

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

City of Vacaville Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) Recycled Water Project

The City of Vacaville (City) is releasing a Public Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) on the City's Proposed Recycled Water Project (Project/Proposed Project). A copy of the IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at www.ci.vacaville.ca.us.

Project Location and Description: The Proposed Project is located in the City of Vacaville (City) in northern Solano County, midway between San Francisco and Sacramento. The City, incorporated in 1892 and currently comprising just under 27 square miles, has a beautiful setting bordered by rolling hillsides, fruit orchards and fertile farmland. With an elevation ranging from 90- to 300-feet, Vacaville enjoys warm summers and mild winters, with an average summer high of 94 degrees and an average winter low of 36 degrees. Annual rainfall averages about 24-inches. The City's rich history has transformed the community from a small agricultural town into a thriving and progressive city; now a diverse population of 97,446 residents call Vacaville home. While the City's population history and demographics show its rapid growth, Vacaville remains a "small town at heart," whose residents pride themselves on the high level of community involvement.

The City owns and operates the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant (EWWTP or Easterly WWTP), which serves approximately 97,000 people throughout the City of Vacaville, the Community of Elmira, the California Medical Facility, and most of the Vaca Valley Industrial Park. The Easterly WWTP, located at 6040 Vaca Station Road, Elmira, CA 95625. The Easterly WWTP discharges wastewater to Old Alamo Creek, which is a tributary to New Alamo Creek, which is a tributary to Ulatis Creek, which eventually outlets to Cache Slough and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta).

Since its construction in 1959, treated effluent from the Easterly WWTP has been discharged into Old Alamo Creek. The contributing watershed to Old Alamo Creek upstream of the Easterly WWTP was dramatically reduced in the early 1960s when New Alamo Creek, a larger, man-made conveyance channel, was constructed as part of a federal flood control project. As part of the flood control project, Old Alamo Creek downstream of the Easterly WWTP was partially realigned to flow into New Alamo Creek.

Old Alamo Creek originally shared the beneficial uses assigned to the Delta since it is a tributary to the Delta. However, in 2005, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), amended the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins to remove certain beneficial uses from those initially assigned to Old Alamo Creek. Specifically, the CVRWQCB concluded that drinking water supply is not an existing beneficial use for Old Alamo Creek and that beneficial use probably cannot be feasibly attained in the future. This is due to the ephemeral, intermittent, or low flows associated with Alamo Creek, and the release of additional treated sewage effluent from the Easterly WWTP as the City of Vacaville grew.

In 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), declared Old Alamo Creek was an exception to the Sources of Drinking Water Policy. The exception did not modify the beneficial uses of New Alamo Creek, which meant that the flow in Old Alamo Creek must meet or exceed the water quality requirements of New Alamo Creek at the convergence of Old Alamo Creek and New Alamo Creek. Since the Easterly WWTP discharge dominates the flow in Old Alamo Creek during most periods, its effluent must meet requirements similar to those that apply to New Alamo Creek.

Today, the Easterly WWTP operates 24 hours, seven days a week (24/7) and treats an average of 7.5 million gallons of wastewater per day and has an average dry weather treatment capacity of 15 MGD. The plant operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued and regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to provide Title 22 tertiary level treatment. The Easterly WWTP is a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant that utilizes many complex processes to produce treated wastewater and Title 22 recycled water. Wastewater undergoes primary, secondary and tertiary treatment and disinfection before being released into Alamo Creek, where it travels to Cache Slough, and eventually out to the Delta.

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to provide approximately 2,830 acre-feet of tertiary treated recycled water from the Easterly WWTP for a variety of beneficial recycled water uses including agricultural irrigation, urban irrigation, and industrial reuse - consistent with the recommended project identified in the *City of Vacaville, Draft Recycled Water Master Plan, April 2020*.

The Proposed Project includes approximately 9-miles (48,000 linear feet) of new recycled water distribution pipelines that would connect with the approximately 20-miles of the City's existing recycled water pipelines. The proposed distribution system has two pipeline branches ranging in size from 6-inch to 20-inches in diameter. One branch extends southeast of Easterly WWTP to serve the planned athletic fields adjacent to the City's Easterly WWTP, one direct agricultural parcel, and Cypress Lakes Golf Course. The other branch extends west from Easterly WWTP and then branches to both the north and the south along Leisure Town Road. This northwest branch utilizes an abandoned sewer line to cross the railroad tracks between Fry Road and Elmira Road and also utilizes existing recycled water lines installed within some of the new developments and along Leisure Town Road. The northwest distribution branch serves urban irrigation customers in new developments along Leisure Town Road, one direct agricultural customer south of Elmira Road and west of the railroad, and a few industrial reuse customers in the Vaca Valley Business Park located between I-80 and I-505. Implementation of the distribution pipelines is phased into immediate, near-, and long-terms.

Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant environmental effects that were addressed in the Public Draft IS/MND include, but not limited to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology/water quality, and traffic and transportation, among others. All of the potential significant environmental impacts were found to be avoided or result in less than significant impacts with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Reviewers should focus on the content and accuracy of the Draft IS/MND in discussing potential impacts upon the environment and the mitigation measures.

Public Review Period: The Public Draft IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day review period, starting from **October 8 through November 11, 2020**. Persons responding are urged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments need to be delivered to the City, at the address listed below or by e-mail, by **no later than 5 p.m. on November 11, 2020**.

Fred Buder, Acting Director of Community Development
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Kerry Walker. Copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the addresses below:

City of Vacaville
6040 Vaca Station Road
Vacaville CA 95625

City of Vacaville Public Library
1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95625