

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Olivehurst Public Utility Dist.  
1970 9th Avenue  
Olivehurst, CA 95961

County Clerk  
County of: Yuba  
915 8th Street, Suite 107  
Marysville, CA 95901

(Address)

ENDORSED FILED

MAY 10 2022

Project Title: Water Line Replacement

Project Applicant: Olivehurst Public Utility District

DONNA HILLEGASS, Clerk  
BY BRIDGETTE EVANS  
Deputy Clerk

Project Location - Specific:

15 segments of existing paved roadways in the unincorporated community of Olivehurst

Project Location - City: Olivehurst Project Location - County: Yuba

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The replacement of existing stainless steel water mains with C900 (plastic) pipelines within the road prism of 15 paved street segments to benefit water quality and maintenance. Under the proposed project, no new pipelines would be installed outside of areas currently served. There would be no increase in capacity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Olivehurst Public Utility District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John Tillotson, General Manager

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. State type and section number: Class 1 (15301b), Class 2 (15302c)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project would replace and upgrade existing water delivery facilities at the same locations as the existing pipelines without providing any expansion of the existing delivery capacity or changes in the place of use.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: John Tillotson Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530 743-0817

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

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 5-2-22 Title: General Manager

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS  
AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL CEQA ANALYSIS**

**FOR THE**

**OPUD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND  
METER RETROFITTING PROJECTS**

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**OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

1970 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Olivehurst, CA 95961

Prepared with the Technical Assistance of:



2934 Gold Pan Court, Ste. 3  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

December 2021

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# CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND SUPPLEMENTAL CEQA ANALYSIS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD or District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), proposes to implement two maintenance and upgrade projects on the existing water system within the unincorporated community of Olivehurst in Yuba County. The first project is proposed to replace existing stainless steel water mains with C900 (plastic) pipelines within 15 paved street segments. The second project would involve retrofitting water meters on 400 existing water service laterals within the community. This report serves as the technical documentation of environmental analyses performed by Environmental Planning Partners, Inc. for the water main replacement project and the water meter retrofit project. The intent of the following analyses is to determine whether the two projects are required to comply with CEQA requirements to prepare environmental documents.

Section 15300 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that:

*Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code requires these Guidelines to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA.*

*In response to that mandate, the Secretary for Resources has found that the following classes of projects listed in this article do not have a significant effect on the environment, and they are declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.*

The exempted projects set forth in the CEQA Guidelines are described as being “Categorically Exempt.” The following two classes of projects identified in Section 15300 et seq. of the State CEQA Guidelines may be applicable to the two proposed OPUD projects:

*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 existing or former use. Compliant types of projects under Class 1 include, existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.*

*Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and 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. Compliant types of projects under Class 2 include, replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.*

The Guidelines also list a series of exceptions that govern whether a Categorical Exemption is appropriate under different circumstances. As set forth in Section 15300.2, exceptions that could prevent the use of a Categorical Exemption include: the location of the project; whether there are cumulative effects to which the project contributes; whether there are any significant environmental effects caused by implementation of the project; whether the project is near a scenic highway and

could cause adverse visual effects; whether the project is located on a hazardous waste site; or whether there are historical resources that could be adversely affected by project implementation.

The intent of the following analysis is to determine whether the projects qualify for the identified exemption categories described above, and whether any of the exceptions listed in the guidelines exist for the two projects. This report provides an introduction, project description, and an evaluation of each of the two projects' consistency with CEQA requirements for Class 1 and Class 2 exemptions. The analysis concludes that each of the projects is eligible for both a Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemption. A Notice of Exemption for each project has been approved by the OPUD.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Project Titles:</b>	OPUD Water Main Replacement Project, and OPUD Water Meter Retrofit Project
<b>Project Locations:</b>	Various within existing roadways and utility easements Olivehurst CA 95961
<b>Assessor Parcel Numbers:</b>	Various
<b>Lead Agency Name and Address:</b>	Olivehurst Public Utility District 1970 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Olivehurst, CA 95961
<b>Contact Person / Phone Number:</b>	John Tillotson Phone: (530) 743-4657
<b>General Plan Designations:</b>	Valley Neighborhood ( <i>Yuba County General Plan</i> )
<b>Zoning Categories:</b>	RS – Single Family Residential RM – Medium Density Residential RH High Density Residential ( <i>All Yuba County designations</i> )

## PROJECT LOCATIONS

### *Water Main Replacement*

The proposed water main replacement project would be constructed within 15 segments of existing streets, primarily north of McGowan Parkway. These street segments include:

Street	Segment Location	Approximate Length (feet)
11 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Between Olivehurst Ave. and Ardmore Ave.	680
Ardmore Ave.	Between 11 <sup>th</sup> Ave. and Baugh St.	2,650
Beverly Ave.	Between Admore Ave. to east of Fleming Way	1,310
Western Ave.	Between 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. and 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	1,310
Pacific Ave.	Between 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. and 11 <sup>th</sup> Ave. extended	2,675
Chapman Ave.	From Fleming Way to the east	765

