City of Folsom

Water Treatment Plant Backwash and Recycled Water Capacity Project

Notice of Exemption

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Folsom is proposing to upgrade the Decant Pump Station and Reclamation Backwash Basin within the existing Folsom Water Treatment Plant. The project is located on 194 Randall Drive in Folsom, California within the fence line of the Folsom Water Treatment Plant. The project objective is to upgrade existing “reclaimed backwash water” (RBW) infrastructure to improve operation resilience. The project would upgrade three elements of the RBW system: 1) Increase decant pump station (DPS) pumping capacity, 2) install DPS controls, and 3) construct new branch piping below ground to deliver RBW to the south side of the RBW Basin.

Increased DPS Pumping Capacity

The project would involve increasing the DPS capacity from 1.9 million gallons per day (MGD) to 5 MGD. To address the first project component, the existing pumping arrangement at the DPS requires three duty pumps at high flows leaving no backups in case of a pump failure. This project would replace existing pumps with new larger pumps. The larger pumps would allow the DPS to run in a two-duty pump arrangement at high flows and leave a spare pump in case of an emergency.

New DPS Controls

The new pumps would require larger conductors, therefore, a ductbank would be installed from the existing Power building going to the DPS. This ductbank would provide bigger conduits for larger conductors. The flow from the existing DPS pumps is currently controlled using a manual control valve. The plant staff would like to automate the flow control; therefore, the new pumps would utilize variable frequency drives (VFDs) to control the pumped flow based on preset flow parameters by plant staff.

New Branch Piping to the RBW Basin

Lastly, this project would add valving and branch piping on the RBW line which feeds the bifurcated RBW basin. The RBW basin is comprised of a north and south pond. Currently, the RBW piping only feeds the north side of the basin. This arrangement presents maintenance challenges because city staff is not able to isolate the north basin for maintenance. This project would add a second feed pipe on the south side of the RBW basin to allow maintenance access to the north side of the basin.

Figure 1 shows the project location and vicinity in addition to the project disturbance footprint. All work will be performed within the plant fence line. Figure 2 shows the general overall site plan.

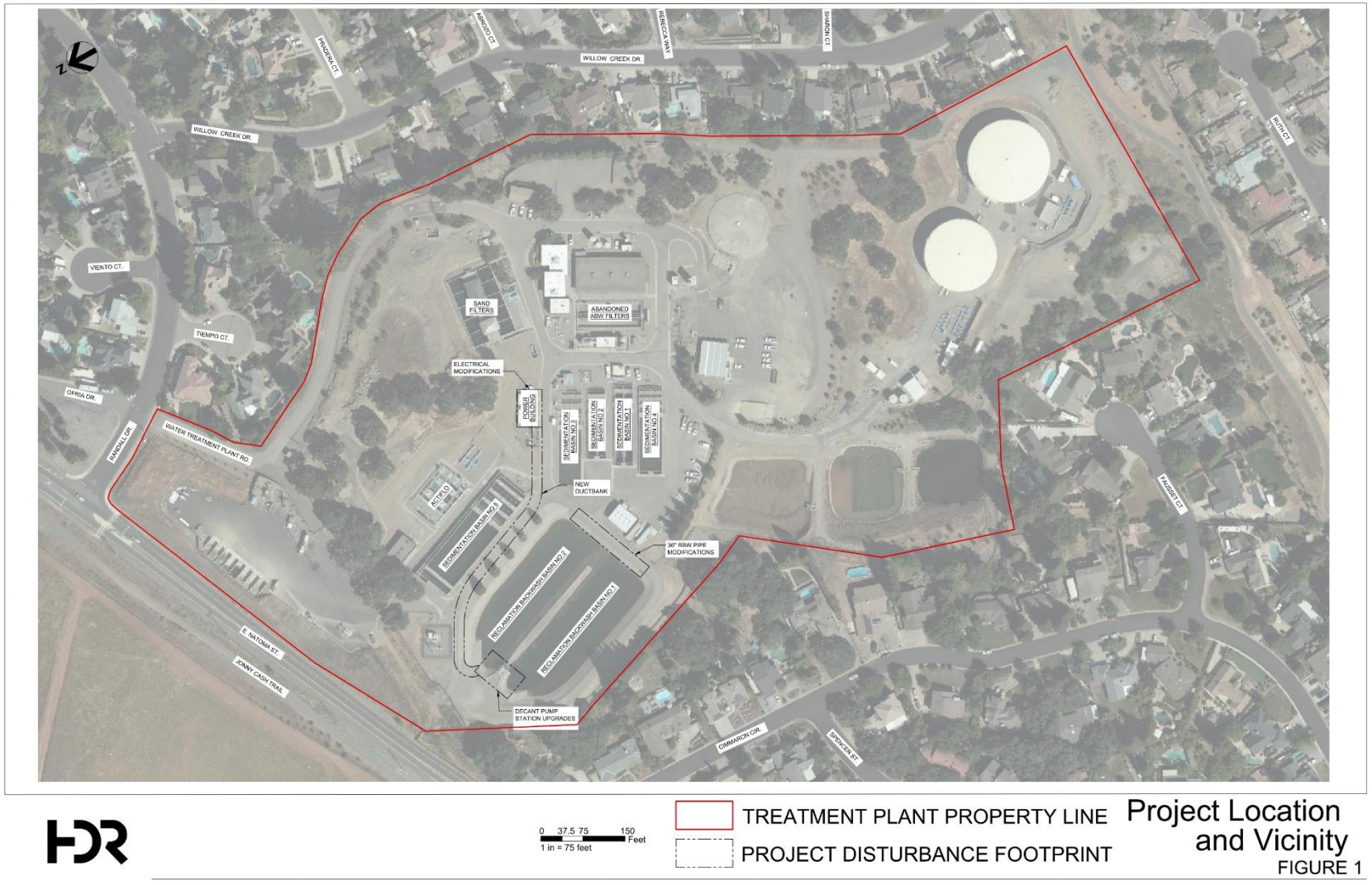

Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

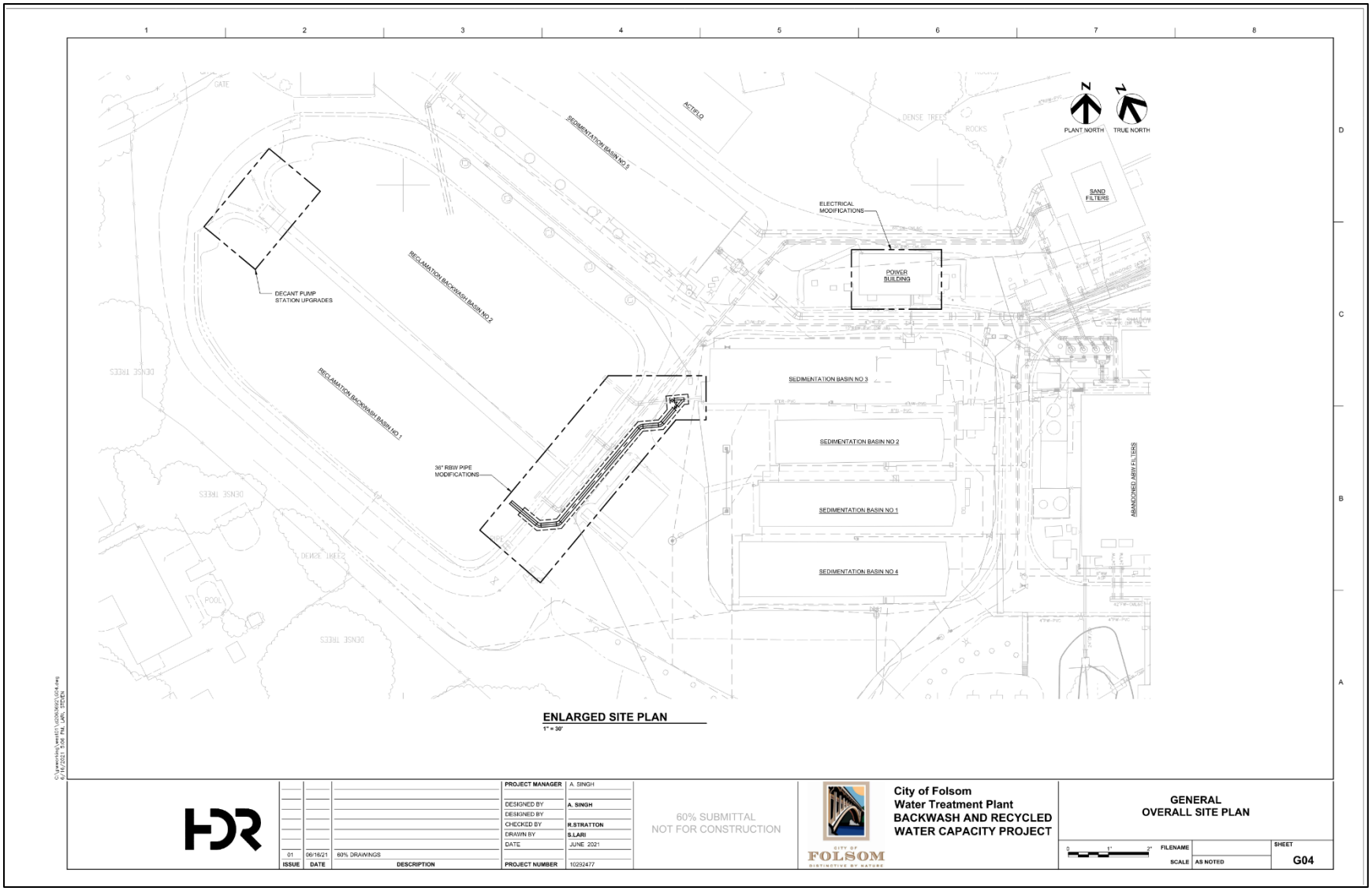

Figure 2. General Overall Site Plan

CEQA EXEMPTION

The City finds that this project is Categorically Exempt under Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Per Section 15301 "Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination." Class 1(b) applies to the proposed project and specifically refers to "existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services." The City's exemption finding is based on:

1. The project consists of upgrading existing RBW infrastructure to improve operation resilience. This involves the replacement of existing pumps with new larger pumps; installation of a duct bank from existing Power building to the DPS; implementation of automated flow control; and addition of valving and branch piping on the RBW line which feeds the bifurcated RBW basin.

2. The project would not expand existing use because it would not expand the City's current water treatment capacity. The City has the capacity to treat 50 MGD. The project merely allows the City to fully utilize the recycled water capacity allowed in the State Water Regulations. Therefore, the increased DPS pumping capacity from 1.9 MGD to 5 MGD would still be within the City's overall water treatment capacity.

3. The project does not have the potential to trigger any of the exceptions identified the Guidelines Section 15300.2.

    a. The project is located within the Folsom Water Treatment Plant on existing infrastructure and would not result in a significant impact on the environment. The project would also not induce growth. As stated above, the project would not increase the City's current water treatment capacity.

    b. Because the Project would not significantly affect environmental resources, the Project would not contribute to a cumulative impact.

    c. In order to determine the potential presence/absence of special-status plants or animals, or special-status or sensitive natural communities, a biological reconnaissance survey of the project site and vicinity was conducted by an HDR senior biologist on June 17, 2021. No special-status plants or animals, or special-status or sensitive natural communities, including elderberry plants, were identified within 50 meters of the project area or its components. All work would occur within paved or gravel covered areas and no tree or shrub removal would occur. Additionally, no work on structures in the plant or otherwise would occur. According to the Framework for Assessing Impacts to the VELB (USFWS 2017), no further actions regarding VELB are required. Additionally, since no work would occur on

trees or buildings in the project area, no additional surveys for nesting birds or bats is required.

d. According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State Scenic Highway Map, there are no officially designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the project in Sacramento County (Caltrans 2021). The project would not be located in, or visible from, an officially designated scenic highway or remove or damage scenic resources within an officially designated scenic highway.

e. According to the GeoTracker and EnviroStor online databases, the project is not located on a site included in any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2021; SWRCB 2021).

f. As stated, the project would occur within existing City water infrastructure, which is not eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places (USGS 1978; USGS 1980). Therefore, no impacts to known historical or cultural resources would occur.

REFERENCES

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2021. State Scenic Highway Map. Available online: https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa. Accessed August 2021

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2021. EnviroStor. Available online: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=194+randall+dr+folsom. Accessed July 2021

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2021. GeoTracker. Available online: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=194+Randall+Dr+Folsom%2C+CA. Accessed July 2021

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 1978. Topographic map of *Folsom, CA* (1:24000). Available online at http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs. Accessed on June 23, 2021.

----. 1980. Topographic map of *Folsom, CA* (1:24000). Available online at http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs. Accessed on June 23, 2021.