

**ADDENDUM NO. 1
TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
GOLDEN HILLS WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(SCH#2016011006)**

Prepared for:

Golden Hills Community Services District
21415 Reeves Street
Tehachapi, California 93561

Prepared by:

Tom Dodson & Associates
2150 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92405

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I. PROJECT INFORMATION

- i) Project Title: Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project
- ii) Lead Agency Name and Address: Golden Hills Community Services District
21415 Reeves Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561
- iii) Contact: Mrs. Susan Wells
E-Mail: gm@ghcsd.com
- iv) Project Location: The Project is located in the unincorporated Kern County community of Golden Hills, which is located in the Tehachapi Mountains between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert immediately west of the City of Tehachapi (refer to Figure 1). The community of approximately 8,600 residents (as of the 2010 U.S. Census) encompasses approximately 12 square miles at an approximate elevation of 3,900 feet above mean sea level. The Golden Hills Community Sanitation Company (GHSC or Company) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located at Monroe Lane-Utility Extension, Old Camp Road in a portion of Section 7, T32S, and R33E (referenced from the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, or MDB&M), on approximately 0.5 acres, approximately 5 miles west of the City of Tehachapi. Figure 2 shows the site location of the WWTP.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Introduction

This document is prepared as an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified by the Golden Hills Community Services District in September 2016 (SCH No. 20160111006). In 2016, the District prepared a Draft EIR that evaluated the proposed improvement alternatives to the existing GHSC WWTP. The EIR evaluated three alternative improvement options for the existing WWTP. The GHCS selected Alternative Option A which consists of making improvements to the existing WWTP.

The proposed Project consists of the rehabilitation of the existing sewage collection, treatment Plant and disposal components used by the privately managed GHSC to provide service to 195 existing connections and areas planned to have sewer service by the original design, and implementation of one of either Option A, Rehabilitation of the Golden Hills WWTP, or Option B (B-1 or B-2), Conveyance of Wastewater to the City of Tehachapi WWTP and decommissioning of the Golden Hills WWTP. The system rehabilitation common to both options includes

replacing components that are not functioning properly, including 6-inch and 8-inch collection pipes, 6-inch, 8-inch, and 12-inch gravity main pipes, manholes, and removal of the existing lift station on Woodford Tehachapi Road.

The three options are: Option A, rehabilitation of the Golden Hills WWTP and related infrastructure upgrades; Option B-1, conveyance of wastewater to the City of Tehachapi WWTP via a lift station on the Woodford Tehachapi Property, related infrastructure upgrades, and decommissioning of the Golden Hills WWTP; and Option B-2, conveyance of wastewater to the City of Tehachapi WWTP via a lift station on the Golden Hills WWTP site, related infrastructure upgrades, and decommissioning of the Golden Hills WWTP (Figures 2, 3, and 4).

Option A provides for the rehabilitation and continued operation of the Golden Hills WWTP, with an opportunity to provide treatment for up to 0.10 mgd of sewage effluent loads, according to the WWTP's rated capacity. Option B-1 would include installation of a lift station and 4-inch diameter force main pipeline to the City of Tehachapi WWTP at Tucker Road and Red Apple Avenue for effluent treatment and disposal. The route for the force main would be entirely within either GHSC property or public right-of-way, and the Golden Hills WWTP would then be decommissioned. With Option B-2, the lift station would be located on the former Golden Hills WWTP site. From the new lift station, a new 4-inch force main would be routed south along an existing dirt road adjacent to Brite Creek, requiring approximately 3,300 linear feet more of force main than Option B-1; however, influent would still be conveyed to the City of Tehachapi for treatment and disposal.

The focus of this Addendum consists of the current proposed improvements for Alternative Option A as fully evaluated in the project EIR and an addition to the project consisting of a small solar field on property adjacent to the WWTP. This solar facility was discussed but not analyzed in the project EIR. Figure 5 shows the location of the proposed solar facility relative to the WWTP. The solar site encompasses approximately 0.3 acre to the north of the WWTP. Figure 6 contains a photo of the hillside where the solar system will be installed. The solar facility has been designed to produce 117.6 kW of electricity daily and annually. After considering the available options for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding this minor project modification and conferring with the State Water Resources Control Board Staff, the GHCSO concluded that compiling an Addendum to the 2016 EIR would be the most appropriate way to comply with CEQA for the proposed addition of the support solar photovoltaic system. This approach justified the preparation of this Addendum to comply with CEQA for the proposed solar system improvements shown on Figure 5. No other changes to the project evaluated in the 2016 EIR are envisioned at this time under this Addendum.

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and State and local CEQA Guidelines, the GHCSO will serve as the Lead Agency for the proposed project installation and integration of the solar photovoltaic system into the improved WWTP. The GHCSO is the Lead Agency because it is the local public agency that will partially fund and implement the WWTP improvement construction. As part of its decision making process, GHCSO is required to review and consider all potential environmental effects that could result from modifying the original project. The GHCSO has compiled this Addendum as the basis for making a new CEQA environmental determination for this modification to the originally approved project.

