NORTH YUBA WATER DISTRICT

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Challenge Tank Replacement and Meter Replacement Projects

DATE: July 16, 2020

TO: County of Yuba Planning Department
United States Forest Service
California State Clearing House

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER
APN 050-110-220 - plus, all parcels served treated water by NYWD

PROJECT SPONSOR: North Yuba Water District (NYWD)

PROJECT LOCATION:
The project sites are described below under Project Description

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Challenge Tank Replacement Project
The SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) has funded activities to address aging infrastructure for the municipal water system that is operated by North Yuba Water District (NYWD). The work is being conducted under Proposition 1 Technical Assistance and Support Program funding through the SWRCB, Agreement No. D16-12810, Work Plan No. 4999. The proposed project is the replacement of an existing water storage tank (the Challenge Tank) that is part of the domestic water supply system owned and operated by the NYWD. The Challenge Tank has exceeded its designed lifespan and leaks continuously. Replacing the existing leaking tank will eliminate a major source of water loss for the NYWD. The project budget estimate to replace the Challenge Tank is about $500,000.

The Challenge Tank is located on Old La Porte Road, within the town of Challenge, California, in Yuba County, California. The tank is situated on a small parcel (approximately 0.5 acres; APN 050-110-220) leased from the U.S. Forest Service Plumas National Forest. The existing tank was built in 1965. The cylindrical tank is 18 feet tall and 32 feet in diameter and has a storage capacity of 100,000 gallons of water. The tank was made from redwood staves and steel hoops and is bolted to a concrete foundation. Ancillary facilities consist of a valve control box and an access driveway. The existing tank is leaking and will be replaced with a metal tank of similar dimensions. The estimated construction time is three months. After removing the old tank and foundations, a new reinforced concrete foundation will be cast in the same area as the existing foundation. The new tank will be assembled with pre-fabricated bolted steel or welded steel plates. A new valve box containing valves and piping will be installed in the ground. The new valves will regulate the water level in the tank. Similar to the existing system, treated water will gravity feed into the tank via an existing supply pipeline (6-inch steel pipe). The treated water comes from the NYWD water treatment plant in Forbestown.

The Challenge Tank project area was defined as the combined perimeter of the tank foundations, the valve box, and the driveway, and is about 4,000 square feet (the "Project Area" or "Action Area"). This project does not include the other planned upgrades to the NYWD water system: water service meter upgrades and conversion of flumes to pipelines.

Water Service Meters Replacement Project

NYWD provides domestic and irrigation water to its customers in the north Yuba County / south Butte County region, and serves the communities of Brownsville, Challenge, Dobbins, Forbestown, Oregon House, and Rackerby. Treated water from the NYWD treatment plant at Forbestown is distributed to customers via buried water mains (4 inch to 8 inch diameter pipes, primarily PVC). The existing water service meters are more than ten years old and no longer accurately record water use, nor do they convey information electronically. Water use data are used for billing purposes, and under-reporting of water use by old meters results in lost revenue for NYWD. In addition, accurate water meters help identify system leaks and provide other water conservation information.

The most common meter installed in the NYWD service area is the Neptune T10, a mechanical meter in bronze housing and 1-inch pipe fittings. This type of meter requires a visual reading to record flow rate for measuring customer water consumption. The existing meters are housed in several styles of shallow, buried rectangular meter boxes, made either of reinforced concrete or polymer plastic. The typical dimensions of the meter boxes are 10 inches wide by 15.5 inches long by 12 inches deep with the lid at ground surface.

The proposed project consists of removing the old meters and meter boxes using hand tools and small motorized equipment, splicing in new meters using wrenches, installing new meter boxes, and restoring the ground surface after backfill and compaction using hand tools. The new meter boxes will be about same dimensions as the old boxes, and they will be made primarily of polymer plastic. Reinforced concrete boxes may be used in areas of higher vehicular traffic. The new water service meters are a combination of mechanical and electronic parts and are called "smart meters." Smart meters are able to transmit flow data wirelessly to a receiver that can be located in a passing vehicle operated by an NYWD employee or on radio towers that can transmit the data to a central location. Smart meters allow for more accurate measurement of water use as well as detection of water leaks. NYWD currently has approximately 839 service connections that need to receive new meters and boxes. The proposed project will span several months, with meters being replaced in sequence along water distribution lines. Each meter replacement will take several hours to complete, and the total volume of ground disturbance at each meter is about two cubic feet (1 foot wide by 2 foot long by 1 foot deep).

The project area was defined as the aggregate area of all of the individual service meter box areas plus a buffer of 10 feet around each box.

INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study is a public document to be used by the District to determine whether the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. Pursuant to the State of California "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970," as amended to date, and the CEQA Guidelines adopted by NYWD, a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared because no substantial evidence exists, as indicated in the attached Initial Study, that the proposed project may have a significant environmental effect. A thumb drive including the Initial Study on the above-named project is included for your agency's review and comment. Should you wish of have a hard copy of any of these documents, please contact the undersigned at the district office.

This Notice of Availability serves as your agency's notice that the North Yuba Water District intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project identified above. As mandated by Public Resources Code § 21091, the minimum public review period for this document is 30 days. The public review period for the proposed project is from 7/16/20 through Aug.15, 2020. **Comments must be received by 4 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Aug 15, 2020.** Comments shall be sent to Jeff Maupin, Board Secretary. jmaupin@nywd.org, or mail comments to:

Board Secretary
North Yuba Water District
PO Box 299
8691 La Porte Road
Brownsville, CA 95919

Final adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered at the August 28, 2020, NYWD Board of Directors meeting. All comments received will be considered by the NYWD Board of Directors when they meet to consider the adoption of the environmental document and project authorization.

PREPARED BY:

Jeffrey Maupin Date 7/14/2020