Corona Road Sewer Extension Project

Summary Form – Additional Pages

Project Description:

The proposed project involves formation of a new assessment district and construction of a wastewater service extension to the Corona Road area of Carmel Highlands. The new assessment district would consist of property owners located in the service area of the new pipeline proposed by the project. The assessment district would collect charges from customers in the project area solely to fund the capital costs associated with the proposed extension of wastewater service to the area. The proposed project is also seeking funds in the form of a construction loan from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF loan would cover upfront costs associated with the implementation of the proposed project and would be repaid using charges collected by the assessment district.

The proposed project includes the installation of a new sanitary sewer transmission pipeline and an associated pump station. The proposed sanitary sewer collection system will consist of four (4) separate gravity mains made of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe. The longest main will be approximately 3,500 feet in length, beginning at the east side of SR 1, north of the intersection of Corona Road and SR 1, and will extend south along the east side of SR 1, and then east and upward along Corona Road. Another branch of the gravity main in Corona Way will extend approximately 600 feet north and upward from Corona Road. The third branch of the gravity main will be approximately 300 feet in length and will be constructed along the east side of SR 1 northerly and upward. The installation of the three (3) separate gravity mains would result in the installation of 4,400 feet of new pipeline. The final gravity main would be installed beneath Highway 1 and would connect to a new pump station located on the west side of Highway 1, as described below. Pipeline will be installed in the disturbed right-of-way and roadway throughout the entirety of the alignment. No trees would be removed as a result of installation of the pipeline. All pipeline would be installed via trenching in paved areas. The proposed design includes 24 manholes and three (3) clean-outs.

Lateral connections from the proposed pipeline alignment to private parcels along the alignment would be installed under a future phase of the proposed project upon application by individual property owners for abandonment of their septic system and hook up to the extended CAWD sanitary sewer system. This future phase of the proposed project is not analyzed in this environmental document and would be subject to the appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA at the time these improvements are proposed.

Staging areas for the proposed project would be located at the District's existing wastewater treatment plant and the pump station site, with an additional equipment laydown area located on APN 241-052-001 (74 Corona Road).

The proposed project would extend potential future wastewater collection service to the following APNs.

- 241-011-002
- 241-012-018
- 241-031-005
- 241-031-007
- 241-031-008
- 241-031-010
- 241-051-009
- 241-051-010
- 241-051-011
- 241-051-012
- 241-051-013
- 241-051-014
- 241-052-002
- 241-052-003
- 241-052-004
- 241-052-005
- 241-052-006
- 241-052-007

- 241-031-012
- 241-031-013
- 241-031-018
- 241-031-020
- 241-031-021
- 241-031-022
- 241-031-023
- 241-031-024
- 241-051-002
- 241-051-003
- 241-051-005
- 241-051-006
- 241-051-007
- 241-051-015
- 241-051-016
- 241-051-017
- 241-051-018
- 241-051-019
- 241-051-020
- 241-051-021
- 241-051-022
- 241-051-024
- 241-051-025
- 241-051-027
- 241-051-028
- 241-052-001
- 241-061-001
- 241-061-002
- 241-061-004
- 241-061-005
- 241-061-011
- 241-061-014
- 241-061-015
- 241-071-004
- 241-071-005
- 241-071-006
- 241-072-002
- 241-072-003

A pump station is proposed within the northeastern portion of the "Rodgers' property" located at 29152 Highway 1 (APN 241-061-015) on the west side of SR 1 and has been sited so as to avoid tree removal and other impacts to existing trees. The pump station would be located on a 468 square foot easement and will be housed beneath two concrete slabs measuring approximately 100 square feet in total. The pump station will be constructed with pre-cast concrete sections and placed entirely underground, with the concrete slab laid on top, except for the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E's) electrical service facilities, a vent pipe, and the pump station control panel. Electrical power will be furnished via a new service from PG&E. The pump station would have the capacity to pump up to 0.01 million-gallons-per-day (MGD) of wastewater and a projected flow of 0.006 MGD. The pump station will receive raw sewage from the gravity collection mains as described above and will have a wet well with a capacity of 3,000 gallons to temporarily store the raw sewage from the collection system in the times between pump operations and during power outages. The pump station would include a connection for a backup generator; however no backup generators would be installed permanently at the site. The pump station will discharge into the existing 4-inch sanitary sewer force main in SR 1 at a discharge rate of approximately 50 gallons per minute. The existing 4-inch force main in SR 1 was evaluated by the project engineers and determined to be capable of transmitting the sewage introduced as a result of the proposed project.