Street	Segment Location	Approximate Length (feet)
8 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Fleming Way to the east	485
Tulsa Ave.	From 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	935
4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Canal St. to east of Western Ave.	1,340
5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Canal St. to Olivehurst Ave.	1,935
Canal St.	From 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. to 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	910
9 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Western Ave. to Olivehurst Ave.	1,290
8 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Western Ave. to east of Olivehurst Ave.	1,960
10 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	From Western Ave. to Olivehurst Ave.	1,290
Okmulgee Ave.	From 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to the north	585
<b>Totals</b>		
	<b>Feet</b>	<b>21,120</b>
	<b>Miles</b>	<b>4.0</b>

See Figures 1 and 2. The water main replacement project is located in Sections 5 and 8, Township 14 North, Range 4 East and Section 32 Township 15 North, Range 4 East. The center of that project is located at 39°38' 5.16"N, 121°33' 6.78"W.

### ***Water Meter Retrofitting***

OPUD proposes to retrofit up to 400 water meters for existing residential customers without meters in a 260-acre area within Olivehurst bounded by: 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the south; the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the west; the residences north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue on the north; and Chestnut Road and Powerline Road on the east.

See Figures 1 and 3. The water meter retrofitting project is located in Section 5, Township 14 North, Range 4 East and Section 32 Township 15 North, Range 4 East. The center of that project is located near 39°06' 01.19"N, 121°33' 15.22"W.

## **EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS**

### ***Water Main Replacement***

Except where several of the street segments intersect Olivehurst Avenue, a fully developed roadway, the sites of the water main replacements consist of narrow paved roadways without curbs, gutters, or sidewalks. All construction activities would take place within the roadway prisms.

The proposed project street segments are situated primarily in an area of low-density single-family residential housing.

### ***Water Meter Retrofitting***

The locations of water meter retrofits consist of existing utility easements developed with residential service lateral pipes and other utilities. New water meters would be installed within these easements, outside of the narrow paved roadways without curbs, gutters, or sidewalks that predominate in the area, and outside of the public rights of way. All construction activities would take place within existing utility easements.

The proposed water meter installations are situated in a fully developed area of low-density residential housing.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

OPUD's goal is to provide a safe and efficient water distribution system that meets State and industry standards.

## **PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS**

### ***Water Main Replacement***

The existing stainless steel water mains in each street segment would be abandoned in place. The new C900 (plastic) water mains would be placed in a new trench adjacent to the existing water main. Material taken from the trenches would partially be used for backfill for the new mains. Excess trench spoils would be disposed of at a permitted location away from the work area by the contractor. Following installation of the new main and connection of service laterals, each of the roadways would be reconstructed to their current configuration to meet Yuba County standards.

The water main replacement project would be constructed in a single phase over a period of 90 days beginning in Spring 2022, though no one location would be subject to 90 continuous days of construction. Up to 700 lineal feet of new water main could be constructed within a day.

Customer water service would be maintained during construction using the existing stainless steel water mains, except for a 2-hour window to detach existing service laterals from the existing main and attach the lateral to the new water main.

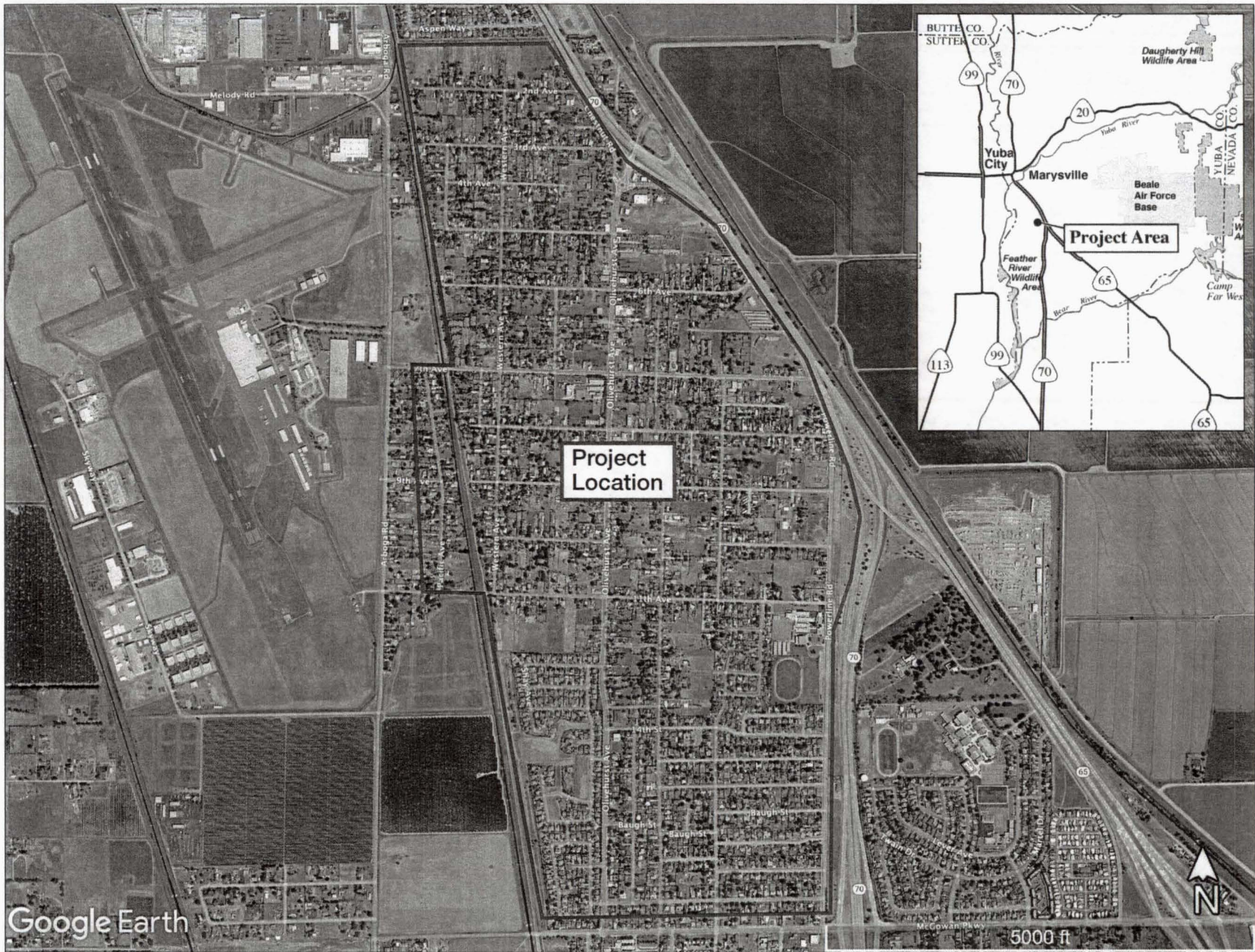
Though no specific site for equipment and materials storage has been identified, the marshalling yard will be required by OPUD to be located within the general overall work area in a previously disturbed or paved area.