B. Background

Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Addendum has been prepared in order to determine whether the modified WWTP project will have different or greater impacts from

being installed and operated with the solar system or would result in any other conditions that would require a subsequent environmental document to be prepared because of changes in circumstances or new or additional adverse environmental impacts. This Addendum also reviews any new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the EIR was certified in 2016. This examination includes an analysis in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15164 and 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which outline the criteria and procedures for preparing an Addendum and conducting a second-tier environmental evaluation based on a previous environmental document, in this case the 2016 EIR.

Also pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, GHSC's environmental review of the proposed project modifications is limited to examining the environmental effects associated with the physical changes in the environment from implementing the modified project in comparison to the approved project. This narrow focus is due to the fact that the previously certified EIR has already addressed the environmental impacts of implementing the Alternative Option A improvements in conjunction with other WWTP improvements in the project area. As permitted by CEQA Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines the 2016 EIR, SCH No. 2016011006, are hereby incorporated by reference as part of the Addendum evaluation. A copy of this document is available to review at the GHSC's office located in Tehachapi.

III. CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ADDENDUM

This Addendum No. 1 has been prepared in accordance with the current CEQA Statutes (2019) and Guidelines for implementing CEQA. CEQA Section 15164 includes the following procedures for the preparation and use of an Addendum:

- (b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.
- (c) An addendum need not be circulated for public review, but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR or adopted negative declaration.
- (d) The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the Final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.
- (e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's required findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.

If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after certification of an EIR or MND, the Lead Agency may: (1) prepare a subsequent EIR if the criteria of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) are met, (2) prepare a subsequent negative declaration, (3) prepare an addendum, or (4) prepare no further documentation. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(b)) When only minor technical changes or additions to the approved Negative Declaration are necessary and none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred, CEQA allows the lead agency to prepare and adopt an addendum. (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15164(b))

Under Section 15162, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration is required only when:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the negative declaration due to the involvement of any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous negative declaration;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Based on a review of the general data compiled to consider the installation of the solar photovoltaic system, GHCS D finds that an Addendum is the appropriate environmental determination to address this project modification consistent with the previously certified EIR.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION

As previously indicated, the District prepared a comprehensive review of the Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvements Project using an EIR that was certified by the Board along with technical studies to substantiate findings for site specific environmental issues, such as air quality, biology, cultural resources (refer Attachment 1). The GHCS D Staff considered the options for CEQA compliance with this second-tier CEQA decision under the certified EIR. Based on the scope of this proposed project modification, a decision was made to prepare an Addendum for the project modifications. After considering the available compliance alternatives, a decision was made by the Staff to recommend that the GHCS D Board consider Addendum No. 1 to the certified EIR as the appropriate CEQA environmental determination for the modified project.

Based on the status of information available for this second-tier evaluation, an Addendum, supported by the certified EIR provided in Attachment 1, was concluded to provide the

appropriate level of evaluation of the modified project for compliance with CEQA. Thus, the purpose of this Addendum is to assess the related potential environmental impacts that would result from implementing the modified project, in comparison to the impact forecast contained in the EIR. The following evaluation provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts in relation to the facts and findings contained in the EIR incorporated by reference in this document. The following conclusions were developed regarding potential impacts from approval and implementation of the modified project.

Note that a review of changes in environmental circumstances over the past few years since the EIR was certified (2016) indicates that the no major changes have occurred for any environmental issue in the intervening two-and-one-half years and no modifications have been made to the Golden Hills WWTP since 2016. No changes in general land use have occurred in the vicinity of the project site. Ambient air quality is slightly better now than in the 2016 time frame due to fewer vehicle miles traveled and better controlled mobile and stationary source emissions. Also, overall demand for public services and utilities has generally not grown substantially since the EIR was prepared as the population of area has also not increased substantially since 2016.

Biological/Cultural Resources

- a) *POTENTIAL TO DEGRADE: Does the project have the potential to 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, 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?*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an additional environmental document. The biology findings of the 2016 EIR concluded that implementation of Option A would not result in any significant biology impacts. The original biology analysis in the EIR is provided on pages 4.3-1 through 4.3-17 and Appendix D of the EIR. The detailed biology resource study was made available to interested parties by the Golden Hills Community Services District (District) as an attachment to the Draft EIR. The biological resources evaluation was comprehensive and identified eight mitigation measures needed to reduce potential adverse impacts to a less than significant level. An updated biology evaluation of the expanded project site was completed within the past year and no new adverse impacts or mitigation measures were identified, including the new solar facility site. Thus, for this project modification the new biological resources evaluation is considered sufficient evaluation to comply with the CEQA for biological resource issues.

In conclusion, relative to the biological resource impacts forecast in the 2016 EIR for the approved project, no significant adverse change or effect is forecast to occur in approving and implementing the modified project.

The 2016 EIR examined cultural resources on pages 4.4-1 through 4.4-29 and Appendix E of the EIR. A cultural resources study was made available to interested parties upon request. The evaluation identified potential adverse effects on cultural resources but also identified three mitigation measures capable of reducing potential impacts to a less than significant impact level. An updated cultural resources evaluation of the expanded project site was completed within the past year and no new adverse impacts or mitigation measures were identified, including the new

solar facility site. Thus, for this project modification the new cultural resources evaluation is considered sufficient evaluation to comply with the CEQA for cultural resource issues.

