

PUBLICATION DATE: November 1, 2021

City of Alturas Planning Department

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The City of Alturas Planning Department (City) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for the proposed Alturas Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project.

Project Location: The City currently owns and operates its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) just south of the city limits, on County Road 54, in unincorporated Modoc County. The existing WWTP facility is located along the north bank of the North Fork Pit River at its confluence with the South Fork Pit River and provides primary and secondary treatment with treated effluent discharged to the Pit River. The project study area, which includes the existing WWTP, a proposed new pipeline along County Road 54, and new offsite aerations ponds, totals approximately 106 acres. The project study area is situated in Sections 14, 22, 23, and 27, Township 42 North, Range 12 East, of the U.S. Geological Survey's Alturas, CA, 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Description of Project: The City has had difficulty meeting permitted effluent limits for various constituents, including zinc, copper, aluminum, biological oxygen demand, total suspended solids, total coliform, toxicity, and total suspended solids. Therefore, the City is proposing improvements to WWTP to enhance system efficiency and comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) requirements. The City proposes to decommission the existing WWTP; pump the raw wastewater to new, offsite aeration ponds; and dispose of the treated wastewater through land discharge via evaporation and percolation ponds on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 022-130-042, which is located on the northwest side of County Road 54, approximately 1.4-miles southwest of the City's existing WWTP. A new pipeline would be constructed along County Road 54 from the existing WWTP to the new location. All construction would occur within the existing County Road 54 right-of-way.

Related Zoning and Uses: The proposed project will require an amendment to the City of Alturas General Plan Sphere of Influence (SOI), a general plan land use amendment from Modoc County General Plan Rural Residential (RR) designation to the Public Facilities (City of Alturas), and a concurrent pre-zone of APN 022-130-042 from Unclassified (U) to Agriculture (AG).

Environmental Topics Evaluated: The Initial Study examines the potential impacts generated by the proposed project in relation to the potential of the project to have an impact on the environment.

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement): The City of Alturas, as Lead Agency for the proposed project, has discretionary authority over the primary project proposal. To implement this project the following discretionary permits/approvals from other agencies will be required:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Modoc County Air Pollution Control District
- Modoc County Local Agency Formation Commission
- Modoc County Public Works Department
- State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

A copy of the Draft IS/MND is available for review at the City of Alturas, 200 W. North Street, Alturas, California, 96101 weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The public comment period begins on November 1, 2021 and will end on November 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments can be mailed to the attention of Joe Picotte, City of Alturas, 200 W. North Street, Alturas, California, 96101.