

1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The City of Lone is proposing to expand the City's wastewater treatment and disposal capacity to accommodate near term and future planned growth. The project is also intended to address and comply with a Cease and Desist Order from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The majority of the project area is located in the southwestern corner of the City on property owned by the City of Lone. Figure 1.1-1 shows the location of the City of Lone in Amador County, California.

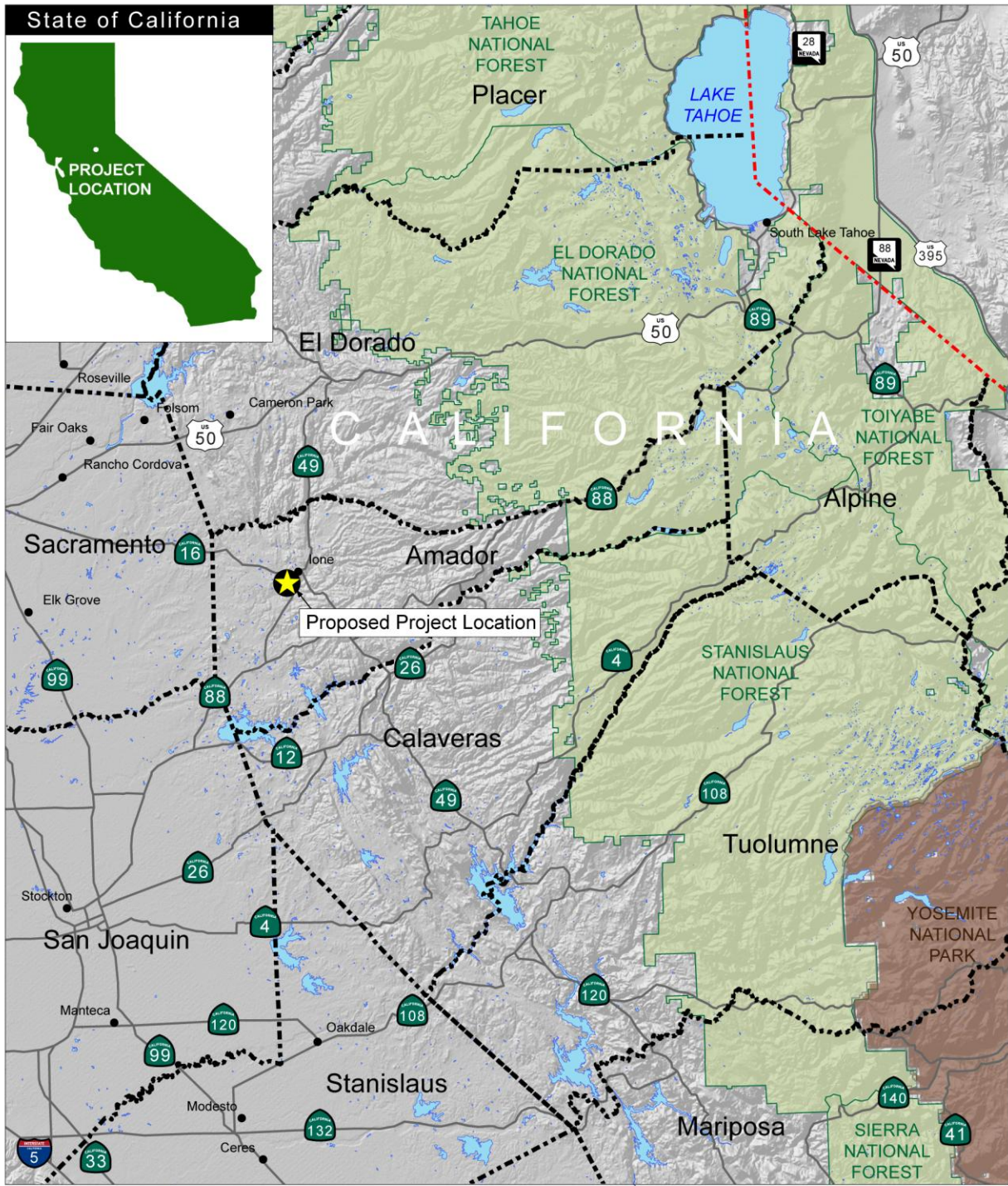
1.1 EIR Process

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) require all government agencies in California to assess potential impacts to the environment prior to making a discretionary decision. The City of Lone (City) has been identified as the lead agency for preparation of the environmental assessment presented in this EIR. As a lead agency, the City must determine if the proposed project would result in significant impacts to the environment, and whether those impacts could be avoided, eliminated, compensated for, or reduced to less-than-significant levels. This EIR will become part of a body of evidence that the City and responsible agencies will use in deciding whether or not to approve the project.