### ***Water Meter Retrofitting***

The proposed project would result in the installation of up to 400 water meters in residential areas of north Olivehurst. The meters would be installed on existing service laterals within utility easements outside of the adjacent street rights of way, typically within the front yards of the residences. Installation of each meter would disturb an area no larger than 10 square feet (a square approximately 3 feet on each side). The disturbance area could range up to 4 feet in depth, depending upon the depth of the existing service lateral. Because of the likely presence of other existing utilities within the easement, a trailer-mounted vacuum suction excavator would be used to excavate the construction area.

Installation of a meter would typically result in the loss of water service of one hour for each affected residence, although in certain cases this period could range up to six hours. Water meter installation would occur over a period of three years beginning in 2022.

Though no specific site for equipment and materials storage has been identified, the marshalling yard will be required by OPUD to be located within the general overall work area in a previously disturbed or paved area.



Google Earth

SOURCE: Planning Partners 2021

OPUD Water Main Replacement and Meter Retrofitting Projects

**Figure 1**

Project Vicinity and Regional Location





SOURCE: OPUD; Planning Partners 2021

OPUD Water Main Replacement and Meter Retrofitting Projects

**Figure 2**

Water Main Replacement Locations



SOURCE: OPUD; Planning Partners 2021

*OPUD Water Main Replacement and Meter Retrofitting Projects*

**Figure 3**  
Area of Water Meter Installation

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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Based on the OPUD's experience with similar projects and regulatory requirements, the District has included the following environmental commitments on the project plans and all construction documents. These commitments will be implemented in the design, construction, and operation of the proposed water main replacement and meter retrofitting projects.

### Air Quality

Construction of each project will be subject to Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) rules in effect at the time of construction. OPUD will implement, or require its contractors to implement, all of the following construction phase Standard Mitigation Measures required by FRAQMD:

1. Prepare, submit and implement a Fugitive Dust Control Plan.
2. Construction equipment exhaust emissions shall not exceed FRAQMD Regulation III, Rule 3.0, Visible Emissions limitations (40 percent opacity or Ringelmann 2.0).
3. The contractor shall be responsible to ensure that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained prior to and for the duration of on-site operation.
4. Limiting idling time to 5 minutes – saves fuel and reduces emissions.
5. Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators.
6. Develop a traffic plan to minimize traffic flow interference from construction activities. The plan may include advance public notice of routing, use of public transportation, and satellite parking areas with a shuttle service. Schedule operations affecting traffic for off-peak hours. Minimize obstruction of through-traffic lanes. Provide a flag person to guide traffic properly and ensure safety at construction sites.
7. Portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units used at the project work site, with the exception of on-road and off-road motor vehicles, may require California Air Resources Board (ARB) Portable Equipment Registration with the State or a local district permit. The owner/operator shall be responsible for arranging appropriate consultations with the ARB or the District to determine registration and permitting requirements prior to equipment operation at the site.

### Cultural Resources

Prior to initiation of construction on the project sites of both project components, OPUD will require that any construction or improvement plans contain a notation requiring that if any archaeological, cultural, historical resources, artifacts or other features are discovered during the course of construction anywhere on the project sites, work shall be suspended in that location until a qualified professional archaeologist assesses the significance of the discovery and provides consultation with OPUD staff. Appropriate mitigation for curation or protection of the resources, as recommended by the archaeologist, will be implemented upon approval by OPUD. Further site work within the area of discovery will not be allowed until the preceding steps have been taken.