A 600 square foot construction staging area for the pump station would be located off-site at CAWD's treatment plant. A 360 square foot construction easement/staging area for the pump station would be located immediately west of the pump station site. A new 10-foot wide access easement is also proposed at the mouth of the private road on the west side of Corona Road to ensure safe access to the pump station and to residents. In addition, a construction laydown area for pipeline installation and small construction equipment parking would also be established at 74 Corona Road (APN 241-052-001).

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Biological Resources

Impact BIO-1 – Impacts to Trees: The proposed project would involve construction activities that have the potential to impact trees adjacent to the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-A: Tree Protection

The following protection measures would apply to the proposed project:

- The Arborist Report for the Corona Road Sewer Extension Project (DD&A, 2023) was prepared to identify trees that may require removal to facilitate construction of the project, recommend measures to avoid or minimize potential project-related impacts to trees, and identify regulatory requirements for tree removal within the site. All recommendations and mitigation measures provided in the Arborist Report shall be implemented throughout the duration of construction to avoid and minimize impacts to Monterey pine forest and other trees within the survey area.
- Following construction, all temporarily disturbed areas within Monterey pine forest habitat shall be restored to pre-project contours to the maximum extent possible and revegetated using locally occurring native species, per the recommendations of a qualified biologist.

Impact BIO-2 – Impacts to Special-Status Plant Species: The proposed project would involve construction activities that have the potential to Yadon's piperia and Pacific Grove clover within the vicinity of the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-B: Focused Botanical Surveys

Focused botanical surveys shall be conducted within the survey area during the appropriate blooming period to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species, prior to the initiation of construction.

- If no special-status plants are found on the site, no additional mitigation is required.
- If special-status plants are found on the site, these species should be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. If avoidance is not feasible, a restoration plan shall be prepared by a qualified biologist prior to development. The plan shall include, but is not limited to, a detailed description of restoration areas, plant source material, planting specifications, and a monitoring program that describes annual monitoring efforts which incorporate success criteria and contingency plans if success criteria are not met.

  Impact BIO-C – Impacts to Nesting Avian Species: The proposed project would involve construction activities that have the potential to impact nesting raptors and other nesting avian species adjacent to the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-C: Pre-Construction Nesting Avian Surveys

The following survey requirements would apply to the proposed project:

- To avoid and reduce impacts to nesting raptors and other nesting avian species, construction activities can be timed to avoid the nesting season period. Specifically, construction activities can be scheduled after September 1 and before January 31 to avoid impacts to these species. Alternatively, if avoidance of the nesting period is not feasible, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting raptors and other protected avian

species within 250 feet of proposed construction activities if construction occurs between February 1 and August 31. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the start of construction activities during the early part of the breeding season (February through April) and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season (May through August). Because some bird species nest early in spring and others nest later in summer, some breed multiple times in a season, surveys for nesting birds may be required to continue during construction to address new arrivals. The necessity and timing of these continued surveys will be determined by the qualified biologist based on review of the final construction plans.

- If raptors or other protected avian species nests are identified during the pre-construction surveys, the qualified biologist will notify CAWD/project contractor and an appropriate no-disturbance buffer will be imposed within which no construction activities or disturbance should take place as determined by the qualified biologist to ensure avoidance of impacts to the individuals. The buffer will remain in place until the young of the year have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival, as determined by a qualified biologist.

In addition, the following mitigation measures from the 2020 CAWD IS/MND would apply to the proposed project:

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-5: Restoration of Disturbed Areas

Areas disturbed by construction shall be restored and replanted, depending on the community and habitat type, i.e.., disturbed grasslands shall be seeded with a native erosion control seed mix suitable to the project area.

Impact BIO-D – Impacts to Wetlands: The proposed project would involve construction activities that have the potential to impact potential wetlands adjacent to the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-D: Wetland Protection

The following protection measures would apply to the proposed project:

- Prior to construction activities, the project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct an Employee Education Program for the construction crew. The biologist shall meet with the construction crew at the project site at the onset of construction to educate the construction crew on the following: a) a review of the project boundaries; b) all sensitive habitats that may be present and all special-status species that may be present, their habitat, and proper identification; c) the specific mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the construction effort; d) the general provisions and protections afforded by the regulatory agencies; and e) the proper procedures if a special-status animal is encountered within the project site.
- Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing shall be placed around all potential wetlands and the riparian area to preclude construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potential wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and/or state. A qualified biologist or biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact.

