

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**TO:**

- Office of Planning and Research**
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
- Shasta County Clerk**
1643 Market Street
Redding, CA 96001

FROM:

Fall River Valley CSD
Stephen Rooklidge, General Manager
24850 Third Street
Fall River Mills, CA 96028

Project Title: Fall River Valley Community Services District – McArthur Sewer Collection System

Project Location:

The proposed project is located in and near the unincorporated communities of Fall River Mills and McArthur, Shasta County, in Sections 9, 16, 17, and 20, Township 37N, Range 5E, of the US. Geological Survey's (USGS) Fall River Mills 7.5-minute quadrangle. Sewer line improvements would occur within public road rights-of-way (ROWs). Lift station improvements would occur on privately owned property (see **Figure 1**).

City: Fall River Mills (unincorporated)

County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Fall River Valley Community Services District (FRVCSD) provides wastewater collection and treatment services to residents and businesses in the community of Fall River Mills. According to the draft Municipal Service Review completed for FRVCSD by the Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in 2012, the sewer system includes 25,000 linear feet of gravity-fed effluent collection mainlines, 6,000 linear feet of pressure force mains, and three underground sewer lift stations. About 60,000 gallons per day of domestic wastes are conveyed to the FRVCSD's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located adjacent to the Fall River Mills Airport.

As described in the FRVCSD's Capital Improvement Plan, the project includes extending the sewer system to the community of McArthur. Beneficiaries of the project include residents and businesses in McArthur.

The project includes the following improvements:

- A sewer main, manholes, and appurtenant infrastructure would be installed in the road ROW of SR 299 between an existing lift station at Mayers Memorial Hospital and a new lift station near the intersection of SR 299 and McArthur Road, ±2 miles to the northeast.
- Sewer lines, manholes and appurtenant infrastructure would be installed in the community of McArthur in the road ROWs of Walnut, Cedar, Oak, A, Grove, and Main Streets, SR 299, and within the Sierra Center Drive neighborhood.
- Subsurface lift stations would be installed on privately owned property in three locations: 1) near the intersection of SR 299 and McArthur Road; 2) near the intersection of SR 299 and Circle Bell Drive; and 3) near the Fall River High School. The High School lift station would convey sewage via a force main to a manhole on SR 299 and then via gravity to the proposed lift station near the intersection of SR 299 and McArthur Road. From this point, sewage would flow south to the Hospital lift station via the new sewer main, and then be conveyed to the Wastewater Treatment Plant via an existing force main.

Pipeline improvements would be installed using open-cut trenching. At stream/waterway crossings, the pipe would be installed under the stream using a trenchless method (e.g., horizontal directional drill). Roads damaged during installation of the sewer lines would be re-paved and non-asphalt surfaces would be restored to pre-construction contours following construction.

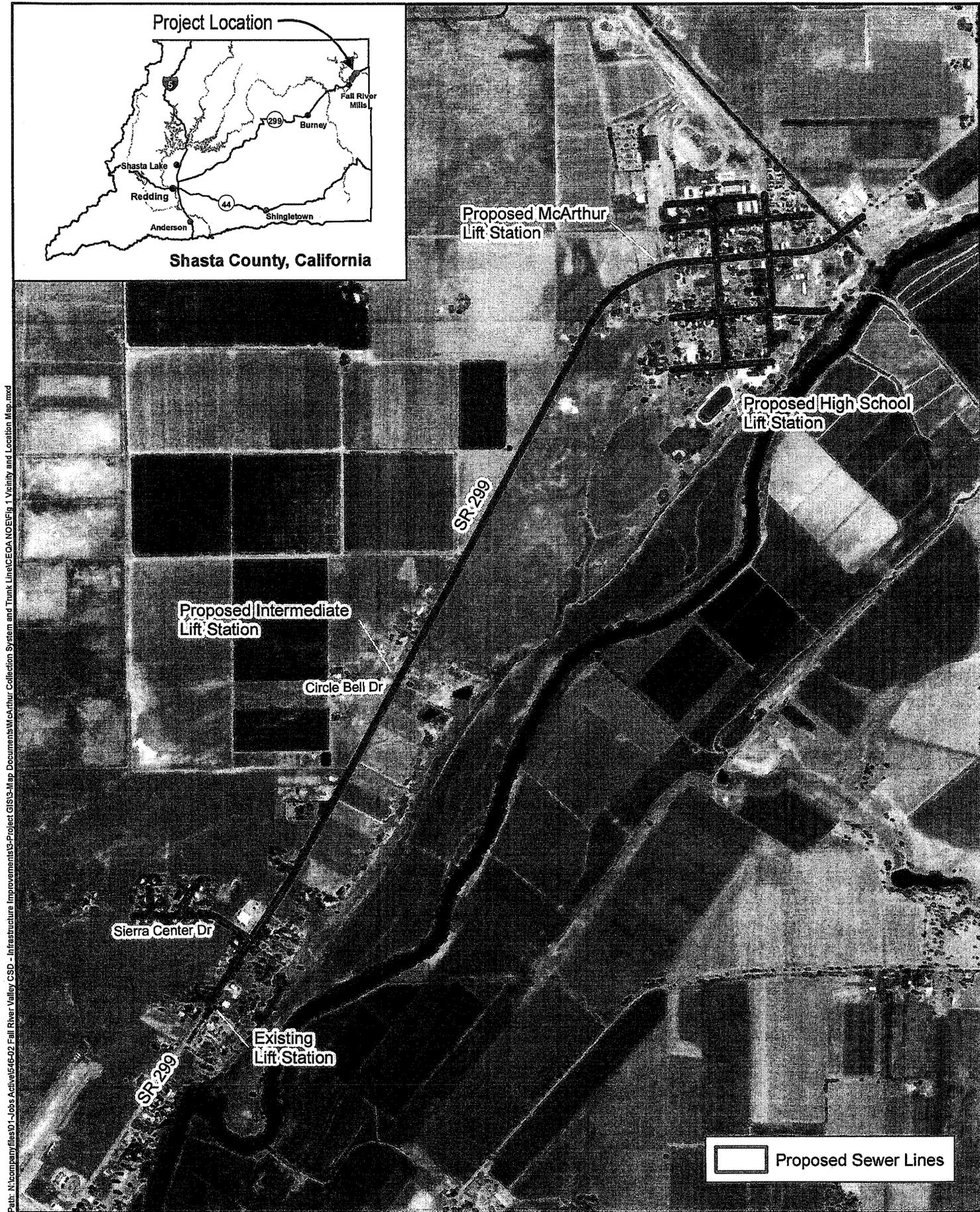
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Fall River Valley Community Services District