In addition, pursuant to §5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, in the event of the discovery of any human remains, all work will

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stop and the County Coroner will be notified immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, guidelines of the Native American Heritage Commission will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains.

## **Geology/Soils & Hydrology and Water Quality**

### ***Construction Water Quality***

In coordination with Yuba County requirements, all construction activities for the water main replacement project shall implement stormwater pollution prevention Best Management Practices (BMP) designed to reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction of the projects as follows:

1. Submitting a Notice of Intent and complying with the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's "General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity" including the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP),
2. Protecting adjacent properties and storm drainage facilities from the discharge of sediment or other contaminants from the construction sites,
3. Scheduling as much project work as possible during the dry season,
4. Protecting storm drain inlets,
5. Using other Best Management Practices as necessary, including applying rainy season erosion controls, managing stockpiles, and correctly managing and disposing of construction wastes,
6. Maintaining all Best Management Practices, and
7. Stabilizing the sites after construction is complete, including revegetating landscaped areas disturbed by construction.

### **Noise**

To reduce the effects of construction noise on affected residents, the OPUD will implement the following measures for both project components:

1. All work necessary to implement the projects will be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
2. All equipment will be equipped with appropriate muffler devices to reduce the noise impacts of the construction operations.
3. Prior to the initiation of construction, OPUD will consult with the Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency (CDSA) to determine whether proposed activities require an exemption permit pursuant to Chapter 8.20.710 of the Yuba County Code. If it is determined that such a permit would be necessary or beneficial, OPUD will submit a permit application to the CDSA and abide by the terms of the permit.

### **Traffic**

To reduce potential traffic effects caused by project construction, the OPUD will implement the following measure for the water main replacement project:

Prior to the initiation of construction, OPUD will obtain an encroachment permit or permits from Yuba County for work within the county ROW. OPUD and/or its construction contractor

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will prepare a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) that meets the current TCP Checklist and TCP Conditions of Acceptance requirements of Yuba County. The TCP shall include all required topics, including: traffic handling during each stage of construction, maintaining emergency service provider access by, if necessary, providing alternate routes, repositioning emergency equipment, or coordinating with nearby service providers for coverage during construction closures, and covering any open trenches during the evenings and weekends. A component of the TCP will involve public dissemination of construction-related information through notices to the nearby residences, and press releases. The project contractor will be required to notify all affected residences, post the construction impact schedule, and place articles and/or advertisements in appropriate local newspapers regarding construction impacts and schedules.

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICAL ANALYSES**

#### **Aesthetics**

The project sites are located in a built-up urban area zoned for residential uses. No scenic highways are designated in the project vicinity. All work would take place in existing paved roadways or utility easements, and the existing surfaces would be restored to their existing condition upon completion of the projects. There would be no change in visual resources upon completion of the projects, and there would be no new sources of light or glare. There is no potential for impact with respect to these environmental resources.

#### **Agricultural and Forestry Resources**

As previously noted, the project sites are located in a built-up urban area zoned for residential uses. According to the California Department of Conservation, all lands within the areas affected by the projects are designated as Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC, 2021). No important farmlands, agricultural activities, designated forest lands, or commercial forest activities exist in the project areas. There is no potential for impact with respect to these environmental resources.

#### **Air Quality**

The project sites are located in Yuba County, within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB). Air quality within Yuba County is regulated under both federal and state Clean Air Acts by the Feather River Air Quality Management District (which includes Yuba and Sutter counties). For the water main replacement project, air pollutant emissions from construction activities were estimated using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Roadway Construction Emissions Model (Version 9.0, May 2018). Operational emissions were not modeled because no increases in operational emissions of air pollutants are expected. For the OPUD water meter retrofit component of the project, because of the limited areas of disturbance and construction equipment used, and a construction period of over three years, construction emissions from the water meter retrofit would be considered to be less-than-significant, and were not modeled.

Consistent with FRAQMD guidelines, a project would be considered to have a less-than-significant impact if the averaged project life emissions do not exceed 25 pounds per day of NO<sub>x</sub> or ROG, and the daily emissions of 80 pounds per day of PM<sub>10</sub>. Since the project would be constructed over three months, the maximum allowed emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> or ROG would be 2,250 pounds or 1.125 tons per year. Based on the Roadway Construction Emissions Model emissions estimates, the averaged project life emissions would be 0.09 tons ROG and 0.93 tons of NO<sub>x</sub>.

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Based on review of the proposed project, environmental commitments related to air quality will appear on the project construction plans for the purpose of minimizing potential effects. With implementation of FRAQMD construction phase Standard Mitigation Measures as set forth as environmental commitments above, the project would be considered to have a less-than-significant impact on air quality.

