

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): West County Wastewater
2910 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, CA 94806 Phone: (510) 222-6700
(Address)

Project Title: West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment

Project Applicant: West County Water (WCW)

Project Location - Specific:
2250 Tara Hills Dr., Montara Bay Park, Rachel Road, Giant Highway, San Pablo.

Project Location - City: San Pablo, Richmond Project Location - County: Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Project is for the purposes of storing wastewater while numerous lift stations are turned off to allow for the installation of the components needed to launch a force main pipeline assessment probe. The Project would also include an evaluation of an existing force main pipeline and replacement of three pipeline valves. Refer to Attachment A for description of the Project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: West County Wastewater

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: West County Wastewater

- 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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sec. 15301; Sec. 15304
[] Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment Project is exempt because it would consist of a temporary tank installation and pipeline valve replacement in order to address deteriorated facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety, involving no expansion of use and having negligible effects on the environment; the excavation area for the launch tube would occur in non native grassland just outside the lift station, but does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The Project purpose is to store wastewater while numerous lift stations are turned off to allow for the installation of the components needed to launch a force main pipeline assessment probe. See Attachment B.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Andrew Clough Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 510-222-6700

- 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: Andrew Clough Date: 4/2/2024 Title: General Manager
Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Attachment A

West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment

Project Description

West County Wastewater (WCW) has various lift stations located in the City of San Pablo and Richmond. Wastewater collected at the lift stations is conveyed through WCW's collection system terminating at the Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant in Richmond. The collection system includes force mains, which are pressured sewer lines that convey wastewater from the lift stations to a downstream gravity sewer line leading to a wastewater treatment plant. In order to determine the condition of the force main pipelines, and the need to address any deteriorated facilities, WCW proposes to launch a force main pipeline assessment probe to complete an evaluation of existing force main pipelines. During this activity, use of four lift stations would be temporarily discontinued, including the Tara Hills Lift Station, the Atlas Road Lift Station, the Pinole Point Lift Station, and the Justice Center Lift station. A temporary storage tank would be installed adjacent to the Tara Hills lift station for the purposes of storing wastewater while the lift station is turned off. Temporary frac tanks¹ would be located on paved areas adjacent to the other lift stations for the purposes of storing wastewater while these lift stations are turned off. WCW also proposes to replace three pipeline valves to facilitate the pipeline assessment tool passage through the system. The Project location is shown on **Figure 1**. The lift station sites are shown on **Figure 2**.

Proposed Project Components

Overview

As part of the installation process of the launch assembly at the Tara Hills Lift Station, the four lift stations, including the Tara Hills Lift Station, the Atlas Road Lift Station, the Pinole Point Lift Station, and the Justice Center Lift Station, would undergo three scheduled shutdowns. During that time, the pumps at the lift stations would be turned off. Each shutdown would last 15, 12, and 16 hours, respectively. During these shutdowns, three existing pipeline valves would be replaced with new ductile iron pipe spools at the valve removal locations. Additionally, pipeline excavations would take place in four different locations, including the Tara Hills Lift Station near the Montara Bay Community Center, Rachel Road near 1075 Rachel Road, Giant Highway south of the West County Detention Facility, and Giant Highway north of the Richmond Parkway overpass. Temporary shoring would be installed in these excavations, with the exception of the Tara Hills Lift Station. Ultrasonic testing would also occur at cut-in points along the pipelines connected to the Tara Hills Lift Station, Atlas Road Lift Station, Point Pinole Lift Station, and Justice Center Lift Station.

¹ Frac tanks serve as portable wastewater storage tanks, and can have a capacity of up to 21,000 gallons. An epoxy lined interior prevents the frac tanks from deteriorating due to toxic chemicals in the wastewater.

A fourth shutdown is needed to conduct the force main inspection. During this shutdown, the four lift station pumps would be turned off again, but temporary pumps would be used to move some of the wastewater flows from the Tara Hills Lift Station through the pipeline to propel the inspection equipment. The inspection equipment would be launched from the Tara Hills Pump Station and received at the Discharge maintenance hole on Giant Road. This fourth shutdown is scheduled to last for 18 hours.

Tara Hills Lift Station

The Tara Hills lift station is located in San Pablo, CA at the endpoint of Tara Hills Drive and immediately east of the San Francisco Bay. The proposed temporary wastewater storage tank would be approximately 125 feet in diameter and located on the Montara Bay Park ball field next to the Montara Bay Community Center. An additional area of approximately 55 feet around the tank would be required for set up and staging for the tank. No team or group has used the ball field since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is currently not in playable condition. Wastewater from the lift station to the storage tank would be pumped into the tank via an above ground hose placed on existing vegetated areas consisting of non-native grassland, between the lift station and the tank. The tank would require approximately ten percent of its capacity to remain filled from the initial setup to the final shutdown. Although most wastewater would be immediately pumped down after each shutdown, this ten percent would remain as a precautionary measure. Up to five frac tanks would also be placed in the southwest corner of the Montara Bay Park parking lot to accommodate this portion of wastewater. Wastewater would be pumped into the frac tanks via an above ground hose placed on existing vegetated areas consisting of non-native grassland, between the lift station and the frac tanks. A launch assembly would be installed on the pipeline for launching a force main assessment probe. The launch tube for the pipeline probe would be located behind the lift station property in an existing vegetated area consisting of non-native grassland and would require an area of excavation of approximately 40 square feet (ten feet by four feet).

