as necessary.

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

As analyzed in this IS, it is possible that the proposed project would have an environmental effect that would cause significant adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly, such as air quality or water quality impacts. These impacts are considered **potentially significant** and will be thoroughly analyzed in the subsequent EIR.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# 5 References and Preparers

---

## 5.1 References Cited

14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendices A through L. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

California Public Resources Code, Section 21000–21177. California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

Monterey County. 2010. Williamson Act Lands. October 20, 2010.

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=46006>

Monterey County. 2020. “Lookup Zoning”. Accessed April 14, 2020. Available at:

<https://montereyco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=1dce0909198142128bc57aee61c811ea>

CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). 2008. Monterey County Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA. Adopted November 4, 2008.

City of Gonzales. 2010a. City of Gonzales 2010 General Plan Land Use Diagram. Accessed April 14, 2020.

Available at: <https://gonzalesca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-03/Land%20Use%20Map.pdf>

City of Gonzales. 2010b. Zoning Map. Adopted February 2010. Accessed April 14, 2020. Available at:

[https://gonzalesca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/Gonzales\\_Zoning\\_Map\\_11x17\\_20120306%204-2012.pdf](https://gonzalesca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/Gonzales_Zoning_Map_11x17_20120306%204-2012.pdf)

City of Gonzales. 2010c. Gonzales 2010 General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Public Review Draft. SCH #2009121017. July 2010. Prepared by CoastPlans for the City of Gonzales.

City of Gonzales. 2018a. “Demographic Profile”. Accessed April 13, 2020. Available at:

<https://gonzalesca.gov/business/business-development/doing-business-here/demographic-profile>

City of Gonzales. 2018b. Gonzales 2010 General Plan. Adopted by Gonzales City Council on January 18, 2011.

Revised June 2018. Prepared by CoastPlans with Hamilton-Swift & Associates, Inc. and Eadie Consulting for the City of Gonzales.

Department of Finance. 2019. E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State — January 1, 2018 and 2019. May 2019. Accessed April 14, 2020.

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-1/>

Dudek. 2018. City of Gonzales Long Term Wastewater Management Plan. Revised Draft. August 2018.

Dudek. 2019. Alternative Alignments Analysis Technical Memorandum. Prepared for the City of Gonzales. December 2019.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). 2020. National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer. <https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>

FMMP (Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program). 2012. Monterey County Important Farmland. California Department of Conservation. 2012.

Wallace Group. 2020. City of Gonzales Industrial Wastewater Recycling Facility Draft Preliminary Engineering Report. Prepared February 2020.

## 5.2 List of Preparers

### **City of Gonzales**

Patrick Dobbins, PE

Mathew Sundt

### **Dudek**

Brian Grattidge, Project Manager

Phillip Giori, Project Engineer

Angelica Chiu, Project Analyst

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK