

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2019

To: Henry Liang, PE, MKN & Associates

FROM: Kyle Simpson, Associate

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15282 for the Olson Avenue Trunk Line Upsize Project

INTRODUCTION

The proposed Olson Avenue Trunk Line Upsize Project (proposed project) is the subject of this memorandum. The proposed project involves repair, upgrading, and construction of approximately 2,103 linear feet of wastewater pipeline. The proposed project would be located along West Olson Avenue in the City of Reedley, within Fresno County. Article 18 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines identifies several types of projects which have been determined to not have a significant effect on the environment and, as a result, are exempt from review under CEQA. This memorandum has been prepared to serve as the basis for compliance with CEQA as it pertains to the Olson Avenue Trunk Line Upsize Project.

A full project description is included below. This memorandum also demonstrates that the project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption as a pipeline replacement, consistent with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k), and provides information for City of Reedley (City) decision-makers regarding a finding that the proposed project is exempt under CEQA.

In summary, this memorandum demonstrates that the proposed project qualifies for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k) as a pipeline replacement project as set forth in Section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, and the pipeline does not exceed one mile in length.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following describes the proposed project which includes repairing and upgrading an existing wastewater pipeline and construction of a new wastewater pipeline.

Project Site

The following section describes the project location, existing conditions, surrounding land uses, and the regulatory setting.

Project Location

The project site is located in the western portion of the City of Reedley, within Fresno County. The project site is located within the right-of-way of West Olson Avenue, west of the intersection of West Olson Avenue and Reed Avenue, and Cricket Hollow Park. The pipeline would terminate at the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), located at 1701 West Huntsman Avenue.

Existing Conditions

West Olson Avenue is a two-lane undivided roadway with travel lanes approximately 12 feet wide and shoulders approximately six to seven feet wide. The east end of the Olson Avenue bridge is approximately 325 feet west of the intersection of West Olson Avenue and Reed Avenue. Driveways providing access to Cricket Hollow Park and the wastewater treatment plant are located approximately 125 feet west of the west end of the bridge.

Cricket Hollow Park is a City-owned park located on the west bank of the Kings River. The park includes picnic tables and barbecues, parking and restrooms. A portion of Cricket Hollow Park west of the driveway from West Olson Avenue is an undeveloped field not currently utilized for park activities.

Surrounding Land Uses

A variety of land uses surround the project site, and the project site crosses the Kings River. Immediately north of the project site on the east side of the Kings River is Monument Hill Park. The Reedley Beach and a mobile home park are located on the west side of the Kings River, north of West Olson Avenue.

On the south side of West Olson Avenue, the Reedley Cemetery is located east of the Kings River. Single-family homes and the WWTP are located west of Cricket Hollow Park.

Regulatory Setting

The project site is located adjacent to areas designated as Open Space and Public/Institutional Facility in the City's General Plan.¹ The project site is located within and adjacent to Resource Conservation and Open Space (RCO) and Urban Reserve (UR) zoning districts as identified in the City of Reedley Zoning Map.²

Proposed Project

The proposed project includes repairing and upgrading the existing pipeline in West Olson Avenue and construction of a new pipeline to minimize the risk of future pipeline failures and to have the pipeline sized to accommodate wastewater generated by anticipated population growth in Reedley. The total length of the proposed pipeline would be approximately 2,103 feet. Approximately 793

¹ Reedley, City of, 2013. *City of Reedley General Plan 2030*. January.

² Reedley, City of, 2015. *City of Reedley Zoning Map*. April 6.

feet of existing pipe would be repaired, and approximately 1,310 feet of new pipe would be constructed.

As shown in Figure 1, the proposed alignment of the pipeline starts near the intersection of West Olson Avenue and Reed Avenue; it then continues west along West Olson Avenue across the southern side of the Olson Avenue bridge and then turns south through Cricket Hollow Park. Table A provides a summary of the approximate lengths of each pipe section shown in Figure 1.

Table A: Pipeline Section Lengths

Pipeline Section	Approximate Length
CO-1	45.03
CO-2	71.76
CO-3	349.74
CO-4	22.99
CO-5	672.73
CO-6	148.17
CO-7	609.17
CO-8	184.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,103.59</i>

Source: MKN (2019).

The City chose to utilize the alignment of the existing pipe located along West Olson Avenue because it was determined that the existing 21-inch pipe on the Olson Avenue bridge could remain as-is without overflowing the existing wastewater collection system. Although the proposed project does not propose an additional pipe across the Olson Avenue bridge, a new diversion structure would be installed on the east side of the bridge to accommodate future flow splitting. In the future, the City may choose to add an additional pipe on the north side of the Olson Avenue bridge by using the new diversion structure.

The existing manhole on the 21-inch reinforced concrete pipe in the Cricket Hollow Park entrance would be replaced and a new 36-inch pipe which would connect to the new manhole and divert flows to the west by plugging the existing 21-inch pipe to the south. The proposed wastewater pipe would be located along the eastern edge of the undeveloped field within Cricket Hollow Park. This area of Cricket Hollow Park has the highest elevation within the park. Locating the proposed pipeline within this area would require less fill material to be used to cover the new pipeline.

Within Cricket Hollow Park, the proposed pipeline would connect with the existing 10-inch wastewater pipe extending from Henley Creek Road that serves the residences immediately west of Cricket Hollow Park. In addition, the new pipeline would join with the existing 15-inch wastewater pipeline from the mobile home park and existing park restroom. The proposed wastewater pipe would cross under the existing 21-inch manhole and continue to the pump station. The proposed pipeline alignment would eliminate the existing siphon located within Cricket Hollow Park, minimize earthwork, maintain the ability to develop the undeveloped field within of Cricket Hollow Park, and minimize bypass pumping requirements.

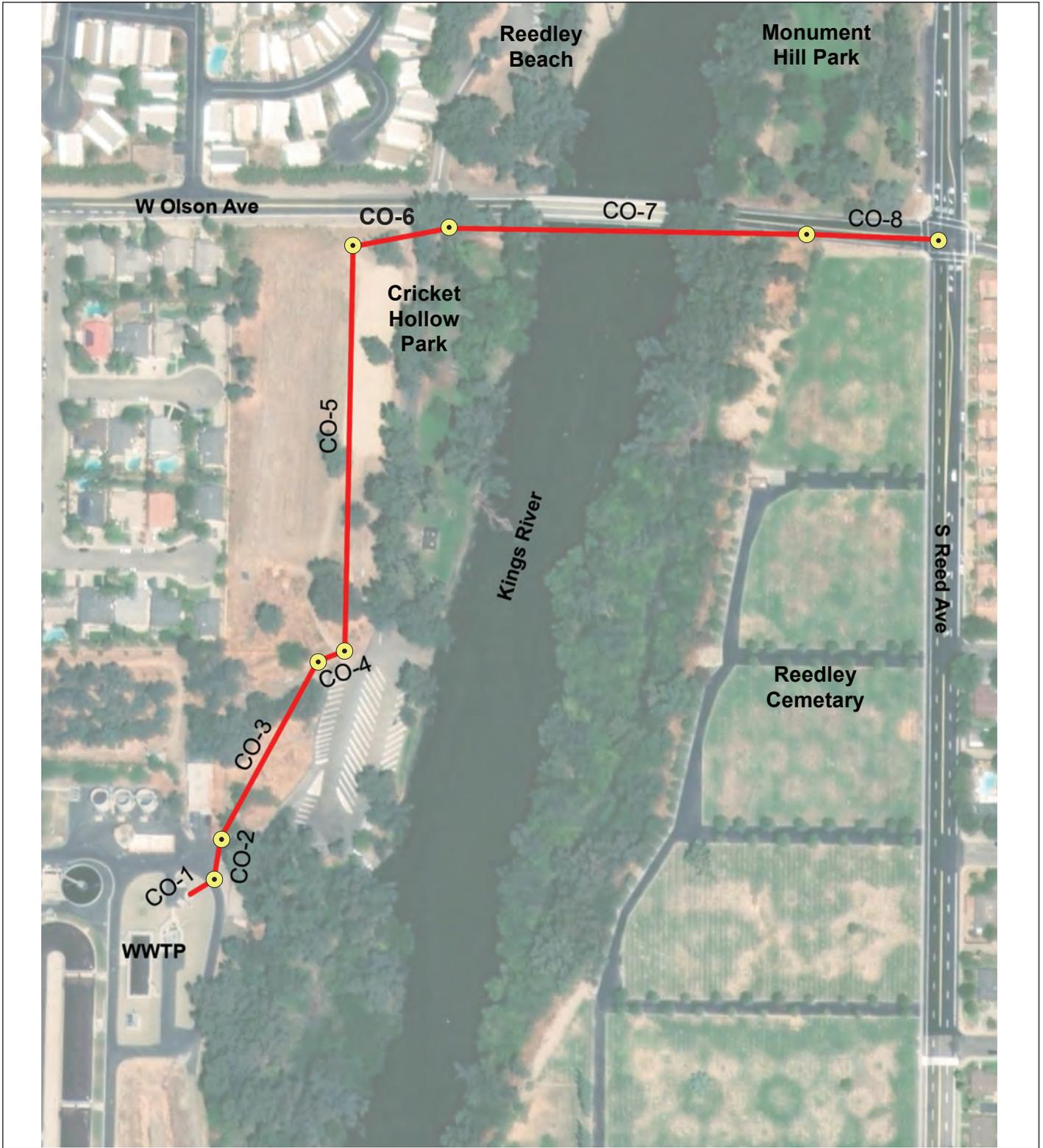


FIGURE 1

LSA

Legend



NOT TO SCALE

● Structure

— Conduit

*Olson Avenue Trunk Line Upsize Project
Conceptual Pipeline Alignment*

Construction Schedule

Construction of the proposed project would take approximately 24 weeks. Construction staging areas would be determined by the construction manager, but would be generally located within Cricket Hollow Park.

Project Approvals

A number of permits and approvals would be required for the proposed project. While the City is the CEQA Lead Agency for the proposed project, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) would also have discretionary authority related to the project and approvals. A list of the potential permits and approvals that may be required is provided in Table B.

Table B: Potential Permits and Approvals

Agency	Potential Permits/Approvals
City of Reedley (Lead Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project approval • Notice of Exemption adoption • Provision of grading, demolition, construction, tree removal, parking, traffic, erosion permits and approvals
State Water Resources Board	Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Source: LSA (2019).

The proposed project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption as a Statutory Exemption, consistent with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k).

STATUTORY EXEMPTION

Article 18 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies several types of projects which have been determined to not result in significant effects on the environment and, as a result, are exempt from review under CEQA. This memorandum has been prepared to serve as the basis for compliance with CEQA as it pertains to the proposed project, and to demonstrate that the proposed project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption, consistent with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k) which states the following:

The installation of new pipeline or maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline as set forth in Section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length.

Section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code states the following:

This division does not apply to any project of less than one mile in length within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way for the installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline. For purposes of this section, "pipeline" includes subsurface

facilities but does not include any surface facility related to the operation of the underground facility.

The proposed project is 2,103 feet in length (0.4 mile). Therefore, the proposed project, as described above, is eligible for a Statutory Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k) due to the length of the proposed pipeline and, as a result, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

SUMMARY

On the basis of the evidence provided above, the proposed project is eligible for a Statutory Exemption in accordance with Section 15282(k) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project meets the criteria for a Statutory Exemption and it would not have a significant effect on the environment. As a result, a Notice of Exemption may be prepared for the proposed project.