Atlas Road Lift Station

The Atlas Road lift station is located in Richmond, CA, along Atlas Road near the intersection of Atlas Road and Oakmont Drive. For the Atlas Road lift station shutdown, up to 12 temporary wastewater storage frac tanks would be placed along the rightmost lane of Atlas Road, which is used for eastbound traffic. The tanks would occupy approximately 1,000 feet of the roadway. Each frac tank is approximately 50 feet long by 11 feet high and sealed. Wastewater from the lift station to the frac tanks would be pumped into the frac tanks via an above ground hose placed on the existing driveway between the lift station and the frac tanks.

Point Pinole Lift Station

The Pinole Point lift station is located in Richmond, CA, near the southwest corner of the Amazon distribution center at 2995 Atlas Road. For the Pinole Point lift station shutdown component, up to five temporary wastewater storage frac tanks would be placed along the emergency lane access for the Amazon distribution center located adjacent to the Pinole Point lift station. Each frac tank is approximately 50 feet long by 11 feet high and sealed. WCW would obtain approval from the Fire Marshall to place the temporary frac tanks along approximately 500 feet of the emergency access lane. Wastewater from the lift station to the frac tanks would be pumped into the frac tanks via an above ground hose placed on existing paved areas between the lift station and the frac tanks.

Justice Center Lift Station

The Justice Center lift station is located in Richmond, CA, near the northwest corner of the West County Detention Facility at 5555 Giant Hwy. For the Justice Center lift station shutdown component, up to five temporary wastewater storage frac tanks would be placed along the southwest corner of the Pinole Point Business Park located adjacent to the Justice Center lift station. Each frac tank is approximately 50 feet long by 11 feet high and sealed. Wastewater from the lift station to the frac tanks would be pumped into the frac tanks via an above ground hose placed on existing vegetated areas consisting of non-native grassland between the lift station and the frac tanks.

Construction Characteristics

At the Tara Hills lift station, the probe launcher installation would require removing existing fencing and installing temporary security fencing. The temporary storage tank adjacent to Tara Hills lift station would require approximately 42 cubic yards of sand to be imported to the site. The sand would be brought in using trucks with 14 cubic yards of capacity each. After the temporary tank is removed the sand could be utilized as part of the ball field restoration.

Excavations associated with removal and replacement of pipeline valves with straight pipe, pipeline excavations, and shoring would occur within existing roadways located within WCW service area, one along Rachel Road, and two along Giant Highway. All excavations would be approximately 40 square feet (ten feet by four feet), with a depth of up to 12 feet. The excavations would require temporary shoring for the safety of workers. Shoring would occur via a trench box that would be fitted within the excavation dimensions and removed prior to backfilling. Once the excavations, shoring and valve removals are complete, the sites would be restored to pre-existing conditions. Roadway lane closures would be required for the frac tanks located along Atlas Road and at the Point Pinole lift station, and two of the pipeline valve replacements, but traffic control measures would be implemented as part of the Project.

The Project construction would take place over a period of four weeks. The wastewater storage tank adjacent to Tara Hills lift station would be installed using hand tools and may require lifting equipment, such as a forklift. The frac tanks for the wastewater storage at the other lift stations would be brought to the sites via trailer trucks and placed on existing paved areas. Equipment required for the excavations would include an excavator, dump truck, floor saw, vacuum equipment, jack hammers, pipe cutters, and hand tools. Access to the site for installation of the wastewater storage tank at the Tara Hills lift station would be via Tara Hills Drive. Access to the site for the frac tanks at the other three lift stations would be via Atlas Road. Access to the pipeline excavations would be via the roadways where the valve replacements would occur. Nighttime work may be required for two of the valve replacements. Construction lighting during nighttime construction would be shielded and directed downward.

There is a potential for odors associated with the storage of wastewater in the tanks. Between each of the shutdowns, the frac tanks would be drained, and the wastewater pumped back into the system, so there would be no long-term storage of wastewater. The frac tanks along Atlas Road would be located approximately 70 feet from the nearest residence, however, the frac tanks would be sealed and wastewater would only be stored in the frac tanks for up to 18 hours. Because the frac tanks would be sealed and wastewater would be stored at the site for a short amount of time, odor from the frac tanks would likely not be perceptible to nearby residences. The other tanks would be located more than 400 feet from the

nearest residences and at this distance, odor from the wastewater tanks would not be perceptible to nearby residences. WCW shall maintain on its website a telephone number for use by the public to register odor complaints. In the event that WCW confirms odor complaint(s) associated with the temporary tanks, WCW shall take steps to address the complaint. At the end of the construction period, the stored wastewater would be pumped back into the system, and all the frac tanks and the temporary wastewater storage tank at Montara Bay Park ball field, adjacent to Tara Hills lift station would be removed. The Montara Bay Park ball field would be restored to playable conditions as part of a community outreach effort.

