

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Tehachapi

PROJECT TITLE: Groundwater Sustainability Project

REVIEW PERIOD: November 30, 2021 to December 30, 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Tehachapi (City) as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is proposing to implement the Groundwater Sustainability Project (GSP; proposed project), an Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) project that would allow the City to increase local water supply, maximize recycled water use, improve water quality to support higher levels of recycled water, and decrease reliance on imported water. The GSP would construct new facilities at the City's existing Tehachapi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to produce tertiary-treated recycled water, upgrade the effluent pump station at the WWTP, construct a new pump station at the Borrow Pit, construct a new pipeline to convey recycled water from the Borrow Pit to Blackburn Dam, and construct new spreading grounds at Blackburn Dam to allow for recharge of the tertiary-treated recycled water into the local Tehachapi Groundwater Basin. The recharged water would be extracted at existing domestic supply wells at a later date.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located both within the jurisdiction of the City of Tehachapi, as well as unincorporated Kern County, located in southeastern Kern County as shown on **Figure 1**. The City is approximately 35 miles southeast of the City of Bakersfield and 50 miles northwest of the City of Lancaster. The City lies in a mountainous area between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert, at an elevation of approximately 3,970 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). It is surrounded by prominent hills and ridgelines to the north, west, and south.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISCLOSURE: The project site is not included on any lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5, which includes but is not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, properties, and disposal sites.

FINDINGS/ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The City of Tehachapi as the Lead Agency has prepared an Initial Study to provide the public and trustee and responsible agencies with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment associated with the proposed project. The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, transportation, and wildfire. Mitigation measures have been identified for these environmental topics to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Effects found to be less than significant and those with no environmental impacts are also described in the IS/MND. The City of Tehachapi has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The City of Tehachapi hereby proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: A 30-day public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence on November 30, 2021, and end December 30, 2021, for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received by the City of Tehachapi by **4:00 PM on December 30, 2021**. Comments received during the public review period and responses to the comments will be included in the final environmental document. Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review as described below.

CONTACT PERSON: The City of Tehachapi
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Tehachapi, CA 93561
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Tehachapi Branch Library, 212 South Green Street, Tehachapi, California, 93561; and online at the City of Tehachapi's Web Site (<https://www.liveuptehachapi.com/DocumentCenter/View/6153>).

PUBLIC MEETING: The City of Tehachapi City Council will consider the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration at a regularly scheduled meeting following the 30-day review period. For more information, contact Don Marsh.

