



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE
INTEGRATED MASTER PLAN**

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and interested members of the public

From: City of Porterville Community Development Department, Julie D. Phillips, AICP, Community Development Manager

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Integrated Master Plan

Date: September 2, 2020

Action: The City of Porterville (City) will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will be responsible for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA and CEQA Guidelines.

Project Title: Integrated Master Plan

Project Applicant: City of Porterville

Project Location

The city of Porterville is located in the San Joaquin Valley in Tulare County west of the Sierra Nevada. Porterville is located primarily north of California State Route (SR) 190, and east of SR 65, approximately 20 miles southeast of Visalia, and 50 miles north of Bakersfield. Implementation of the proposed Integrated Master Plan would occur throughout Porterville.

Project Description

The overall proposed project to be addressed in the EIR is referred to as the Integrated Master Plan. The Integrated Master Plan would update the City's existing Water, Sewer, Wastewater, and Stormdrain Master Plans into one cohesive document. Figure 1 (attached) shows the City's current water, wastewater, and storm drainage service areas. The proposed Integrated Master Plan includes the following objectives:

- Update the City's previous master plans;
- Conduct an evaluation of the City's future water supply options;
- Identify capacity deficiencies in the water, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage systems;

- Develop feasible improvements to correct identified deficiencies;
- Conduct an evaluation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility; and
- Examine the feasibility of implementing a recycled water program.

Implementation of the Integrated Master Plan would involve physical improvements, which may include:

- Installation or replacement of water, sewer, and/or stormdrain lines;
- Construction of additional stormwater drainage and/or recharge basins;
- Water capacity programs; and
- Sewer conveyance systems.

Several improvements have been identified to occur in the near future and will be addressed at a more detailed, project-level in the EIR. These near-term projects include the following:

- Potable Water: Replace smaller diameter water distribution pipelines throughout the service area with greater diameter pipelines to improve fire flow.
- Sanitary Sewer: Upgrade four lift stations (LS-6, LS-9, LS-11, and LS-15) to address capacity deficiencies, and replace smaller diameter sanitary sewer pipelines throughout the service area with greater diameter pipelines.
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Upgrade the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant to produce Title 22 disinfected tertiary recycled water.

Figure 2 (attached) shows the existing water pipelines throughout the City's water service area. Figure 3 (attached) shows the existing sanitary sewer pipelines, the locations of the existing lift stations and the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant that would be upgraded as a part of this project.

Alternatives to be Analyzed in the EIR

In accordance with Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess a range of reasonable alternatives to the project. The range of alternatives to be addressed will include alternatives that are specifically required by CEQA (e.g., the No Project Alternative), as well as other alternatives (intended to reduce or eliminate potentially significant impacts) as identified through the coordinated consultation and planning process.

Potential Environmental Impacts

An Initial Study is typically prepared during the environmental scoping process to determine whether a project warrants the preparation of an EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), the lead agency can determine that an EIR will clearly be required for a project and may proceed with preparing an EIR without conducting an initial review of potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed project. The City has determined that there is substantial evidence that this project could result in significant environmental impacts and/or have a significant impact on the quality of the environment, thereby necessitating the preparation of an EIR.

The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Integrated Master Plan, after having first established the environmental setting, or baseline, for the environmental analysis. The proposed Integrated Master Plan will be analyzed in the EIR relative to both short-term construction and long-term operations in the environmental topics listed below. In addition,

depending on the timing of implementation of some improvements identified in the proposed Integrated Master Plan, some improvements, as identified above, will be evaluated at a more detailed, project-level, while other, long-term projects will be evaluated on a program-level. In each instance, the significance of potential impacts, cumulative impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the project would be thoroughly discussed in the EIR. The EIR will be comprehensive and will evaluate each of the environmental issue topics required by CEQA. The individual issue topics include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Written Comments

As required by Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared and distributed to solicit comments from interested parties and potential Responsible and Trustee Agencies and other public agencies so that project-related concerns relevant to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Integrated Master Plan can be addressed in the EIR, as well as any related issues from interested parties other than potential responsible and Trustee Agencies, including other agencies and affected members of the public. The EIR will be the environmental document of reference for Responsible and Trustee Agencies when considering subsequent discretionary approvals.