The Project would include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP includes measures to control runoff associated with construction soil disturbing activities to prevent sediment and other pollutants from leaving the sites and entering storm drains and nearby water bodies. Stabilization practices would establish the control of potential pollutants around the Project sites, while maintaining the existing drainage flow in the area. Fiber roll, inlet capture bags and crushed rock would be used to prevent transportation of sediment from work areas to waterways. Pollution control would take place through implementation of standard practices such as cautious material delivery and storage, spill prevention and control, solid waste management, concrete waste management, and sanitary/septic waste management. Although encountering groundwater during construction is unlikely, precipitation or non-stormwater that accumulates in open excavations may require dewatering. Non-stormwater discharges during construction, and from dewatering activities, would be controlled to reduce the potential for entering storm drains and nearby water bodies.

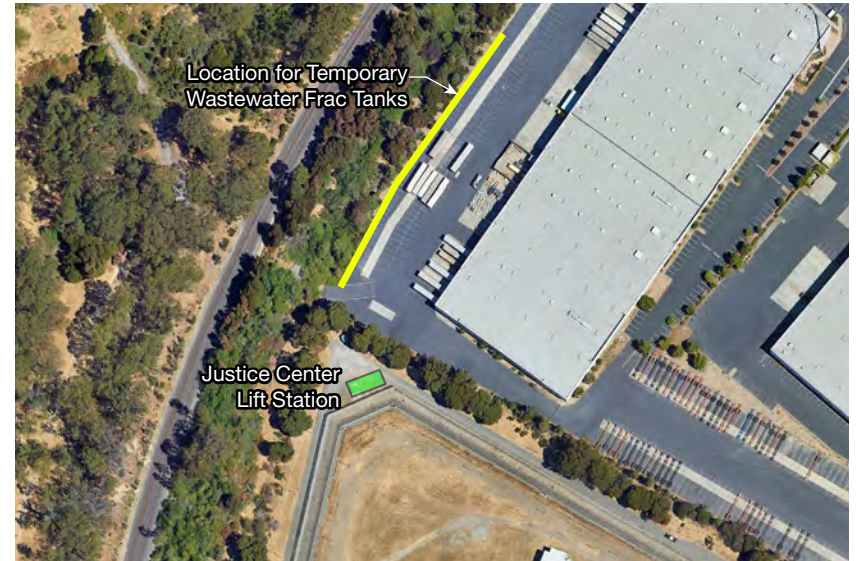
The Project would also include a Noise Mitigation plan. All tools and equipment would be equipped with fully operational factory mufflers and any factory installed auxiliary noise controls. Un-muffled engines or engines with modified and/or failing mufflers would not be allowed as part of the construction equipment fleet. Air compressors would be operated within an enclosure and not permitted to discharge high pressure air to the atmosphere. Pneumatic hammer (jackhammer) use would be kept to a minimum for breaking of asphalt pavement and concrete. Electric powered demolition hammers would be utilized in place of pneumatic clay spades and rivet busters for smaller and lighter tasks when possible. Portable, stationary equipment would be directed away from residences, where feasible. Noise from construction workers' radios would be controlled; broadcasting and blasting would be prohibited.



SOURCE: West County Wastewater, 2024; PICA, 2024; Google Earth, 2024

West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment

Figure 1
Project Location



2021/02/02 10:07:80.00 - WCWD CEQA Management Services/05 Graphics-GIS-Modeling/Illustrator

SOURCE: West County Wastewater, 2024; PICA, 2024; Google Earth, 2024

West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment

Figure 2
Lift Station Site Details



Attachment B

Reasons why project is exempt:

The West County Wastewater Tara Hills Lift Station Pipeline Assessment Project is exempt because it would consist of a series of temporary tank installations next to four lift stations, and pipeline excavations and valve replacements in order to address deteriorated facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety, involving no expansion of use and having negligible effects on the environment; the excavation area for the pipelines would be within existing paved roadways, and for the launch tube would occur in non-native grassland just outside the Tara Hills lift station, but does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The Project purpose is to temporary store wastewater while the lift stations are turned off to allow for the installation of the components needed to launch a force main pipeline assessment probe.

This Project qualifies for an exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15301, 15303, and 15304.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, “Existing Facilities” states:

“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.”

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land” states:

“Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees of except for forestry and agricultural purposes.”

Description of Project: Refer to Attachment A, Project Description and Project area map.