In conclusion, relative to the cultural impacts forecast in the 2016 EIR for the approved project, no significant adverse change or effect is forecast to occur in approving and implementing the modified project.

b) *CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: 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 reviewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future project.)*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an EIR. Those Project-related environmental resources or issues subject to cumulative effects include the following: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, hazards, hydrology/water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, public services/recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. The 2016 EIR concluded that all of the above environmental issues would not experience any significant Project specific or cumulatively considerable adverse environmental impact, in many cases with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Based on the analyses in support of this Addendum, implementation of the modified Project will not result in cumulative impacts any greater than that identified in the EIR. Substantiation for this conclusion is provided in the following text.

Aesthetics: The 2016 EIR analyzes the general aesthetic impacts of the Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project on pages 4.1-1 through 4.1-8. The EIR concluded that aesthetics impacts would be less than significant for Option A, the selected project. The EIR also identified a significant aesthetic impact for Option B1, which is not the selected project. Since the existing WWTP project site already functions as a WWTP, the facility and pipeline modifications will not alter the overall visual character of the area. The EIR concluded that no aesthetic mitigation will be necessary for Option A. As shown on the attached photo (Attachment 2), the proposed solar photovoltaic area is essentially denuded and contains no scenic resource values. No major changes in the circumstances regarding aesthetic resources have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was adopted. Installation of the solar system to support the WWTP is not forecast to cause any new adverse impacts that will require mitigation or be significantly adverse.

Agricultural Resources: The 2016 EIR analyzes the agricultural and forestry impacts of the WWTP Improvement Project in the Initial Study (IS) and concluded no impacts would occur from implementing any of the three alternatives. The IS concluded that impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation without implementation of any mitigation measures. The proposed modified Project will be implemented on the adjacent property where no agricultural or timber resources exist. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to change the findings in the IS and EIR. No changes in the circumstances regarding agricultural or forestry resources have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was certified.

Air Quality/GHG: Due to the recent recession and increasing controls over emissions within the air basin, ambient air quality has not deteriorated, and in most cases has improved, since the original EIR was certified. The 2016 EIR analyzes the air quality and GHG impacts of the WWTP Improvement Project on pages 4.2-1 through 4.2-14 and 4.5-1 through 4.5-11, respectively. Construction impacts from Project implementation would be short-term and would

not obstruct the long-term planning goals of the applicable air quality plan. Construction would require the use of heavy equipment that would produce combusive and fugitive dust emissions. Construction activities associated with the Project would generate less than significant air pollutant emissions. The expanded project site that includes the solar facility is less than one acre in size and should not require mass grading to install the solar pedestals. Due to the already existing low construction emissions, the addition of this small area of disturbance is not forecast to cause daily emissions to exceed regional thresholds. From an operational standpoint, the solar facility will generate minimal emissions once placed in operation. Occasional cleaning of the solar panels and maintaining and repairing them will require a few short trips per week. The project modifications will not substantially increase operational emissions. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to substantially change the findings in the certified EIR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: The 2016 EIR analyzes the agricultural and forestry impacts of the WWTP Improvement Project in the Initial Study (IS) and concluded no impacts would occur from implementing any of the three alternatives. The IS concluded that impacts to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation without implementation of any mitigation measures. The proposed modified Project will be implemented on the adjacent property and will not require the use of hazardous materials, nor will it be exposed to hazards. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to change the findings in the IS and EIR. Thus, no additional significant adverse direct or cumulative hazards or hazardous materials effects will result from implementing the proposed Project. No mitigation measures will be implemented for the proposed modified Project. No changes in the circumstances regarding hazards or hazardous materials issues have occurred within the Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was certified.

Hydrology/Water Quality: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential hydrology/water quality impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 4.6-1 through 4.6-32. The EIR evaluates groundwater impacts of the proposed Project and identifies one mitigation measure to control hydrology and water quality impacts to a less than significant impact level. The modified project will alter only one aspect of the original Project, the addition of the solar facility. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without new or additional hydrology or water quality adverse impacts, with implementation of the mitigation measure included in the 2016 EIR. Otherwise, no changes in the circumstances regarding hydrology and water quality issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was certified.

Land Use and Planning: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential land use and planning impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 4.7-14 and 4.7-42. The EIR concluded that impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation on land use/planning issues. No mitigation measures were required for Option A. No new significant adverse land use impacts will result from implementing the modified Project and no cumulative changes in land use or effects on planned land uses will result from implementing the modified project. The land uses at the WWTP all support the management of wastewater treatment and disposal. No changes in the circumstances regarding land use and planning issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was certified.

Mineral Resources: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential mineral resource impacts of the WWTP Project in the Initial Study. Because no significant mineral resources were identified within the original project footprint, this issue was not evaluated in the EIR. The Initial Study concluded that, with no mitigation, mineral resources impacts would be less than significant as a

result of Project implementation. There are also no mineral resources located within the project area of potential impact for the modified Project. No changes in the circumstances regarding mineral resource issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was certified.

