

2020-E0065

Recorded at the request of:
COVELO COMM SERV DIST
12/24/2020 02:20 PM
Fee: \$50.00 Pgs: 1 of 1

OFFICIAL RECORDS
Katrina Bartolomie - Clerk-Recorder
Mendocino County, CA

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



TO: Recorder/County Clerk
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Suite 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482

FROM: Covelo Community Services District
P.O. Box 65
Covelo, CA 95428

Office of Planning and Research
CEQAnet Web Portal
Via <https://ceqasubmit.opr.ca.gov/>

Project Title: Covelo Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Project Applicant: Covelo Community Services District

Project Address: 75997 Covelo Road, Covelo, CA 95428

Project Location Description: The proposed Covelo Community Services District (CSD) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements Project (Project) is located along Town Creek and north of Grist Creek in the unincorporated community of Covelo, California. The unincorporated community of Covelo is located along State Route 162 in northwestern Mendocino County. The community is within the southern portion of Round Valley approximately two miles east of the Round Valley Municipal Airport, 14 miles northeast of Laytonville, and 40 miles northeast of the City of Willits. The Project would be entirely confined within the existing Covelo WWTP site within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 034-210-25 (4 acres) and APN 034-210-32 (18.5 acres).

Location – City: Community of Covelo

Location – County: - Mendocino County

Description of Nature and Purpose of the Project: The Covelo CSD proposes to upgrade existing WWTP to address aging infrastructure and improve operating conditions. Recent site inspections at the facility in 2019 identified additional issues associated with aging and poor operation conditions with the wet well and aboveground lift station. The primary goals of this Project involve 1) replacement of the WWTP primary wet well due to root intrusions that have caused routine maintenance issues; 2) addition of a trash screen chamber before the wastewater enters the wet well due to increased trash and debris build-up within the well and on the pump switches; and 3) installation of a replacement aboveground lift station and pump switch system in the wet well due to debris build-up.

Public Agency and Name of Person Approving and Carrying Out Project: Covelo CSD, 76001 Commercial Street, Covelo, CA 95428 Contact: Dane Downing, General Manager, (707) 983-6888

The Covelo CSD Board of Directors has approved the above described project on December 10, 2020 and found the project to be exempt from CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt Status: **(CHECK ONE)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)
- Statutory Exemptions.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: In accordance with Section 15302 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA review because the Project consists of minor replacement and reconstruction of existing facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Project activities will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies, will not contribute to a cumulative impact; will not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.6 of the Government Code; and does not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Covelo CSD conducted an environmental review and technical analysis including a Biological Assessment, Historical Property Identification Report, and Air Quality Analysis Memorandum, which provided evidence to support the determination that the proposed Project would not have the potential to causing a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dane Downing


Telephone: (707) 983-6888

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?

Yes No

It is hereby certified that the Covelo CSD has determined the above activity to be exempt from CEQA:



SIGNATURE/TITLE

12-14-20

DATE

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR _____

**Before the
Board of Directors
Of
COVELO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION 2020-007

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
DECLARATION FOR THE COVELO COMMUNITY SERVICES
DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Covelo Community Services District (the "District") is authorized by Government Code 61600(b) to collect, treat and dispose of sewage and waste; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized by Government Code 61621 to prescribe, revise and collect rates or other charges for the services and facilities furnished by it; and

WHEREAS, the District is legally responsible for the operation and maintenance of the public sewer system in the community of Covelo; and

WHEREAS, the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project (Project) consists of the replacement and reconstruction of an existing structure and facility; and

WHEREAS, the November 19, 2020 Technical Memorandum provided by Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions Inc. determines that the Project meets all criteria for a Class 2 Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COVELO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT as follows: The District's Board of Directors Adopts the CEQA Notice of Exemption Declaration for the Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Covelo Community Services District in the unincorporated town of Covelo of the County of Mendocino, California held on the 10th day of December, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: (3) JOE GAUDER; PAUL FILLER; SHERRIE LEE

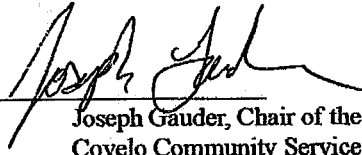
NOES: (0)

ABSTAINED: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

RESOLUTION 2020-007

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE DECLARATION OF CEQA
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE COVELO COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

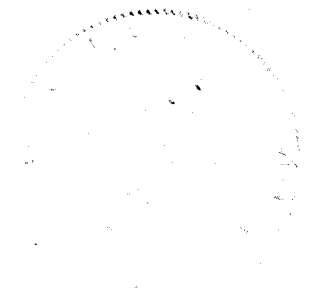


Joseph Gauder, Chair of the Board
Covelo Community Services District



ATTEST:

Gail Cook, Secretary of the Board
Covelo Community Services District



District Seal



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2020 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 06/01/20) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 01 — 12/14/2020 —
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Covelo Community Services District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL covelocsd@hotmail.com	DATE 12/14/2020
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Mendocino	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE
Covelo Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Dane Downing	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL covelocsd@hotmail.com	PHONE NUMBER (707) 983-6888
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS P.O. Box 65	CITY Covelo	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95428

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,343.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,406.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,136.50	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			
<hr/>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other
TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
-----------------------	---



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2020 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 06/01/20) Previously DFG 753.5a

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for **CRP** document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Accounting Services Branch
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090



Technical Memorandum

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.
10940 White Rock Road, Suite 190
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
USA

T: 916-636-3200

www.woodplc.com

Date: December 10, 2020

To: Dane Downing (Covelo CSD) Project: Covelo Community Services District (CSD) Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project

From: Juliana Prospero (Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.) cc: Manjit Saini (Brown & Caldwell)
Randy Marx (Office of Water Programs [OWP] – Sacramento State)
Nadine Cross (OWP – Sacramento State)
Manjit Saini (Brown & Caldwell)
Wendy Peirce (State Water Board)
Lisa Machado (State Water Board)

Subject: Categorical Exemption Analysis Memorandum

This memorandum serves as the technical documentation of an environmental analysis performed by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) for the Covelo Community Services District (CSD) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements Project (Project) located in the unincorporated community of Covelo, in Mendocino County, California. The intent of the analysis is to document whether the project is eligible for a Class 2 Categorical Exemption (CE) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15302. This memorandum provides an evaluation of the project's consistency with the requirements for a Class 2 CE and the exceptions to CEs per CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2.

Based on the environmental analysis completed, the proposed Project qualifies as a Class 2 CE, as a replacement and reconstruction of an existing structure and facility. The proposed Project includes the following four reconstruction improvements: 1) installation of two new 5-foot diameter manholes and new sewer line connections; 2) installation of a 1.5-foot wide trash screen in a below-grade concrete chamber; 3) replacement of an existing wet well and aboveground lift station, and new force main; and 4) relocation and upgrade of electrical and communication lines, and other wet utilities including wastewater and sanitary sewer lines from the existing WWTP facility.

Other proposed infrastructure improvements include the installation of an electrical control system in the existing control and office building, and the replacement of the system's main circuit breakers and pump switch system. These control systems would be installed in a weather-proof receptacle located next to an electrical panel housed in the existing controls and office building. Site improvements would include minor site grading and the installation of one 20-foot tall aluminum light pole with a light-emitting diode fixture to illuminate the screenings bin and influent pump station. No improvements are proposed for the oxidation or percolation ponds. The replacement facilities would be located on the same site as the structures that are being replaced. They will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The replacement and reconstruction of the existing WWTP facility would also involve negligible or no expansion of capacity.



The following are exceptions to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 Class 2 CEs:

Exception (a) A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project under Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 if the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The proposed Project qualifies as a Class 2 CE, as a replacement and reconstruction of an existing structure and facility. It is not located near an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. According to the Biological Assessment Report completed for the proposed Project, the riparian woodland habitat along Town Creek would be avoided during construction activities (Wood 2020a). Therefore, exception (a) would not apply to the proposed Project.

Exception (b) A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The proposed Project involves the implementation of upgrades to the existing Covelo CSD WWTP. These improvements consist of the replacement of an existing aboveground lift station, and wet well underneath. No successive projects of the same type in the same place would occur over time. The project is also consistent with the Mendocino County General Plan and Zoning Code (Mendocino County 2009). Therefore, potential cumulative effects are not anticipated, and Exception (b) would not apply to the proposed Project.

Exception (c) 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.

The proposed Project would not result in any significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project site is located within the existing Covelo CSD WWTP site and the unincorporated community of Covelo. The proposed Project would result in minor and temporary air quality emission associated with construction (Wood 2020b). While the Project site is located near a sensitive resource area, such as the riparian woodland corridor of Town Creek, the proposed Project was designed to avoid the riparian woodland corridor and includes environmental protection measures to minimize any impacts to the riparian woodland habitat (Wood 2020a). Three previously recorded pre-historic sites extend within 0.5 mile of the Project site, but none are within the Project's approximate 0.25-acre Area of Potential Affect (APE), and the proposed Project does not have the potential to impact other unknown historical resources in the vicinity (Wood 2020c). Therefore, Exception (c) would not apply to the proposed Project.