- Stationary equipment such as motors, generators, and welders located within 100 feet of potential wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and/or state shall be stored overnight at a designated staging area and shall be positioned over drip pans.
- Any hazardous or toxic materials deleterious to life that could be washed into adjacent sensitive habitats shall be contained in watertight containers.
- Refueling of equipment shall take place within designated staging areas or at least 100 feet from potential wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and/or state.
- All construction debris and associated materials stored in staging area shall be removed from the work site upon completion of the project.

In addition, the following mitigation measure from the 2020 CAWD IS/MND would apply to the proposed project:

MM BIO-6: Construction Best Management Practices

The following additional construction best management practices identified in the 2020 CAWD IS/MND would apply to the proposed project:

- No materials shall be allowed to enter into aquatic resources within the vicinity. All storm drain inlets and culvert inlets and outlets shall be protected (e.g., filter fabric, straw wattles, and/or silt fencing) in order to prevent debris or construction materials from entering in these areas. At the end of project construction, all materials trapped by the barriers and excess materials such as dirt, rock, asphalt and concrete pavement, or debris shall be collected using dry sweep methods and removed from the project locations. No materials shall be allowed to enter into aquatic resources within the vicinity.
- A litter control program shall be instituted at each project location. All workers ensure that food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash from the project area are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the area at the end of each working day.
- All leaks, drips and spills shall be immediately cleaned up to prevent entry into aquatic resources within the vicinity. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

Impact BIO-E – Impacts to Sensitive Resources During Construction: The proposed project would involve construction activities that have the potential to result in unforeseen impact trees adjacent to the proposed project.

Mitigation Measure

Mitigation Measure BIO-E: Biological Monitoring

The District shall retain a qualified arborist or biological monitor who shall be on site during initial ground-disturbing activities, including vegetation removal. Following initial ground-disturbing activities, the arborist or biological monitor shall monitor at least once per week throughout construction to ensure that the following tree protection measures are being implemented:

Prior to the commencement of construction activities:

- Trees located adjacent to the construction area shall be protected from damage by construction equipment by the use of temporary fencing in combination with wrapping of trunks with protective materials wherever there may be construction present.
- Fencing shall consist of chain link, heavy duty snowdrift or plastic mesh, hay bales, or field fence. Portions of existing fencing may also be used.
- Fencing is not to be attached to the tree but free standing and self-supporting so as not to damage trees. Fencing shall be rigidly supported both vertically and horizontally and shall stand a minimum of height of six feet above grade.
- Soil compaction, parking of vehicles or heavy equipment, stockpiling of construction materials, and/or dumping of materials is not allowed adjacent to trees on the property especially within fenced areas.
- Fenced areas and the trunk protection materials shall remain in place during the entire construction period.

During grading and excavation activities:

- Trenching located adjacent to any tree should be done by hand where practical and any roots greater than 1.5 –inches diameter should be bridged or pruned appropriately.
- Any roots that must be cut should be cut by manually digging a trench and cutting exposed roots with a saw, vibrating knife, rock saw, narrow trencher with sharp blades, or other approved root pruning equipment.
- Any roots damaged during grading or excavation should be exposed to sound tissue and cut cleanly with a saw.

During pruning of existing trees:

- In general trees will be assessed then pruned first for safety, next for health, and finally for aesthetics. No more than 25% of the tree overall crown will be pruned in one season.
- Type of pruning is determined by the size of branches to be removed. General guidelines for branch removal are:
    - Fine Detail pruning-limbs under two (2) inch diameter are removed.
    - Medium Detail Pruning–Limbs between two (2) and four (4) inch diameter.
    - Structural Enhancement–limbs greater than four (4) inch diameter.
    - Broken and cracked limbs-removed will be removed in high traffic areas of concern.

If crown thinning[1] is required:

- All trees will be pre-assessed on how the tree will be pruned from the top down.
- Tree trimmers will favor branches with strong, U-shaped angles of attachment and where possible remove branches with weak, V-shaped angles of attachment and/or included bark.
- Lateral branches will be evenly spaced on the main stem of young trees and areas of fine pruning.
- Branches that rub or cross another branch will be removed where possible.

[1] Crown thinning is the cleaning out of or removal of dead diseased, weakly attached, or low vigor branches from a tree crown.

- Lateral branches will be no more than one-half to three-quarters of the diameter of the stem to discourage the development of co-dominant stems where feasible.

Cultural Resources

Impact CR-1 – Archaeological Resources: The proposed project would involve subsurface work within areas known to be archaeologically sensitive.