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| Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: Fall River Valley Community Services District | |
| Local Agency Contact Person: Stephen Rooklidge, General Manager | |
| Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines): Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) | |
| Reason Why Project Is Exempt: The Class 3 exemption applies to the construction/installation of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, including utility extensions; and/or installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. The Class 4 exemption applies to minor alterations to the condition of land (e.g., clearing, grading, trenching, and backfilling) that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and do not involve grading in wetlands or other waters, provided that the surface is restored following construction. The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of the extension of sewer lines and installation of small subsurface lift stations. Only minor earth disturbance would be required to accommodate the proposed project, and the ground surface would be restored following construction. No mature trees would be removed. No wetlands or other waters would be affected by project implementation. As documented in Attachment A , the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts. | |
| Signature:  | Date: <u>1/3/2020</u> |
| Stephen Rooklidge, PhD, P.E., General Manager Fall River Valley Community Services District | |

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Vicinity and Improvement Locations
- Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JAN 14 2020
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Path: N:\companyfiles\01_Jobs Active\16-02 Fall River Valley CSD - Infrastructure Improvements\3-Project GIS\3-Map Documents\McArthur Collection System and Trunk Line\CEQA\NOE\Fig. 1 Vicinity and Location Map.mxd

 Proposed Sewer Lines



Figure 1

Project Vicinity and Improvement Locations

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 12.27.19

ENPLAN

ATTACHMENT A
Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption
Fall River Valley Community Services District
McArthur Sewer System Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves extension of the Fall River Valley CSD sewage collection system to serve the community of McArthur. Work would include installation of new sewage collection pipelines and three lift stations. No similar projects in the same locations are proposed. Potential effects of the proposed project are temporary and would cease at completion of construction. Therefore, the project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

2. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

The project includes installation of sewer lines and three subsurface lift stations. No mature trees would be removed. Paved areas damaged during construction would be re-paved and non-asphalt surfaces would be restored to pre-construction contours following completion of the improvements. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease upon completion of work. Therefore, the project would not have a significant impact on visual resources.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

Pipeline construction would occur in existing road ROWs and would not impact agriculture or forest resources. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, soils in the lift station site near the intersection of Circle Bell Drive and SR 299, and in the lift station site near the intersection of McArthur Road and SR 299 are considered "prime farmland" if irrigated; however, neither of the sites is irrigated. In addition, based on review of historical aerial imagery, it does not appear that either site has been used for agricultural production in the past 25 years. Further, the project does not include any components that would conflict with surrounding agricultural uses. Therefore, impacts to agricultural land would be negligible. No mature trees would be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements; therefore, the project would not impact forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NO_x emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

Special-Status Species

A Biological Study Report (BSR) was prepared for the project in December 2019 by ENPLAN. The evaluation of potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats was based on a records search and field observations. Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records for special-status plants, animals, and natural communities; the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and candidate plant and animal species under jurisdiction of the USFWS; USFWS records for migratory birds of conservation concern; and National Wetland Inventory maps. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) records were not reviewed because Keswick and Shasta Dams block upstream passage of anadromous fish.

To determine the presence/absence of special-status plant and animal species, botanical and wildlife screening evaluations were completed by an ENPLAN biologist on October 30, 2019. Most of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted. However, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics. As documented in the BSR, no special-status plant or wildlife species would be adversely affected by project implementation.