Noise: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential noise impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 4.8-1 through 4.8-7. The IS/MND concluded that all noise impacts would be less than significant without any mitigation. Limited construction noise will be generated by the modified Project, including the use of some heavy equipment to create the solar facility adjacent to the existing treatment site. There will be no new sources of noise after construction of the solar facility is completed. All of the modified Project construction noise can be controlled to a less than significant due to distance to sensitive noise receptors. The circumstances regarding noise levels in the general area have not changed, thus, the proposed Project has no potential to alter the cumulatively considerable noise effects from construction noise levels.

Population and Housing: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential population and housing impacts of the WWTP Project in the Initial Study. The EIR concluded that all population and housing impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. The modified Project does not alter this finding. The modified Project would not alter any population directly. No substantial changes in the regional population have occurred since the original EIR was adopted and no changes have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact. Therefore, the modified Project's impact is not forecast to cause a cumulatively considerable population and housing impact.

Public Services/Recreation: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential public service and recreation impacts of the Horton WWTP Project in the Initial Study. The EIR concluded that all public service and recreation impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. No new cumulative considerable or significant demand for public services is forecast to result from implementing proposed modified Project.

Transportation/Traffic: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential transportation/traffic impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 4.9-1 through 4.9-9. The EIR concluded that all transportation/traffic impacts would be less than significant with implementation of two mitigation measures. The proposed modified Project would not have a substantial effect on the local area circulation system during construction and future operations. The modified Project traffic impacts would be comparable to those forecast in the 2016 EIR. The circumstances have not changed since the original EIR was adopted. No new cumulative significant adverse impacts would result from implementing the proposed Project.

Utilities/Service Systems: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential utilities/service system impacts of the WWTP Project on pages 4.10-1 through 4.10-5. The EIR concluded that all utilities/service system impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. No mitigation was required. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without any adverse impacts to existing utilities or service systems. No other known changes have occurred since the EIR was certified that would affect the modified Project. Thus, no new cumulative considerable or significant demand for utilities and service systems is forecast to result from implementing proposed Project.

Based on the above analysis, the implementation of the proposed modified Project can proceed under this Addendum level analysis. Implementing the proposed modified Project will not result

in any new, unavoidable significant adverse direct or cumulative impacts. These issues have been fully described in the previously certified 2016 EIR, as modified in the preceding analysis.

c) *ADVERSE IMPACTS ON HUMANS: Does the project have environmental effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

Less than Significant Impact/No Changes or No New Information Requiring Preparation of an EIR. Those project-related environmental resources or issues that pose a potential to have direct or indirect adverse effects on human being include the following: aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, and noise. The 2016 EIR concluded that most of the above environmental issues would experience less than significant project specific or cumulative adverse environmental impact, often with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. Based on the analyses in support of this Addendum, implementation of the modified Project relative to the project defined in the 2010 IS/MND will not result in substantial direct effects on humans greater than that identified in the IS/MND. Substantiation for these findings is provided in the following text.

Aesthetics: Please refer to the evaluation under cumulative impacts, issue “b” above. The EIR concluded that aesthetics impacts would be less than significant for Option A, the selected project. The EIR also identified a significant aesthetic impact for Option B1, which is not the selected project. The EIR concluded that no aesthetic mitigation will be necessary for Option A. As shown on the attached photo (Attachment 2), the proposed solar photovoltaic area is essentially denuded and contains no scenic resource values. No major changes in the circumstances regarding aesthetic resources have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original EIR was adopted. Installation of the solar system to support the WWTP is not forecast to cause any new adverse impacts that will require mitigation or be significantly adverse.

Air Quality: Please refer to the Air Quality under cumulative impacts, issue “b” above. An evaluation of local air quality effects in the 2016 EIR, such as fugitive dust, indicated that no potentially significant local public health impacts would be caused by implementing the original Project. Construction impacts from Project implementation would be short-term and would not obstruct the long-term planning goals of the applicable air quality plan. Construction would require the use of heavy equipment that would produce combustive and fugitive dust emissions. Construction activities associated with the Project would generate less than significant air pollutant emissions. The expanded project site that includes the solar facility is less than one acre in size and should not require mass grading to install the solar pedestals. Due to the already existing low construction emissions, the addition of this small area of disturbance is not forecast to cause daily air pollutant emissions to exceed regional thresholds. From an operational standpoint, the solar facility will generate minimal emissions once placed in operation. Occasional cleaning of the solar panels and maintaining and repairing them will require a few short trips per day at most. The project modifications will not substantially increase operational emissions. Therefore, implementation of this modified Project has no potential to substantially change the findings in the certified EIR.

Geology and Soil: The 2016 EIR analyzes the potential geology and soil impacts of the WWTP Project in the Initial Study. The EIR concluded that all geology and soil impacts would be less than significant as a result of Project implementation. The general project area is subject to ground shaking hazards and the modified Project will be exposed to limited seismic groundshaking and potential for erosion. No mitigation measures were identified to control adverse geology and soil impacts. The modified Project facilities will not expose humans to

greater seismic hazards, only the proposed solar facility and these will be designed to accommodate the seismic ground shaking in the project area. Thus, implementation of the modified Project will not cause significant geology or soil impacts and it will also not expose humans to significant geology or soil constraints.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: All hazards or use of hazardous materials associated with the project site were evaluated in the Initial Study to the 2016 EIR and no potential for significant impact under this issue was identified. The modified Project does not increase this potential as it does not include any new hazards associated with its installation or operations. Thus, implementation of the modified Project will not cause significant new hazards or exposure to hazardous materials and it will also not expose humans to new significant hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality: Please refer to the hydrology and water quality discussion presented under issue “b” above. An evaluation of local hydrology and water quality effects in the 2016 EIR indicated that no significant public hazard impact would be caused by implementing the original Project. The proposed modified Project area will not be exposed to flood hazards, nor will it expose other humans or structures to greater flood hazards. All surface runoff occurring within the solar field will be captured and managed at the WWTP. The modified project will alter only one aspect of the original Project, the addition of the solar facility. The proposed modified Project can be implemented without new or additional hydrology or water quality adverse impacts, with implementation of the mitigation measure included in the 2016 EIR. Otherwise, no changes in the circumstances regarding hydrology and water quality issues have occurred within the modified Project area of potential impact since the original IS/MND was certified.

Noise: Please refer to the noise discussion presented under issue “b” above. An evaluation of on- and off-site noise effects in the 2010 IS/MND during construction indicated that the project will not be exposed to or cause significant adverse noise levels. Limited construction noise will be generated by the modified Project, including the use of some heavy equipment to create the solar facility adjacent to the existing treatment site. There will be no new sources of noise after construction of the solar facility is completed. All of the modified Project construction noise can be controlled to a less than significant due to distance to sensitive noise receptors. The circumstances regarding noise levels in the general area have not changed, thus, the proposed Project has no potential to alter the noise effects from construction activities.

Based on the above analysis, the implementation of the proposed modified Project will not increase direct or indirect impacts on humans to a significant level. The modified Project results in comparable impacts to humans, which is consistent with the findings in the 2016 EIR.

V. CONCLUSION

The earlier analyses presented in the 2016 EIR were used as a basis for analysis in this Addendum, updated with current information from sources cited, referenced and attached. Upon review of the EIR, the information contained in this Addendum and all of the supporting evidence, it is the conclusion of Addendum No. 1 that the potential adverse environmental impacts from implementation of the modified Project, as defined in Section II of this document, will not be significantly greater than that identified within the certified EIR. There are no new significant impacts that result from implementing the modified Project, based on implementing the previous mitigation commitments in the EIR. This Addendum provides an update of the specific facilities of the Golden Hills WWTP Improvement Project. There is a continued need to

implement the mitigation measures required in the EIR to control potential modified Project impacts to a less than significant impact level.

This Addendum provides the GHCSO with the information substantiating the conclusion that the installation and operation of the solar facility adjacent to the WWTP as envisioned by the modified Project will not cause substantial additional physical changes in the environment which would require preparation and processing of a new negative declaration or an updated environmental impact report. The facts and findings cited above and provided in this Addendum allow the GHCSO to use an Addendum in accordance with Section 15164(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines for this second-tier modified Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 15164, the adopted 2016 EIR, as updated with this Addendum, can be relied upon for documentation of the effects of the modified Project on the environment. Because the changes in the project do not exceed the thresholds outlined in Sections 15162 and 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, no further analysis of the environmental impacts of the modified Project is required in a Supplemental/Subsequent EIR or MND. The proposed Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project modifications do not alter the conclusions contained in the referenced 2016 EIR as previously certified. The analysis presented above of the changes and additions to the approved wastewater management project substantiates the use of Addendum No. 1 to the certified EIR.

Addendum No. 1 to the 2016 EIR for modifications to the Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project incorporates the changes or additions necessary to make the adopted environmental document adequate under CEQA for the modified Project. Addendum No. 1 includes the previously certified EIR, this document (with Attachments) and all staff reports and information submitted to the decision-makers regarding environmental issues affected by the proposed future implementation of the modified Project for a support solar field adjacent to the existing WWTP. Addendum No. 1 is intended as an additional information document to provide decision-makers and others, as appropriate, with an objective assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the second-tier, site specific facilities associated with the modified Project.