Exception (d) 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.

Based on the California Department of Transportation's California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no scenic highways near the project site (Caltrans 2020). The closest officially designated or eligible State scenic highway is U.S. Highway 101 located near Willits, approximately 50 miles west of the Project site (Caltrans 2020). Given the distance of the Project site to U.S. Highway 101, the proposed Project would not be visible from this highway. For these reasons, the proposed Project would have no impact on scenic resources within a State scenic highway and Exception (d) would not apply.

Exception (e) A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the Department of Toxic Substance Control and State Water Resources Control Board to compile and regularly update a regulatory site listing. The California Department of Health Services is also required to compile and update, as appropriate, a list of all public drinking water wells that contain detectable levels of organic contaminants and that are subject to water analysis pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 116395. Section 65962.5 requires the local enforcement agency, as designated pursuant to Section 18051 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, to compile, as appropriate, a list of all solid waste disposal facilities from which there is a known migration of hazardous waste.

There are ten listed Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cleanup sites within the Project vicinity, many of which are under investigation and assessment, verification monitoring, closed cases, or permitted underground storage tanks (DTSC 2020; SWRCB 2020). However, the Project site is not currently listed as a cleanup site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List) (Cal EPA 2020; DTSC 2020; SWRCB 2020).

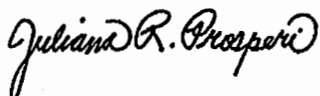
Exception (f) A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

According to the Historical Property Identification Report, there are no historical resources within the Project APE (Wood 2020c). The nearest recorded historical property is located approximately 220 feet to the northwest of the Project APE (Wood 2020c). The existing aboveground lift station and wet well were constructed between 1976 and 1977 and are not more than 50 years old (Dennis 2020). Further, the majority of the Project APE appears to have been substantially disturbed during past construction activities associated with the existing Covelo CSD WWTP (Wood 2020c). Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource and Exception (f) would not apply.

Conclusion

Based on this analysis, the proposed Project meets all criteria for a Class 2 CE pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Sincerely yours,
Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.



Juliana R. Prospero, AICP
Senior Environmental Scientist
Direct Tel.: (303) 503-7794
E-mail: juliana.prospero@woodplc.com

References

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2020. Envirostor database. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=covelo%2C+ca>
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2020a. Scenic Highways. Scenic Highway System Lists. List of Eligible and Officially Designated State Scenic Highways. Available at: https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/desig-and-eligible-aug2019_a11y.xlsx
- California Environmental Protection Agency. (Cal EPA). Cortese Listing. Available at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed on November 19, 2020.
- Dennis. 2020. Personal communication between Ms. Lisa Machado (State Water Resources Control Board, Cultural Resources Manager) and Mr. Timothy Dennis (Covelo CSD, Plant Operations Manager) on October 22, 2020.
- Mendocino County. 2009. Mendocino County General Plan. August 2009. Available at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/plans/mendocino-county-general-plan>
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 2020. GeoTracker database. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=covelo%2C+ca>
- Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. 2020a. Biological Assessment Report. Prepared for Brown and Caldwell, 75 W. Santa Clara Street, Suite 375, San Jose, CA 95113. Prepared by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., 4905 Morena Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92117.
- _____. 2020b. Air Quality Analysis Technical Memorandum Report. Prepared for Brown and Caldwell, 75 W. Santa Clara Street, Suite 375, San Jose, CA 95113. Prepared by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., 104 W. Anapamu Street, Suite 204a, Santa Barbara, CA 93013.
- _____. 2020c. Historical Property Identification Report. Prepared for Brown and Caldwell, 75 W. Santa Clara Street, Suite 375, San Jose, CA 95113. Prepared by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., 104 W. Anapamu Street, Suite 204a, Santa Barbara, CA 93013.

Katrina Bartolomie, Clerk-Recorder
Mendocino County, CA
501 Low Gap Rd., Room 1020
Ukiah, Ca 95482

Receipt: 20-15657

Product	Name	Extended
NTDETER2008	Notice Of Determination	\$50.00
	# Pages	1
	Document #	2020-E0065
	# Negative Decl	0
	# Mitigated Negative Decl	0
	# EIR	0
	# Cert. Reg. Pogram	0
	# Conformed Labels	0

Total		\$50.00
Tender (Check)		\$50.00

Check# 8626
Paid By COVELO COMMUNITY SERV DIST

Thank You!

Thu Dec 24 14:20:33 PST 2020 marianna4