Natural Communities

The field evaluation confirmed that the predominant vegetative community type present in the project study area is urban, characterized by ruderal roadside vegetation. Residential, commercial, and industrial uses, as well as agricultural lands, are located farther back from the road corridors. Urban and agricultural communities are not considered sensitive natural communities.

Two waterways were observed during the field evaluation that appear to be waters of the U.S./State subject to the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers. These consist of a small channelized stream/ditch crossing under SR 299 west of McArthur Road and the McArthur Diversion Canal, which crosses under SR 299 on the east side of the community. At the stream and canal crossings, the pipe would be installed using a trenchless method (e.g., horizontal directional drilling). Therefore, project implementation would have no effect on wetlands or other waters of the U.S./State.

Nesting Migratory Birds

As documented in the BSR, birds could potentially nest in vegetation or on structures in and adjacent to the project site. If present during construction, nesting birds could be directly or indirectly affected by construction activities. If work occurs during the nesting season, a pre-construction nesting survey must be conducted prior to commencement of construction. If nesting birds are found, the FRVCSO would consult with CDFW to identify appropriate measures to avoid impacts to the birds, their eggs, and nests.

Energy

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use during construction of the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, proposed improvements in the community of McArthur near the Fall River High School and Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds are located within a Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone due to the presence of the potentially active McArthur Fault; however, the project does not include the construction of structures for human occupancy and would not increase the likelihood that an earthquake would occur in the area. Soils on the project site are mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Duden-Graven soils, 0 to 5 percent slopes; Esperanza loam, 0 to 2 percent slope; and Pittville Sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent. These soil types are found throughout the McArthur area and are not unique to the project site.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. Standard construction measures include implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion/sediment control, which would avoid/minimize the potential for damage to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06089C0500G, effective March 11, 2011), the project is not located in a flood hazard area.

Land Use and Planning:

The project would not physically divide an established community or cause an environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the study area. In addition, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned for mining activities.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, there is nothing unique to the project that would result in more significant impacts than other construction projects. The project does not include any components that would result in a permanent increase in noise levels.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the project is to allow existing residents and businesses to connect to the FRVCSO public sewer system. Although future residents and business would be able to connect to the system, the proposed project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the County's General Plan.

Public Services/Recreation:

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services.

Transportation/Traffic:

There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic.

Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the Project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the County's General Plan, utility and service systems in the area would not experience a permanent increase in demand for services over existing projections.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

3. Scenic Highways. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area; therefore, there would be no impact.

4. Hazardous Waste Sites. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- SWRCB GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The records search revealed that the project is not located on a known hazardous waste site. There are no active clean-up sites or known hazardous waste sites within a one-mile radius of the project area.

5. Historical Resources. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

A Cultural Resources Inventory Report (CRI) was completed for the proposed project by ENPLAN to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. The study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS), and a review of historic maps, the *National Register of Historic Places*, *California Register of Historic Resources*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California Inventory of Historic Resources*, and *California Points of Historic Interest*.

Archaeological fieldwork took place on December 19, 2019, during which the entire APE was surveyed, although at varying intensities due to the presence of concrete coverage, graded roads, and gravel fill. No cultural resources were identified during the field survey.

The records search was conducted at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System on December 16, 2019, and covered a half-mile radius around the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The records search revealed that 11 archaeological surveys have been conducted within a half-mile radius of the APE, two of which encompassed portions of the APE. No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the APE.

On December 16, 2019, the Native American Heritage Commission conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File and indicated that no known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources are located in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for Native American tribes who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the area. These tribes were contacted on December 18, 2019, with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. No comments were submitted.

The CRI concluded that the project would have no effect on any known cultural resources. Based on the geomorphological and topographic characteristics of the project area, the results of the records and literature search, and the age of the soils mapped in the area, the project area is considered to have a low potential for buried historic and prehistoric resources. Because there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during site excavation, the following standard construction measures would be included in construction contracts for the project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the Fall River Valley CSD (FRVCSD) shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the FRVCSD prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the FRVCSD shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Air Resources Control Board. Area Designations Maps—State and National.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>. Accessed November 2019.

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. Mineral Land Classification Maps.

<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed November 2019.

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_____. 1997. Special Publication 42, Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California.

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/UONLY/CDMG/north/sp42.pdf>. Accessed November 2019.

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California Department of Transportation. 2019. California State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Shasta County. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed November 2019.

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2019. Cortese List Data Resources.

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed November 2019.

ENPLAN. 2019. Biological Study Report, McArthur Sewer System.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency. National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06089C0500G, March 17, 2011). <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=mt.%20shasta%2C%20ca#searchresultsanchor>. Accessed November 2019.

Shasta County. 2018. Shasta County General Plan.

https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/planning_index/plng_general_plan.aspx. Accessed November 2019.

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https://library.municode.com/ca/shasta_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=SHCOCA. Accessed November 2019.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2019. Web Soil Survey.

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed November 2019.