VI. REVIEW AUTHORITY

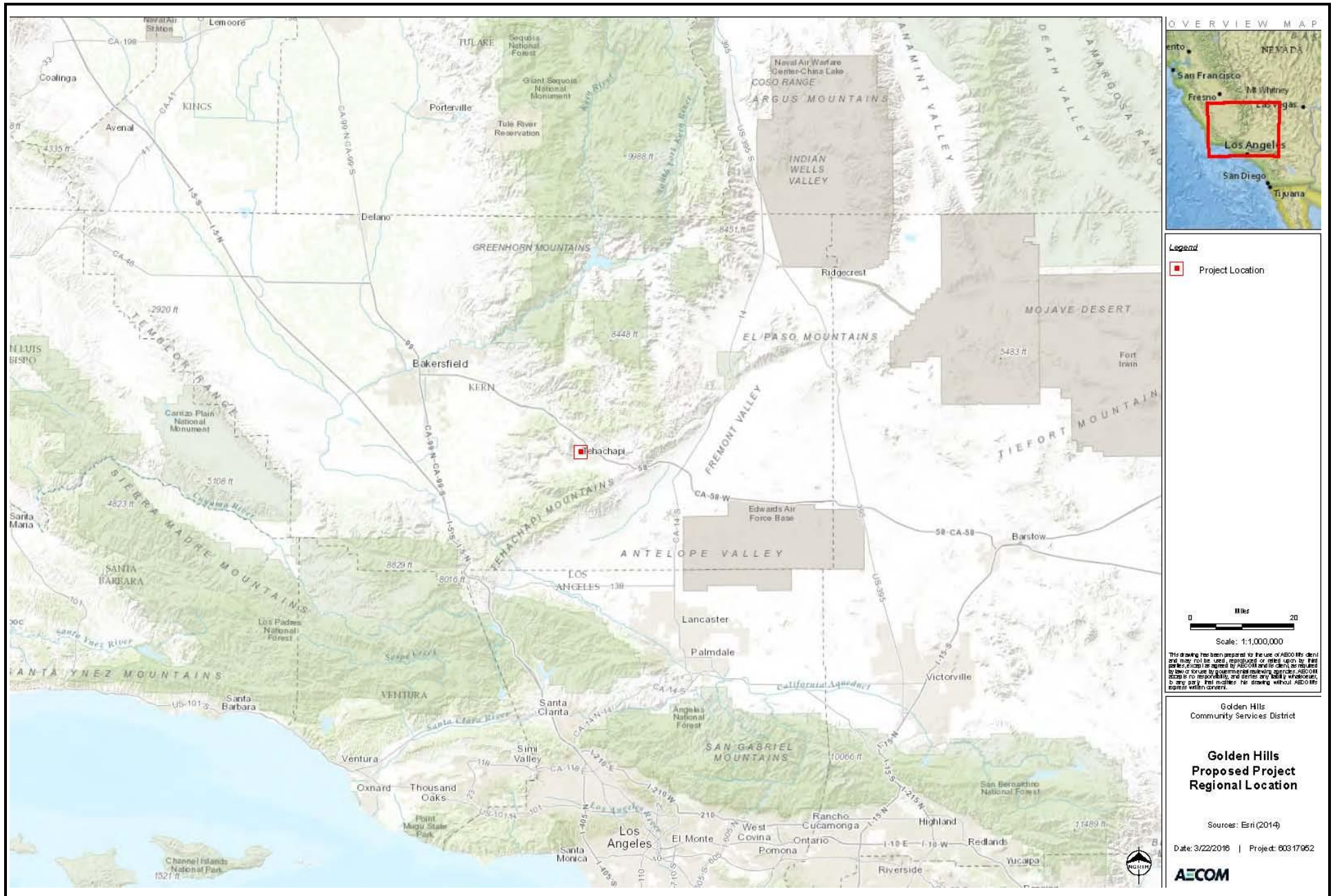
The Golden Hills Community Services District serves as the CEQA lead agency for the Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. It is recommended that Addendum No. 1 be adopted as the appropriate CEQA environmental determination for this modified Project if the District decides to approve it for implementation.

VII. CERTIFICATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Dodson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