1.1.1 NOTICE OF PREPARATION








In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this EIR (see Appendix A). The NOP was mailed on November 26, 2008 to local, State, and federal agencies, the State clearinghouse, and potentially affected property owners for a 30-day review period. The NOP provided a general description of the proposed project and a summary of the main regulations and permit conditions applicable to the development and operation of the proposed project. The agency and public comments received on the proposed project in response to the NOP are included in Appendix B.

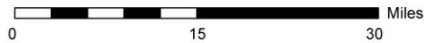
Figure 1.1-1: Proposed Project Location



SOURCE: ESRI 2006 and RMT Inc. 2009

LEGEND

-  Proposed Project Location
-  National Forest Area
-  National Park Area
-  U.S. Highway
-  Interstate Highway
-  CA State Route
-  NV State Route



1.1.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

The City of Lone conducted a public meeting for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the expansion of the City of Lone's wastewater treatment plant. The City sent notices of the scoping meeting to potentially interested agencies and adjacent property owners. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the environmental review process and to receive public and agency comments on the scope of this EIR. The meeting was conducted on December 17, 2008 at the City of Lone City Hall. The NOP was submitted November 26, 2008 for a 30+ day review period, which ended December 29, 2008. Oral and written comments were received from the public and agencies and are presented in Appendix B.

1.1.3 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines require lead agencies to "adopt a reporting and mitigation monitoring program for the changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Article 7, Sections 15091(d) and 15097). A final reporting and monitoring program is not required to be included in the EIR. Mitigation measures have been clearly identified throughout the EIR, presented in language that will facilitate establishment of a monitoring program. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the project will be a stand-alone document separate from the Final EIR.

1.2 Key Areas of Environmental Concern

This EIR presents an analysis of all potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project. The key areas of environmental concern described in this document include:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Agriculture
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning, and Recreation
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation and Traffic

1.3 Organization of the EIR

This EIR has been organized into the following sections:

- **Executive Summary:** Presents a summary of the proposed project, required permits, environmental setting, impacts of the proposed project, mitigation measures identified to reduce or eliminate significant impacts, and a summary of alternatives to the proposed project.
- **Chapter 1. Introduction:** Provides an introduction and overview that describes the proposed project and the purpose of the EIR, summarizes the EIR review and certification process, identifies key areas of environmental concern, and outlines the EIR process.

- **Chapter 2. Project Description:** Presents the project objectives, provides a detailed description of the proposed project, including facilities and construction methods, and the permits required for the proposed project's implementation.
- **Chapter 3. Environmental Impact Analyses:** Includes a description of the existing conditions, analysis of the proposed project's potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures for the impacts identified in this EIR.
- **Chapter 4. Cumulative and Growth-Inducing Impacts:** Describes cumulative and growth-inducing impacts resulting from implementation of the Project, together with reasonably anticipated future projects that may have related or cumulative impacts.
- **Chapter 5. Alternatives:** Describes the objectives of the proposed project and provides an evaluation of a reasonable range of project options that would reduce or avoid environmental impacts. The alternatives section describes alternative ways of meeting the project objectives and alternative locations for certain proposed facilities. In addition, the No Project Alternative is evaluated.
- **Chapter 6. Report Preparation:** Lists preparers of this EIR and identifies public agencies that were consulted in its preparation.
- **Chapter 7. References:** Lists sources of information used in the preparation of this EIR.
- **Appendices:** Includes the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this EIR, comments received in response to the NOP, and background technical material.

1.4 Incorporated References

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this EIR:

- Basin Research Associates. 2009. Historic Property Survey Report/Finding of Effect for the Lone Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan Draft EIR Located in Amador County, California. Prepared for RMT, Inc. May 2009.
- Balance Hydrologics, Inc. 2009. Hydrology Report.