### **Biological Resources**

The project sites are located in a built-up urban area zoned for residential uses. All proposed work would take place within paved roadways or within existing utility easements for affected residences. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database was queried to determine the likelihood of occurrence for special-status species or sensitive and regulated habitats on the project site. Results showed the potential for presence of five species: a bird, the white tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*); two species of vernal pool invertebrates, the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*); and two plants associated with vernal pools, the veiny monardella (*Monardella venosa*) and Hartweg's golden sunburst (*Pseudobahia bahiifolia*). Hartweg's golden sunburst is considered to be endangered under both the federal and State Endangered Species Acts (ESA); the vernal pool tadpole shrimp is designated as endangered under the federal ESA; and the vernal pool fairy shrimp is identified as threatened. While not formally listed by either of the ESAs, the veiny monardella is listed by the California Native Plant Society. The white tailed kite has no formal listing.

The two invertebrate and two plant species are associated with vernal pool habitats; however, because all water main replacement activities would occur within existing paved roadways, and water meters would be installed on parcels previously developed with residences (including landscaping), no vernal pools would be present on the project sites. Thus, no habitat for these species is located within the area to be affected by the projects.

A query of the United States Fish and Wildlife's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation database resulted in the identification of 1 bird, 1 reptile, 1 amphibian, 1 fish, 1 insect, 3 crustaceans, and one plant identified as threatened or endangered. Except for one, all species identified are associated with water bodies (stream, lake, marshes) or vernal pools. No aquatic habitat or vernal pools occur in the project sites or in areas that would be affected by project construction activities. The remaining species, the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, is associated with blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*). No elderberry shrubs are present on the project sites. No critical habitats were identified by the USFWS in the project vicinity, and the National Wetland Inventory indicated that there are no known wetlands on the project sites.

Because no sensitive biological resources exist in the project areas, there is no potential for impacts during project construction.

### **Cultural and Tribal Resources**

Information regarding known cultural and historic resources within the project area was obtained from the California Historical Resources Information System, North Central Information Center (NCIC) in November 2021. According to information provided by the NCIC, no known cultural resources have been identified within the project area; one historic resource, the Olivehurst Water Tower located at 1492 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, was identified. (For a depiction of the project area, see Figure 1.)

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No project activity would occur in the vicinity of the water tower, and it would be unaffected by the two proposed project components.

Although there are no known cultural or tribal cultural resources within the project area with the exception of the water tower, and the replacement pipelines and water meters would be installed within previously disturbed areas, the overall project area has been determined by the NCIC as having a high potential for location historic-period cultural resources. To avoid potential impacts to unknown cultural and historic resources, OPUD has developed the environmental commitment set forth above that will be included on each project's construction plans. Implementation of the measure will protect unknown cultural and tribal cultural resources through the implementation of appropriate protocols in the event of any inadvertent discovery during construction.

With implementation of the cited commitments, there would be no potential for impacts to unknown cultural and historic resources during construction related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.

### **Energy**

Development of the proposed project would entail energy consumption that includes both direct and indirect expenditures of energy commonly associated with construction activities. Energy use from operations would decrease in an unknown amount with implementation of the meter retrofit project. Pumped groundwater from a series of wells within the District is the exclusive source of potable water provided by OPUD. The intent of the meter installation is to assist OPUD in meeting State water efficiency standards. To the extent that these standards are met, the need to operate electrically operated well pumps would decrease over current operations. While implementation of the project would represent an increase in energy use during construction, over the life of the project components, energy would not be consumed in a wasteful or inefficient manner. There would be no potential for adverse impacts to energy use related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.

### **Geology and Soils**

No geologic hazards that would be exacerbated by the proposed water main replacement and meter retrofit projects are present in the project area. Construction and operation of the proposed replacement pipelines and the retrofitting of water meters would not result in increased hazards. Temporary increases in the erosion of exposed soils during construction of replacement pipelines or installation of water meters could result in minor on- or off-site water quality impacts, particularly if rainfall events occur during an active construction phase. However, OPUD has identified a number of requirements and stormwater management practices that would be instituted during the construction of each of the projects. The OPUD would implement the construction environmental commitments set forth above. With implementation of the cited actions, there would be no potential for impacts during construction related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

The FRAQMD, the local agency in charge of regulating air pollutant emissions in Yuba County, has not established specific thresholds applicable to GHG emissions or guidance for the evaluation of GHG emissions (FRAQMD 2010). Based on the Roadway Construction Emissions Model emissions estimates, construction of the proposed water main replacements would result in the

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generation of approximately 166 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents. Construction emissions for the meter retrofit project component would be substantially less. No new GHG emissions would be emitted during operation of the proposed projects. Considering the low level of GHG emissions from the proposed projects, the estimated GHG emissions associated with the proposed project construction would make a minor contribution to climate change. GHG emissions would not be expected to be significant, and the project would not be expected to make a substantial contribution to the cumulatively significant impact of global climate change. There would be no potential for global warming impacts during construction related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.

### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

The project sites are not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2021). Within the overall area that would be subject to the two projects, there are three schools that have been investigated and two voluntary cleanup sites. The nearest identified site to street segments where pipeline replacement would occur is 290 feet; for residences that may be retrofitted with water meters, the closest distance is 280 feet. In two instances, no further action was required, and the cleanup or stabilization of the remaining sites have been completed. According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, no further action would be required.