The City requests that interested parties and any potential Responsible or Trustee Agencies responding to this NOP reply in a manner consistent with Section 15082(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which allows for submittal of any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt of the NOP. Comments in response to this NOP will be accepted through October 1, 2020. Written comments should be addressed to the person noted below:

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City of Porterville
291 North Main St
Porterville, CA 93257
Phone: (559) 782-7460
Email: jphillips@ci.porterville.ca.us

Public Scoping Meeting

The CEQA process encourages comments and questions from the general public, public agencies, and other interested parties throughout the planning process. Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, signed by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and in an effort to protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, the City of Porterville is allowing for and encouraging electronic participation at public meetings.

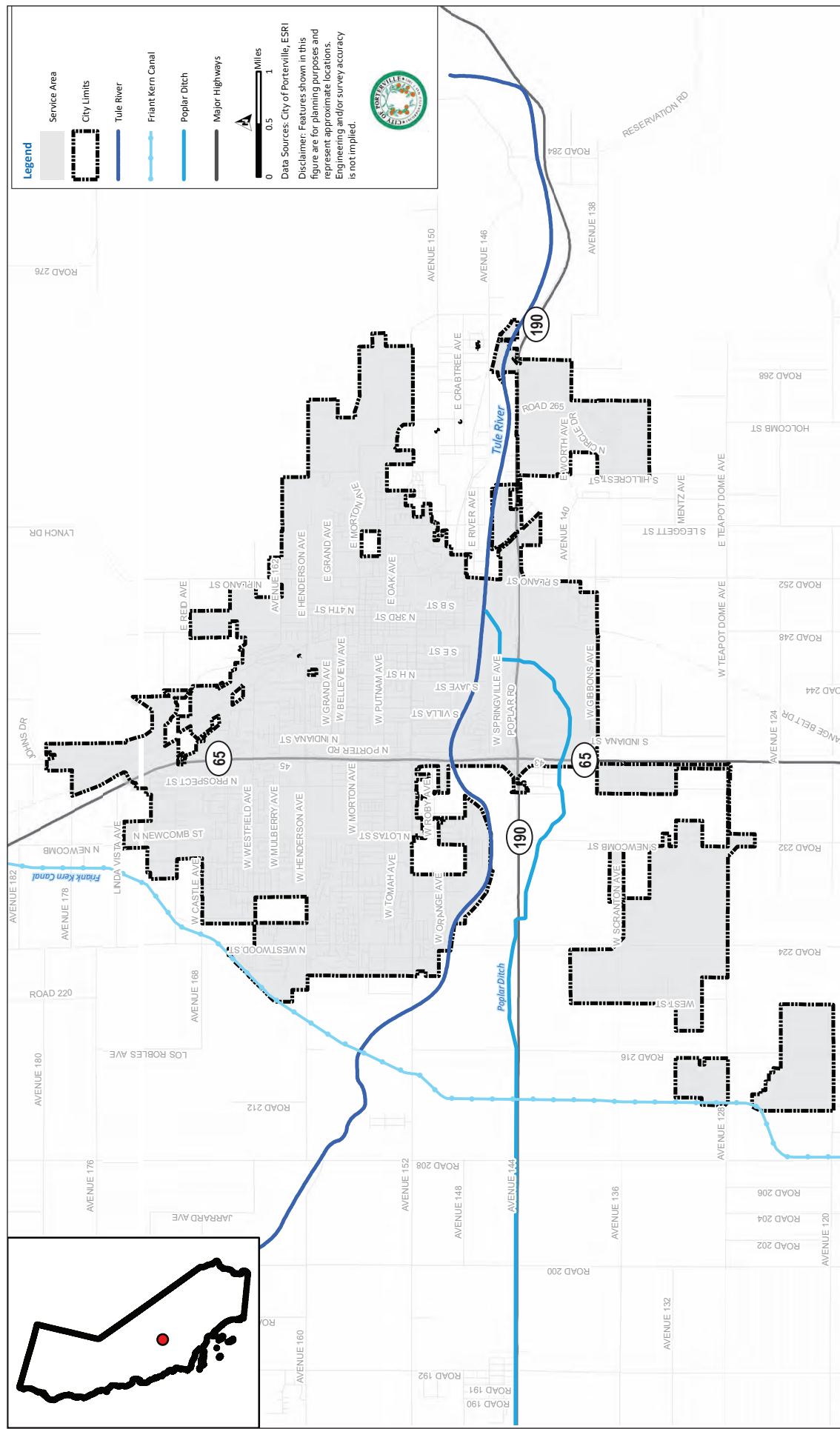
Consistent with the California Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082(c)(1) and 15082(c)(2)(A) through 15082(c)(2)(D), a Public Scoping Meeting will be held via the City's YouTube channel to solicit comments on the scope and content of the EIR. At 11:00 A.M. on September 22, 2020, the City will post a pre-recorded presentation regarding the proposed project and scope and content of the EIR for interested parties to view. During the time designated below, questions and comments submitted to the City via email will be provided responses by City staff and the City's CEQA consultants. The Public Scoping Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: September 22, 2020