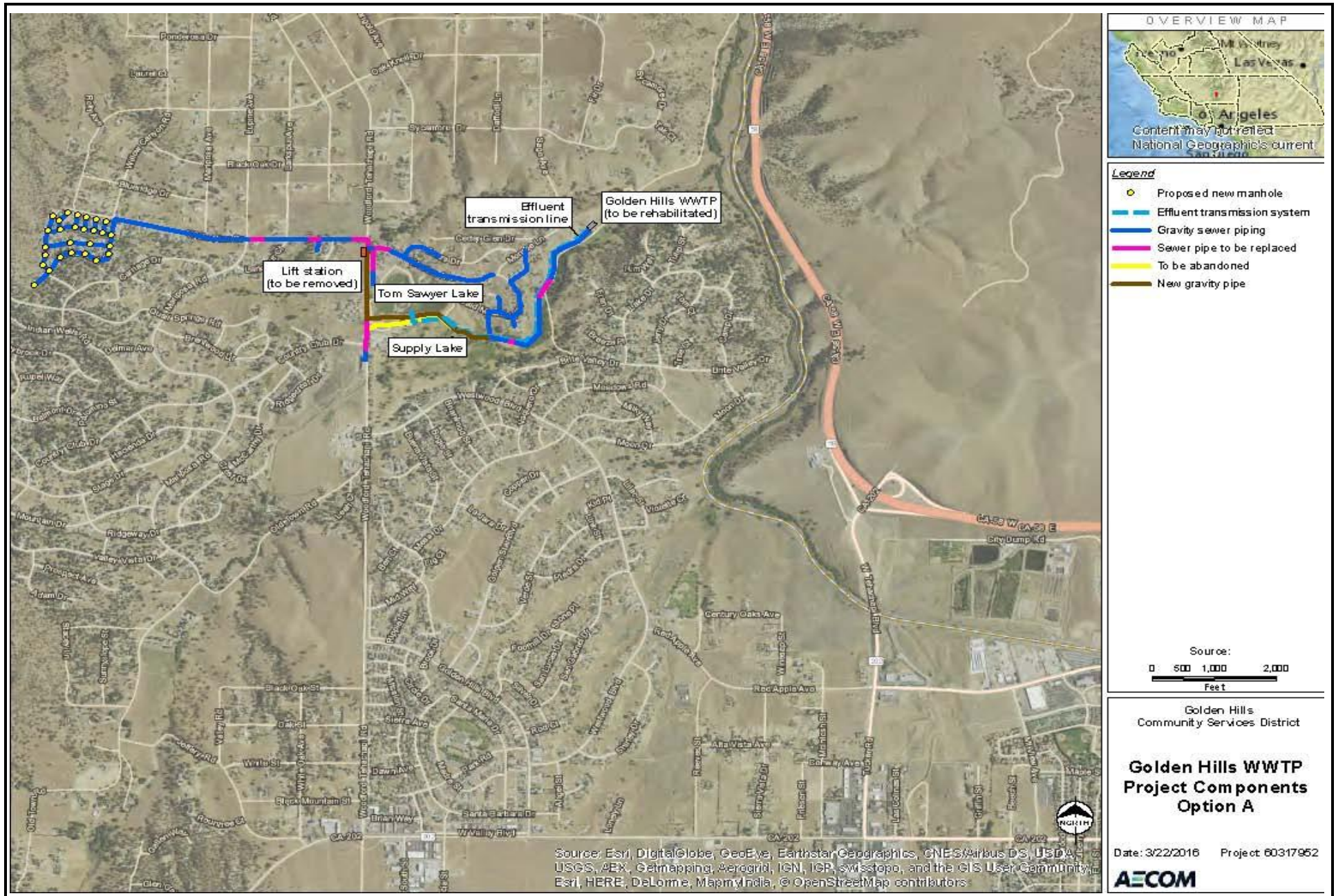
Tom Dodson on behalf of _____
Susan Wells, General Manager
Golden Hills Community Services District

FIGURES



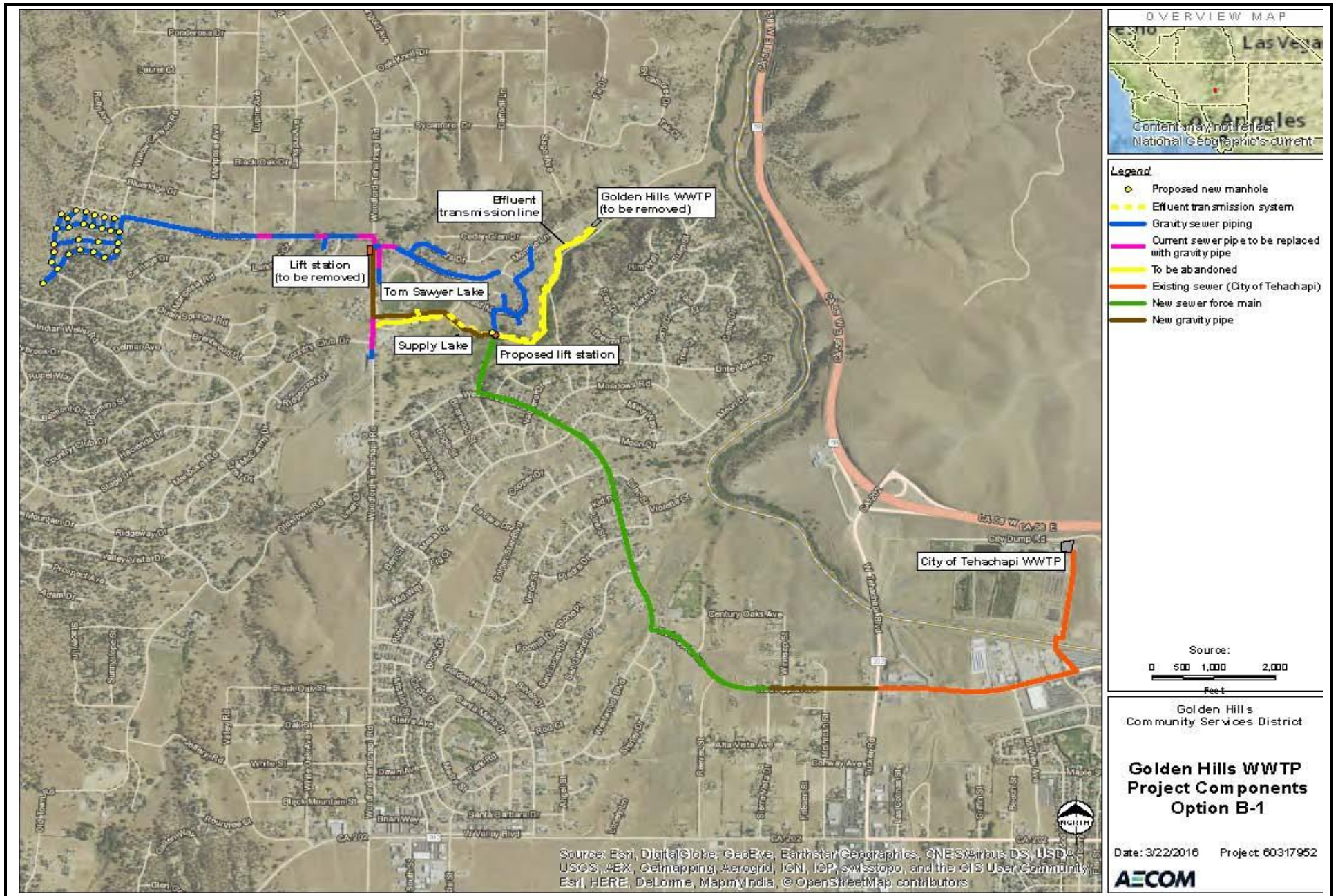
SOURCE: Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project DEIR (March 2016)