Except during the construction period, no hazardous materials would be used during operations of replacement pipelines or water meters. Chemicals used in construction (fuels, lubricants, joint compounds) could be released to the environment if spilled. However, OPUD has identified a number of requirements and stormwater management practices that would be instituted during the construction. OPUD would implement the construction environmental commitments set forth above. With implementation of the cited actions, there would be no potential for impacts during construction related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

Since proposed facilities would be placed underground and would be isolated from stormwater and floods, no adverse effects due to decreased water quality would occur. Because all construction would occur within existing paved roadways or utility easements at developed residences, there would be no potential for project construction to adversely affect existing drainage patterns or facilities. No additional stormwater would be generated by the construction of the facilities. Implementation of the project would act to decrease water demand, and hence decrease groundwater pumping in the future for affected residents, as they would be billed for the amount water actually used.

Temporary increases in the erosion of exposed soils during construction of replacement pipelines or installation of water meters could result in minor on- or off-site water quality impacts, particularly if rainfall events occur during an active construction phase. However, the OPUD has identified a number of requirements and stormwater management practices that would be instituted during the construction. The OPUD would implement the construction environmental commitments set forth above. With implementation of the cited actions, there would be no potential for impacts during construction related to the water main replacement and water meter retrofit projects.



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## **Land Use and Planning**

Because all proposed construction would be placed underground, it would not divide the established community of Olivehurst. Additionally, implementation of the projects would be consistent with public policies to encourage the safe and reliable delivery of potable water served by OPUD. In addition, implementation of the projects would comply with State-wide policies to manage the efficient use of water within California. There would be no potential for impacts to land uses and planning policies with implementation of the project.

## **Mineral Resources**

No mineral resources are located within the project areas (Yuba County, 2011b). Thus, there would be no adverse effects to these resources.

## **Noise**

There would be no noise or vibration effects generated by the operations of the proposed projects.

Construction would temporarily increase noise levels in the vicinity of construction activities intermittently over the construction periods that encompass both the pipeline replacement and water meter retrofitting phases of the projects. Construction activities would be considered an intermittent noise impact throughout the construction of the projects, and would vary in their effects on nearby residents depending on the presence of intervening barriers or other insulating materials. All work would be performed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. No weekend or holiday work is planned.

Based on General Plan policies and other considerations, Yuba County has established Noise Ordinance standards for noise levels from activities, including construction. Maximum noise levels during project construction may be higher than Chapter 8.20.140 of the Yuba County Code would normally allow (60 dB - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.; 65 dB - 7:00 am to 7:00 pm). However, as set forth in the Yuba County Code:

### **8.20.310 Construction of Buildings and Projects**

It shall be unlawful for any person within a residential zone, or within a radius of 500 feet therefrom, to operate equipment or perform any outside construction or repair work on buildings, structures, or projects or to operate any pile driver, power shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, power hoist, or any other construction type device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of one day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day in such a manner that a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area is caused discomfort or annoyance unless a permit has been duly obtained beforehand from the Director of the Planning and Building Services Department as set forth in Section 8.20.710 of this chapter. ...

To avoid potential adverse effects due to noise, environmental commitments as set forth above require OPUD to limit construction hours on a daily and weekly basis, require contractors to muffle equipment, and obligate OPUD to apply for an exemption permit from the County if found to be necessary. Those requirements of the environmental commitments that are the responsibility of the contractor will appear on the project construction plans and be implemented during the construction period. Based on the foregoing, there would be no adverse effects to the noise environment.

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## **Population and Housing**

Activities related to the replacement of water mains within the 15 identified street segments may temporarily affect access to residences and other uses during the construction period. However, the period of impaired access at any one location would likely be limited to one day. After completion of the replacement, the roadways would be restored to their previous condition. Because of the small area affected by the retrofitting of water meters outside of the roadway right of way, except for the presence of construction equipment, there would be no access limitations due to meter placement. No residences would be directly affected or removed by either construction project. Similarly, implementation of the projects would not result in any increased capacity of the water system or remove any existing impediment to growth within the project area. Thus, construction and operation of the two project components would not induce unplanned growth or divide an existing community. Based on the foregoing, there would be no adverse effects to the population or housing.

## **Public Services/Recreation/Utilities**

The proposed water main replacement and meter retrofit projects would not result in increased capacity for any public services or utilities, nor would they act to increase the demand of any services or utilities. Operation of the proposed project components would not result in any adverse effects to existing service levels or the need to provide additional public services or utilities. To the extent that the water meter retrofit project component enhanced water conservation, the project would have a beneficial impact on water supplies.

Because the two projects would be constructed within existing roadways or utility easements, existing non-water utilities may be located within areas proposed for construction. OPUD operates existing water and wastewater facilities within both roadways and utility easements. Other utility purveyors, such as PG&E, have gas pipelines within these areas as well. Within the greater Olivehurst area, electricity and telecommunications are provided by overhead wires. Prior to the beginning of construction, OPUD or its contractor will identify existing utilities and their location in the proposed work areas, and will locate new facilities where they will not interfere with existing facilities. Additionally, OPUD intends to use construction techniques for both project components to limit the potential for damage to existing utility infrastructure. For the water meter retrofit project, OPUD would use a trailer-mounted vacuum suction excavator rather than a backhoe to excavate each water meter construction area.