Mitigation Measure

MM CR-A: Conduct Phase II Subsurface Testing for Cultural Resources

Phase II Subsurface testing shall be conducted for the proposed project, as outline below:

- Prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities, the lead agency will commission a qualified consultant to perform a Phase II subsurface testing to evaluate the proposed project's potential to impact cultural resources under Section 106 and CEQA. The Phase II subsurface testing would occur during earthmoving activities within the identified range of archaeological deposits within the project's APE and ADI. The Phase II subsurface testing would (1) aim to define the vertical and horizontal extent of the resource and variability within the Project APE, and (2) collect sufficient data to assess the site's integrity and data potential and thus eligibility under both NHPA Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800) and CEQA (Public Resources Code §21084.1, CEQA Guidelines §15064.5). A Tribal representative should be present to monitor any archaeological work carried out.
- If the Phase II subsurface testing determines that the proposed project site is eligible under Section 106 or CEQA, a Cultural Resources Treatment Plan (CRTP) would be prepared. The CRTP would include mitigation to mitigate adverse impacts (per Section 106) and reduce impacts to less than significant (per CEQA). The CRTP will include, at a minimum, a detailed description of the proposed project and its subsurface impacts, description of the environmental setting and precolonial/historic-era background of the area, detailed field strategy used to record, avoid, or recover eligible resources, analytical methods, reporting requirements, curation plans, and appendices. The CRTP shall be developed and implemented in consultation with the local Native American community.

In addition, the proposed project would incorporate **Mitigation Measure CR-2** from the 2020 CAWD IS/MND, as described below:

MM CR-2: Cultural Resources Protection Measures

- If the Professional Archaeologist determines that any cultural resources exposed during construction constitute a historical resource and/or unique archaeological resource under CEQA, he/she shall notify CAWD and other appropriate parties of the evaluation and recommend mitigation measures to mitigate to a less-than-significant impact in accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 15064.5. Mitigation measures may include avoidance, preservation in-place, recordation, additional archaeological testing and data recovery among other options. The completion of a formal *Archaeological Monitoring Plan* (AMP) and/or *Archaeological Treatment Plan* (ATP) that may include data recovery may be recommended by the Professional Archaeologist if significant archaeological deposits are exposed during ground disturbing construction. Development and implementation of the AMP and ATP and treatment of significant cultural resources will be determined by the CAWD in consultation with any regulatory agencies.

- The treatment of human remains and any associated or unassociated funerary objects discovered during any soil-disturbing activity within the APE shall comply with applicable state laws in regard to Native American burials (Chapter 1492, Section 7050.5 to the Health and Safety Code, Sections 5097.94, 5097.98 and 5097.99 of the Public Resources Code). This shall include immediate notification of the appropriate county Coroner/Medical Examiner and the CAWD.
- A *Monitoring Closure Report* shall be filed with CAWD at the conclusion of ground disturbing construction if archaeological and Native American monitoring of excavation was undertaken.

Noise

Impact NOI-1 - Construction Noise: The proposed project is located within an area predominantly characterized by low density residential uses. Construction of the proposed project could result in significant temporary indirect noise impacts.

MM NOI-1: Construction Noise Reduction Measures

During construction, the project contractor shall implement the following measures to minimize construction noise impacts:

- Place construction equipment and equipment staging areas to be located at the furthest distance as possible from nearby noise-sensitive receptors.
- Choose construction equipment that is of quiet design, has a high-quality muffler system, and is well-maintained.
- Install superior intake and exhaust mufflers and engine enclosure panels wherever possible on gas diesel or pneumatic impact machines.
- Limit construction to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.
- Eliminate unnecessary idling of machines when not in use.
- Locate all stationary noise-generating construction equipment, such as portable power generators, as far as possible from nearby noise-sensitive receptors.
- Utilize the quickest equipment options to accomplish the tasks, in accordance with local, state, and federal regulatory requirements.

Impact TCR-A – Tribal Resources: Portions of the northern pipeline alignment are located in areas with known significance to Native American groups. In addition, excavation at the pump station site have the potential to disturb tribal resources.

Mitigation Measure

MM TCR-A: Implement Recommendations from AB 52 Consultation

Based on the recommendations of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County during tribal consultation under AB 52, the following measures would be taken to prevent impacts to tribal resources.

- Prior to the initiation of construction, CAWD shall retain a qualified archaeological consultant to conduct hand augering tests at the pump station site and the northern portion of the pipeline alignment to determine the potential for presence of subsurface tribal resources at these locations. Augering depth shall be consistent with the depth of excavation for the project components at each location. The results of the hand augering tests shall be documented in the

Phase II Cultural Resources Report, along with any recommendations for further protection of tribal resources to be implemented during ground disturbing activities.

- Prior to initiating construction, CAWD shall coordinate with Esselen Tribe of Monterey County to have an approved tribal monitor present for all ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project.