FIGURE 1



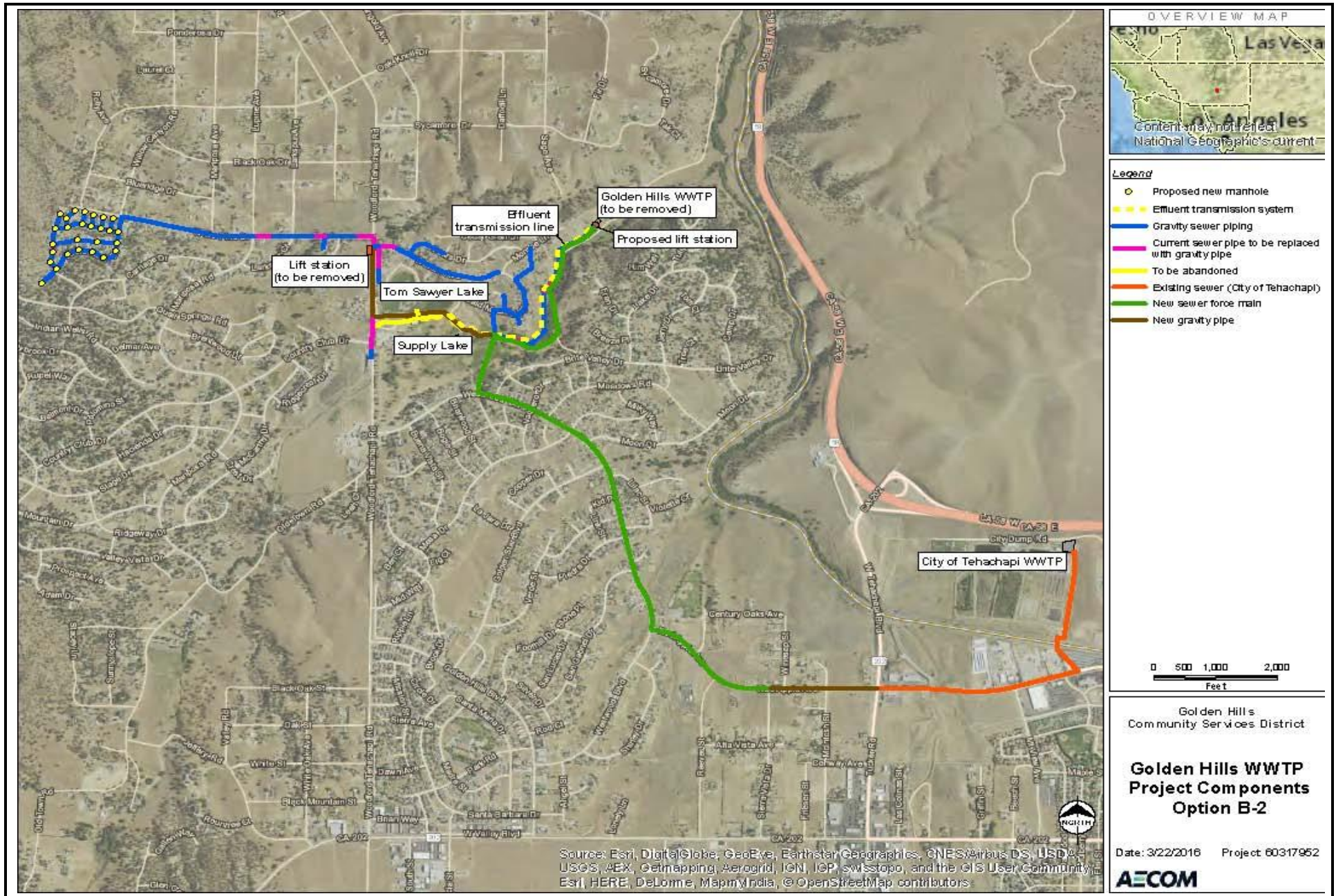
SOURCE: Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project DEIR (March 2016)

FIGURE 2



SOURCE: Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project DEIR (March 2016)

FIGURE 3



SOURCE: Golden Hills Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project DEIR (March 2016)

FIGURE 4

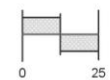


LEGEND

INFLUENT SEWER LINE	
FENCE LINE	



SCALE IN FEET



SOURCE: Golden Hills CSD Wastewater System Improvement Project, Preliminary Engineering Report (March 2018)

FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

ATTACHMENT 1