

1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

1.1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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.

The City of Lone has prepared a detailed project description as part of the City of Lone Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Master Plan Project (Master Plan). The Master Plan includes a broad range of project elements. Not all of the project elements identified in this project description are required to meet the City's objectives, but all of these project elements are addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in order to provide the City with sufficient flexibility to address uncertainties that may arise.

For purposes of the EIR, this project is separated into four parts. The first part includes the project elements that have already been constructed. In accordance with a Settlement Agreement between the City of Lone and a neighbor of the existing WWTP facilities, certain of these elements require additional CEQA review. The remaining three parts include the phases of new construction proposed in the Master Plan. The four parts are as follows:

Existing Infrastructure - The existing project infrastructure that requires additional CEQA review are the construction and later reconstruction of Pond 7, the intended construction of Pond 8, and the action to allow ARSA's secondary treated effluent to be sent to Pond 7 for percolation in the wet months of the year.

Part I – Treatment - This part of the project includes expansion of the City's secondary and tertiary treatment facilities to provide more treatment capacity to the City. The completion of the first phase of Part I would supply the City of Lone with 0.80 MGD of wastewater treatment capacity. The second phase of Part I would expand the wastewater treatment facilities to 1.60 MGD of capacity. All elements of Part I (including both phases of construction) are addressed at the project level.

Part II - Disposal - This part involves the disposal of the City's treated wastewater. The first construction phase of Part II includes the construction of a new Pond 8 adjacent and to the west of Pond 7. Pond 8 would be required in order to meet near term wastewater disposal needs, and would be constructed at the same time as the first phase of the Part I project elements. Construction of Pond 8 is addressed at a project level, and would expand the City's treated wastewater disposal

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capacity to 0.90 MGD. In order to address future treated wastewater disposal needs, the City of Lone has identified three possible future disposal options that could be pursued in a second phase of Part II. Disposal Options 1-3 are identified in a general manner, and are addressed at a programmatic level in this EIR.

Part III - Storage - This part of the project involves the storage of the City's treated effluent. Part III would occur at a later time in the implementation of the Master Plan should additional treated wastewater storage capacity be required. Details of this project part are not well defined at this time; however, conceptual plans are developed. The EIR addresses the elements of Part III at a programmatic level. Further environmental review would be required prior to implementation of Part III, with this EIR as a first tier document.

All elements of the project are included in Table 1.1-1.

Table 1.1-1: Summary of Project Parts and Elements			
Part	Element	Description of Element	Project vs. Programmatic Review
Existing Infrastructure			
Existing Infrastructure	Pond 7	Review and evaluation of the impacts of the construction and later reconstruction and repair of Pond 7, and the percolation of ARSA wastewater in Pond 7	Project
Part I of the Master Plan: Treatment of Wastewater			
Phase 1	Line or Partially Fill Ponds 5 and 6	Drain and clean Pond 5, and then either partially fill the pond within 200 feet of Sutter Creek with clean imported fill, or line the pond within 200 feet of Sutter Creek with an impermeable layer Repeat with Pond 6	Project
	Activated Sludge System (0.80 MGD capacity)	Construction of a new headworks facility, including influent pumps, screening equipment, grit removal, and piping and valves Construction of a new biosolids management system, including aerated sludge storage facilities, mechanical dewatering system, and a dry solids storage and hauling site Construction of miscellaneous facilities, including an operations building, maintenance yard, electrical building, emergency power generation system, and landscaping Demolition of the existing secondary treatment facilities	Project
	Closure and Reclaim Ponds 1-4	Drain and clean Ponds 1-4, including removal and disposal of sludge, and then either fill all four ponds with clean imported fill, or knock down the levees surrounding the ponds and grade the site smooth	Project
	Pipelines between the Secondary and Tertiary WWTP Facilities	Construction of a pipeline and pumping facilities to send secondary treated wastewater north to the tertiary WWTP for tertiary treatment Construction of a pipeline to send tertiary treated wastewater south to Ponds 5-7 for disposal	Project
	Tertiary WWTP Expansion or New Construction	Expansion and upgrade of the facilities at the existing tertiary WWTP to double the treatment capacity from 1.2 MGD to 2.4 MGD, or construct a new tertiary WWTP facility with a 0.80 MGD capacity adjacent to the new activated sludge system	Project