No new or physically altered governmental facilities or utilities would be necessary. During construction, care would be taken to avoid damaging existing utilities. Based on the foregoing, there would be no adverse effects to public services or utilities that would require new or expanded facilities. There would be no potential for impact.

## **Transportation**

Construction and installation of replacement water pipelines would occur within fifteen existing roadway segments in the community of Olivehurst. Affected streets typically are developed with two paved travel lanes, unmarked centerlines, and no curbs, gutters, or sidewalks. These local streets generally host low volumes of traffic and serve adjacent single family residences.

During construction of the water main replacement project there may be temporary lane closures that could cause delays and queuing of vehicle traffic, and thereby interfere with emergency access.

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As required by Yuba County, OPUD would restore affected streets to their existing conditions at the completion of construction.

Should it be determined that lane closures are necessary during construction, OPUD will implement the environmental commitment that calls for a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) to be prepared that details how OPUD and/or its contractor will manage roadway access for both emergency and public use, and will include best management practices such as covering the trenched areas after work hours. Implementation of this environmental commitment would avoid adverse circulation effects, and there would be no potential for other circulation effects.

### **Wildfire**

Olivehurst, including the area of the projects, is not located within a State Responsibility Area; rather the community is located within a Local Responsibility Area (CALFIRE 2021). The Olivehurst Fire Department provides fire protection services to the project area. In the Olivehurst area, State Routes 65 and 70 have been identified as primary emergency evacuation routes (Yuba County 2011). No aspect of either of the project components would affect or interfere with these two routes. Pipeline replacement construction could result temporary lane closures that could interfere emergency vehicle access. As discussed in more detail under the heading, Transportation, OPUD will implement an environmental commitment that calls for a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) to be prepared that details how OPUD and/or its contractor will manage roadway access for emergency access within the project area. Because the proposed project components are not located within a State Responsibility Area or an area of heightened wildfire risk, and emergency access would be maintained during the construction period, there would be no potential for environmental effects with respect to wildland fire hazards for either of the project components.

### **OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE REVIEW/ APPROVAL IS REQUIRED**

Review and/or approvals from the following additional agencies would be required:

- Encroachment Permit/Traffic Control Plan – OPUD will obtain an Encroachment Permit and Traffic Control Plan approval for work within the public right of way for the water main replacement project.
- Prior to the initiation of construction, OPUD will consult with the Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency (CDSA) to determine whether proposed activities require an exemption permit pursuant to Chapter 8.20.710 of the Yuba County Code. If it is determined that such a permit would be necessary or beneficial, OPUD will submit a permit application to the CDSA and abide by the terms of the permit.
- Notice of Acceptance – OPUD will submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under Water Quality Order 2012-0010 to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board together with all information required under Section D of the Order, and obtain a Notice of Acceptance issued by the Board. The issued Notice of Acceptance will be provided to Yuba County, Department of Public Works.

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## 4. CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

### APPLICABILITY OF THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

#### *Water Line Replacement*

Approval of the water main replacement project would replace existing stainless steel pipelines with C900 pipelines; under this project, no new pipelines would be installed outside of areas currently served. Thus, implementation of the water main replacement project would not involve an expansion of the existing use; there would be no significant increase in capacity for water pumping, treatment, or use. Further, as discussed below, none of the Categorical Exemption exceptions apply. Therefore, the proposed water line replacement project meets the applicability requirements for both Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions pursuant to Sections 15300, 15301, and 15302 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

#### *Water Meter Retrofitting*

Approval of the water meter retrofitting project would add water meters on up to 400 existing water service laterals within the community. Implementing the retrofitting project would meet State requirements and aid in the more efficient use of water within Olivehurst. The retrofitting project would target existing unmetered customers only; new customers would be provided a water meter at the time of connection to the OPUD water system. No new pipelines or other water distribution infrastructure would be installed as part of the retrofitting project. Thus, implementation of the project would not involve an expansion of the existing use; there would be no significant increase in capacity for water pumping, treatment, or use. Further, as discussed below, none of the Categorical Exemption exceptions apply. Therefore, the proposed water meter retrofitting project meets the applicability requirements for both Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemptions pursuant to Sections 15300, 15301, and 15302 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

### EXCEPTIONS TO APPLICABILITY OF THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a) through (f) list exceptions to the applicability of the Categorical Exemption. The discussion below explains why each exception is inapplicable to the proposed projects.

*15300.2(a): Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where 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.*

OPUD does not propose to adopt a Class 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11 Categorical Exemptions, and these classes of Exemptions are not applicable to the proposed projects. Further, as set forth in the discussion below, there are no environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern in the project areas or on the project sites that are designated or mapped, such as critical habitat for listed threatened or endangered species. The project sites are located in a residential area, and there are no critical environmental resources, such as wetlands or wildlife, that would be affected by either of the projects.

