

**ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
PINON PINES ESTATES MUTUAL WATER
COMPANY FLUORIDE MITIGATION PROJECT**

**State Clearinghouse
No. 2014101006
Project #84C-1510054-001C**

Prepared for Lead Agency:
State Water Resources Control Board

Consultant:



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December 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Waterboard's) as the Lead Agency approved an Initial Study (IS)/ Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (State Clearinghouse No. 2014101006 on December 15, 2014, for the Pinon Pines Estates Mutual Water Company.

The proposed project is a result of mandatory system-development and system-maintenance activities conducted to fulfill statutory requirements under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act or the California Health and Safety Code. Mitigation measures were incorporated into the IS/MND to avoid or reduce impacts from construction activities to less than significant levels in compliance with CEQA Guidelines.

Although the State Waterboard's review of the previously approved MND shows that while potential impacts of the proposed modifications were sufficiently analyzed, additional clarifying information in the form of an Addendum to the MND is required to clarify the proposed construction activities. The State Waterboard's made this finding based on the following:

Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines¹ provides the authority for preparing an Addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Specifically, §15164 states the following:

(a) The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in §15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

(b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in §15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

(c) An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration.

(d) The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.

(e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to §15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR [or MND], the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.

¹ [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq].

According to CEQA Guidelines §15162, once the EIR or MND has been certified, a lead agency need not prepare a subsequent EIR or ND unless . . . *on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record . . .* one or more of the following conditions occurs:

- 1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*
- 2) *Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or*
- 3) *New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

1.1 PURPOSE OF AN ADDENDUM AND CEQA REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this addendum is to provide informational clarification of the project activities proposed in the project IS/MND description which does not constitute a “substantial change” to the project that would require “major revisions” to the MND due to new or increased impacts (refer to §15162 [a][1]).

Additional project review into the Site’s environmental conditions has not produced any “new information of substantial importance” that would result in new or greater impacts not

discussed in the MND, and no additional mitigation measures are necessary (refer to §15162[a][3]).

Substantial evidence supporting the State Waterboard's decision not to prepare a subsequent MND pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15162(b) as a result of minor changes to the project is provided below.

The environmental information presented in addendum evaluates potential impacts of the changes specifically in light of the environmental findings in the previously adopted MND. This evaluation demonstrates that the informational clarifications will not create new or greater significant environmental impacts than those identified in the previous MND, and as such, a subsequent MND to address this new information is not required. The purpose of this Addendum is to provide updated information and to provide additional details on specific activities described in more general terms in the adopted MND.

Cal. Code Regs., tit., § 15164(b) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

An addendum to an adopted mitigated negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

Based on the informational clarification of the project activities presented herein, it has been determined that an Addendum to the IS/MND is the appropriate CEQA document to address minor informational additions to the project activity description given that none of the conditions described in the CEQA Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15162] calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred. The environmental analysis relies on the analyses completed in the Final MND and directly references the Final MND where appropriate.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

As noted previously, the Project will remain the same as what is identified in the 2014 IS/MND. The informational revision of the project activities described in this addendum will not alter the impact findings and mitigation measures for aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, GHGs, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation and traffic presented in the Final MND. With implementation of the construction activities, there will be no new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of impacts regarding these issues compared to the issues identified in the Final MND. No additional mitigation measures are required for this project based on the construction activities described in this addendum.

³[Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15162[a][3]), §15162 [a][1], § 15164(b), et seq].

Therefore, the project impacts and mitigation measures identified in the 2014 IS/MND have not changed as a result of the information presented in this addendum and is within the scope of impacts identified in the Final MND, and the Final MND adequately addressed all impacts of the proposed Project as revised.

1.3 CONCLUSION

Based on the above, an Addendum is the appropriate CEQA document for the informational Revisions pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15164(b)] because none of the conditions described in the CEQA Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15162] calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred. This addendum has appropriately disclosed the construction activities clarifications revision and will be included as part of the CEQA record for the proposed Project. This Addendum will be posted with the State Clearinghouse within the State of California Office of Planning and Research for 15 days.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following discussion includes the revised Project Description for the proposed project, which includes the general location of the project and its construction and operational activities. The determinations made in the adopted Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project have not changed based on the information outlined herein.

Groundwater wells are used to supply the community. These wells are currently producing water with levels of the primary contaminate fluoride and the secondary contaminants iron and manganese above the maximum contaminate level (MCL). Arsenic, which is a primary contaminant, is also present but currently varies from just below the MCL to just above. Originally the project was designed to combine the use of a treatment (filtration) system and the blending of water to reduce MCL to acceptable levels. Subsequently, it was determined that the filtration system was infeasible, and a 3.0 MCL variance was approved. In order to address the excessive levels of fluoride and comply with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulations, the Pinon Pines Estates Mutual Water Company (PPEMWC) revised the project scope to remove the treatment filtration system and include only water blending as the method to lower contaminants. The proposed Fluoride Mitigation project is designed to bring these levels to the approved 3.0 MCL variance. The revised project ground disturbance footprint was reduced from approximately 33,170 sf to a total 28,848 sf (0.66 acres).