Time: 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Place: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5KuhSrNMNL9nwHJVtnJvvA>

Public comments may be submitted to IntMasterPlan@ci.porterville.ca.us and responses will be provided; additionally, comments will be shared at the conclusion of the meeting and responses to questions will be shared at that time as well. Members of the public are encouraged to submit comments or questions in advance to the extent feasible. Please direct any questions to the Office of City Clerk at (559) 782-7464.



LSA

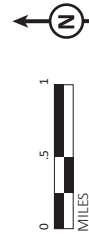


FIGURE 1

Integrated Master Plan EIR Notice of Preparation

Project Location and Service Area

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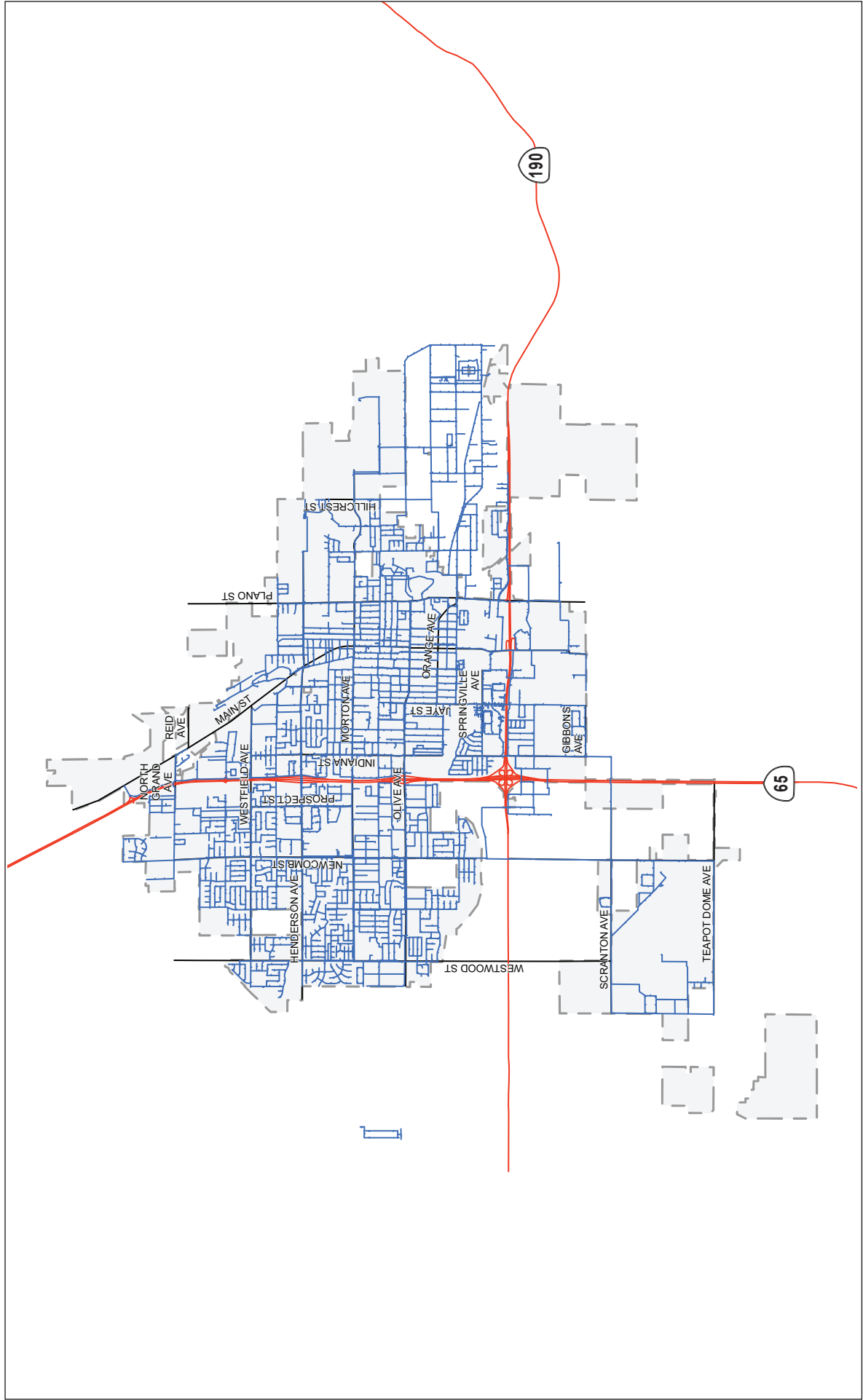