Table 1.1-1 (Continued): Summary of Project Parts and Elements

Part	Element	Description of Element	Project vs. Programmatic Review
Phase 2	Activated Sludge System (1.60 MGD capacity)	Construction of an expanded biosolids management system adjacent to the existing 0.80 MGD capacity facility, including aerated sludge storage facilities, mechanical dewatering system, and a dry solids storage and hauling site	Project
	Tertiary WWTP Expansion	Expansion of the tertiary WWTP facility adjacent to the new activated sludge system to expand tertiary treatment capacity to 1.60 MGD	Project
Part II of the Master Plan: Disposal of Treated Wastewater			
Phase 1	Disposal to Percolation Pond 8	Construction of Pond 8	Project
Phase 2	Future Disposal Option 1 – Pond 9	Construction of Pond 9	Programmatic
	Future Disposal Option 2 – Disposal to Charles Howard Park and/or Unimin Mine	Construction of a pipeline to allow disposal of reclaimed water at Charles Howard Park and/or Unimin Mine ¹	Programmatic
	Future Disposal Option 3 – Other Potential Disposal Options	Construction of additional percolation ponds Construction of additional pipelines to allow for reclaimed water disposal with other potential end users	Programmatic
Part III of the Master Plan: Storage of Wastewater			
	Preston Reservoir	Construction of a pipeline connection to Preston Reservoir to allow for seasonal storage of wastewater ²	Programmatic
	lone Water Reservoir	Construction of a pipeline connection to the lone Water Reservoir to allow for seasonal storage of wastewater ³	Programmatic
	Other water reservoirs	Construction of a reservoir and a pipeline connection to and from the new reservoir to allow for the seasonal storage of wastewater	Programmatic

¹ The pipeline may dispose to Charles Howard Park and/or Unimin Mine. For the purposes of this analysis, the scenario of disposing to both locations is used. The City has no current agreement with Unimin Mine for disposal of reclaimed water and no current plans to use reclaimed water at Howard Park.

² The City has no current agreements allowing storage a Preston Reservoir.

³ The City has no current agreements allowing storage at the lone Water Reservoir.

1.1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The City of Lone is currently near or at capacity for the treatment and disposal of wastewater, and an expansion of capacity is necessary to accommodate future planned growth and wastewater flows during extremely wet winters.

The Master Plan identifies the activities and guidelines for meeting the City's long term wastewater treatment and disposal needs. The Master Plan provides for tertiary level treatment of all effluent prior to disposal and ensures safe and reliable wastewater treatment for the community. The Master Plan encourages recycling and reuse of treated wastewater, as well as continued regionalization of wastewater services.

In addition, the Central Valley RWQCB issued a Cease and Desist Order (number 5-2003-0108) to the City of Lone on July 11, 2003 due to concerns that insufficiently treated wastewater might be seeping from the existing percolation ponds at the secondary wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) into nearby Sutter Creek. The Master Plan includes remedial action, as specified in the Cease and Desist Order, to ensure that the treatment and disposal of wastewater is performed in an effective manner.

The Master Plan is intended to meet the following objectives:

- 1) Meet the current and future wastewater treatment and disposal needs of the City of Lone;
- 2) Comply with the Cease and Desist order issued by the RWQCB;
- 3) Expand the City's use of reclaimed water;
- 4) Upgrade wastewater treatment and disposal systems;
- 5) Increase wastewater system operating efficiencies; and
- 6) Protect the environment through the development of a modern wastewater treatment and disposal system, and through the application of secondary and tertiary treatment technology.

1.2 Environmental Review Process

The City of Lone prepared a Draft EIR for the purpose of examining the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project prior to making a discretionary decision on the Master Plan. The Draft EIR was released for public review on August 10, 2009. A 45-day review period was provided, through September 24, 2009. The purpose of the review period was to allow the public and agencies to comment on the adequacy of the Draft EIR.

Responses to public and agency comments are provided in this Final EIR. The City of Lone, prior to making a decision on the project, must consider these responses to comments and Final EIR in conjunction with the Draft EIR. No substantial revisions that would merit recirculation of the EIR, as defined by 15073.5(b) of Title 14 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, were made to the project or analyses after public comment.

The Draft EIR was also sent to the State Clearinghouse (State Clearinghouse #2008112105) for review by participating State agencies, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines. A letter was received from the Clearinghouse stating that the project has complied with its review requirements for draft environmental documents under CEQA.

1.3 Organization of the Final EIR

Volume 1 and Volume 2, in combination, form the complete Final EIR. The Final EIR is organized as follows:

Volume 1

- Chapter 1 (Introduction) contains background information on the project and environmental review process.
- Chapter 2 (Comments and Responses) outlines the format of the comments and responses, provides a list of commenters, and then provides copies of all of the written and oral comments, each followed by responses. Text added to the EIR is underlined and deleted text is ~~stricken~~.
- Chapter 3 (Revisions and Errata) summarizes the revisions to the Draft EIR made by City staff or as a result of response to comments, including corrections, modifications of text, tables, and figures and references.
- Appendix A includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the project, outlining all of the proposed mitigation measures and assigning responsibility for implementation and monitoring as well as timing for verification.
- Appendix B includes the Resolution 68-16 Analysis.

Volume 2

- The entire Draft EIR, as distributed on August 10, 2009.

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