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Therefore, since there are no critical environmental resources on or near the project sites, and no contamination has been recorded on the project sites, this exception to a Categorical Exemption does not apply to either the water main replacement or the water meter retrofitting projects.

*15300.2(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

Cumulative impacts are defined in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(b) as “successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.” In the cases of the water main replacement or the water meter retrofitting projects, the only successive project of the same type in the same place, over time would be the proposed projects that would repair or augment the existing water distribution network in the project area. However, construction of each of the proposed projects would reduce existing environmental effects related to the amount of water provided to OPUD customers and remedy the existing water mains’ deteriorated conditions. The replacement water pipelines would have the same purpose and capacity as the pipelines that would be replaced. Similarly, the addition of water meters on existing service laterals would maintain the existing purpose and capacity of the existing laterals. There would be no overall increase in the capacity of the of the distribution system. Further, certain construction components would honor applicable local regulations for construction air and water quality, noise, and traffic circulation intended to be protective of the environment. Therefore, the overall impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time would not be significant. This exception would not apply to the proposed projects.

*15300.2(c) Significant Effect. 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 projects involve the replacement of existing water mains and the provision of water meters on existing service laterals; neither of these two actions would have a significant, adverse effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The circumstances of the proposed projects are not considered unusual because the project sites are the locations of existing water distribution infrastructure, the replacement pipelines and water meters will be located within existing disturbed areas, and neither project will result in an increase in water service capacity. Also, while the locations that would be affected by the projects are in an area of potential unknown historical resources, and could result in construction phase impacts to air quality, water quality, and noise, OPUD has identified environmental commitments on project construction plans to protect such resources. Therefore, there would be no significant impacts to natural resources or habitats, cultural resources, air resources, water quality, or noise with implementation of either project. The proposed projects would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. This exception would not apply to the proposed projects.

*15300.2(d) Scenic Highways. 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. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.*

There are no state or locally designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed projects. (Caltrans 2011). Therefore, this exception would not apply to the proposed projects.

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*15300.2(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. 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.*

The project sites are not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2021). Therefore, this exception would not apply to the proposed projects.

*15300.2(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

The project site was the subject of a Cultural Resources investigation, and no known historically or culturally significant structures or resources have been identified within areas that would be affected by either project. Further, the proposed projects would be constructed within existing paved roadways or in utility easements of residential properties. Finally, while the areas that would be affected by the projects are in an area of potential unknown historical resources, OPUD has identified environmental commitments on project construction plans to protect such resources. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. This exception would not apply to the proposed projects.

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## 5. LITERATURE CITED

- California, State of. Department of Conservation (DOC). Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, 2021. Query results of the California Important Farmland Finder for the OPUD Water Main Replacement project and the Water Meter Retrofit project, conducted by Mary Wilson of Planning Partners on November 19, 2021 at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>
- California, State of. Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2021. Query results of the California Natural Diversity Database for the OPUD Water Main Replacement project and the Water Meter Retrofit project, conducted by Mary Wilson of Planning Partners on November 19, 2021.
- California, State of. Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 2021. Query results of the State Responsibility Area Viewer. Accessed on November 30, 2021 at <<https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=468717e399fa4238ad86861638765ce1>>
- California, State of. Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 2020. District 3 – Scenic Highway Program. Scenic Routes in District 3. Accessed on November 19, 2021, at <<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-programs/d3-maintenance/d3-scenic-hwy-program>>.
- California, State of. Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), 2021. EnviroStor Database, Map Location of Interest. Map data 2020. Accessed by Mary Wilson on November 19, 2021 at <<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>>
- Feather River Air Quality Management District, 2010. Indirect Source Review Guidelines, June 2010
- Northern Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, 2021. *Records Search Results for Non-Confidential Records Search / Olivehurst Public Utility District, NCIC File Number YUB-21-41*, November 23, 2021.
- United States, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2021. Query results of the Information for Planning and Consultation program for the OPUD Water Main Replacement project and the Water Meter Retrofit project. Report prepared by Mary Wilson of Planning Partners on November 19, 2021.
- Yuba, County of, 2021. Yuba County Code, Title VIII, Public Peace and Safety, Chapter 8.20, Noise Regulations. Reviewed on November 30, 2021.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2011. Yuba County 2030 General Plan, Exhibit Public Health & Safety-11, Primary Evacuation Routes. Adopted June 7, 2011.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2011a. Final Yuba County 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Exhibit 4.6-6, Mineral Resources. May 2011.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2011b. Final Yuba County 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Exhibit 4.6-6, Mineral Resources. May 2011.



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 58 - 05102022 - 24  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITY DIST.	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 05/10/2022
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING YUBA	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2022FG-00024	

PROJECT TITLE  
 WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 1970 9TH AVENUE	CITY OLIVEHURST	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95961

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)	\$3,539.25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,548.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,203.25	\$ _____
<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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other 0.00		\$ _____

**PAYMENT METHOD:**  
 Cash   
 Credit   
 Check   
 Other   
**TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00**

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> <i>Bridgette Evans</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE <i>Bridgette Evans</i> Deputy
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