FIGURE 2

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City Limits
Water Lines

Integrated Master Plan EIR Notice of Preparation
Existing Potable Water Distribution System

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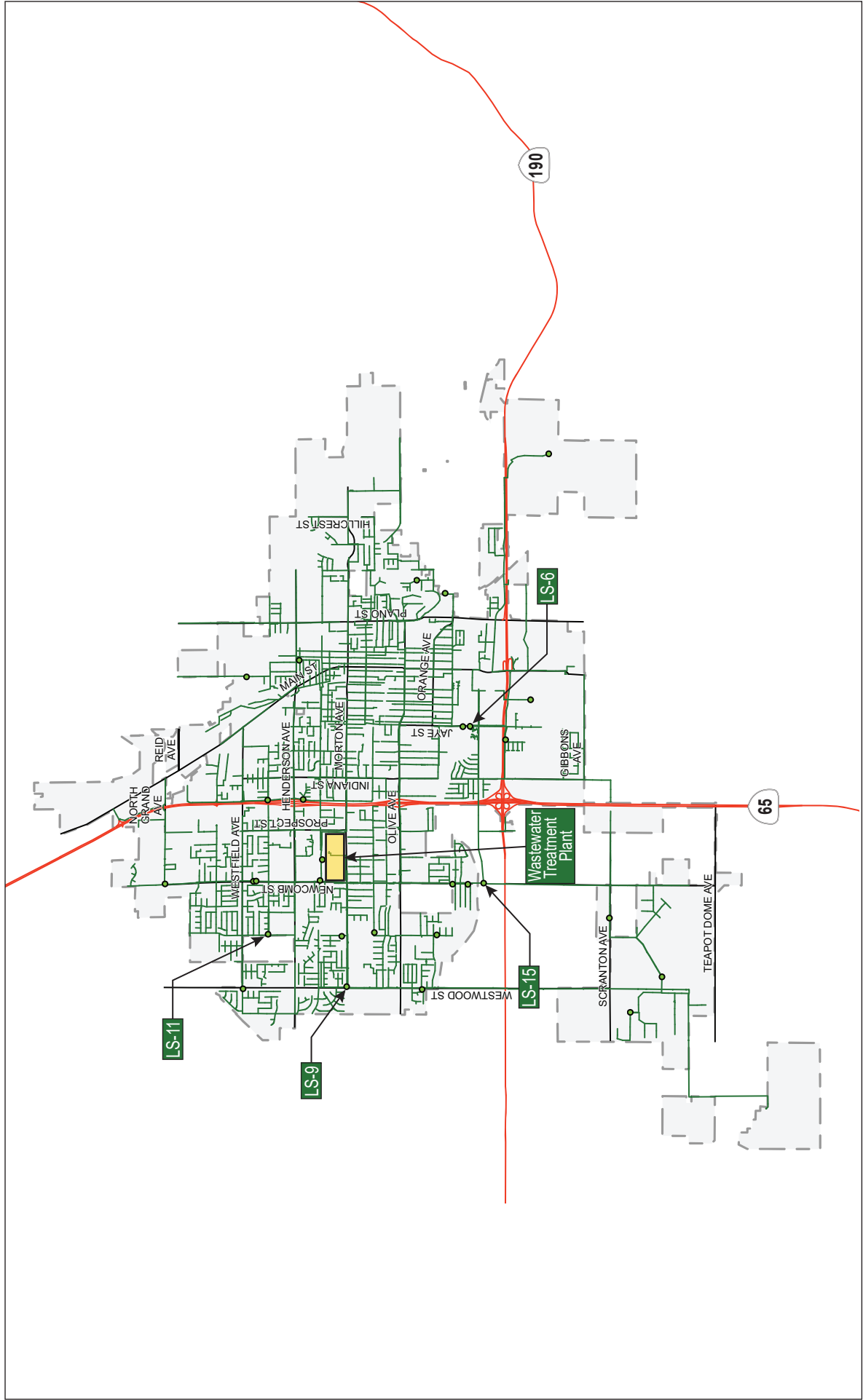


FIGURE 3

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City Limits

Sewer Lift Stations

Sewer Lines

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MILES

Integrated Master Plan EIR Notice of Preparation
Existing Sanitary Sewer System

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