2.1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project includes three parcels generally located in the unincorporated community of Pinon Pines, southwest Kern County, California, within Sec 30, T9N R20W, SBB&M, between the communities of Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club in the Cuddy Valley (Attachment A-Figure 1). The proposed project area consists of Site 1 and Site 2. Site 1, located on Whispering

Pines Road, south of Cuddy Valley Road is a 6.17-acre parcel and a 0.57-acre parcel (APN 256-120-02 and APN 256-120-15) with a combined size of 6.74 acres. Site 1, the proposed location for the installation of the water blending facility, is directly across from the residential development. Existing wells 4, 5, 6, and 7 are located on Site 1. Site 2 (APN 256-421-21 and a portion of APN 256-421-20) is a 0.20-acre parcel located off of Viewpoint Court, approximately 2,610 feet southeast of Site 1; there are three existing tanks (Tanks 1, 2 and 3) on the site.

2.2 PROJECT SITES AND VICINITY CHARACTERISTICS

Both Site 1 and Site 2 consist of heavily disturbed with existing water-related infrastructure. There is also scrub with evidence of past livestock grazing and current mowing for weed control. The topography of Site 1 is relatively flat with a ground surface elevation between 5,380 feet and 5,400 feet. The topography of Site 2 is steep, with an elevation of approximately 5,600 feet. Cuddy Creek occurs on the east side of Site 1. The proposed project site lies within the Cuddy Canyon Valley Groundwater Basin. Wells 1 and 2 are located in the southern part of the community while Wells 4, 5, 6 and 7 are located to the north of Whispering Pines Road and south of Cuddy Creek. At the time of this update, Wells 4 and 6 are on standby due to previously recorded high levels of Manganese and Wells 1 and 2 are not currently in use. An abandoned well (Well 3) is located approximately 100 feet from Well 4. Other structures include wooden fences that run along the property lines, and chain link fences that surround all groundwater producing well sites. Some signage is present at different locations around the site, as well as electrical panels, a stand-by diesel fueled emergency generator, and a Fire Department helicopter dip tank for firefighting purposes. Table 1.3-1 describes the locations and size of project parcels.

Table 2.2-1 Project Site Characteristics

	Assessor Parcel Number (APN)	Acres	Section/Township / Range
Site 1	256-120-02	6.17 acres	Sec 30, T9N R20W SBB&M
	256-120-15	0.57 acres	
Site 2	256-421-21	0.14 acres	Sec 30, T9N R20W SBB&M
	256-421-20 (Portion)	0.06 acres	

Cuddy Creek is along the northern boundary of the Site 1. The creek's flood plain was calculated and mapped so any new construction could be clear of the base flood elevation. It was determined by the hydro-geologist that the only reasonable location for a new well was as far west as possible to preclude interference with the existing wells.

Lands that surround the proposed project sites include the following: undeveloped residentially developed land, grazing land, mountainous terrain with pine trees, and non-native grass lands, and disturbed scrub. A residential development is located less than 100 feet south of Site 1. An approximately 60-foot wide road provides a buffer between Site 1 and the residential development

to the south. Site 2 is located directly southeast of Site 1 and separated by the residential development of Pinon Pines.

3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The proposed project includes installation of a 212,000-gallon bolted steel water tank, drilling a groundwater production well, installation of a 22,000-gallon water blending tank and booster pump station, and installing pipeline and a power cable. Attachment B includes the site plans of the proposed water blending facility and new tanks.

Construction

Table 2-1 lists construction activities along with each activity amount of disturbance, number of weeks to complete, and the number of construction workers anticipated to complete the work. A discussion of each activity follows.

Table 2-1 Construction Activities

Activity	Ground disturbance	Weeks	Workers
Water blending facility: 3 storage tanks, a booster pump station and associated infrastructure, including water retention ditch	16,973 sf (0.4 acres)	12	24
Pipeline	7,800 sf (0.17 acres)	1	10
Groundwater production well	475 sf (0.01 acres)	4	10-12
Demo/installation of water tanks (Site 2)	3,600 feet	6	10-12

Source: Pinon Pines Estates Mutual Water Company, 2018.

Water Blending Facility

The water from the wells would be combined into a common pipe and conveyed to a proposed 22,000 gallon tank for blending. This blended water would then be transported by use of two 40 Hp booster pumps uphill to the storage. A new water supply well will be constructed on the north-western side of the project site property, the blending tank will be constructed near the existing water supply wells 4-7.

Grading for the water blending facility will disturb approximately 16,973 sf, which is a reduced footprint from the original estimate of 33,170 sf; grading for the groundwater production well will disturb about 475 square feet. The pipeline will include approximately 7,800 sf of ground disturbance. Construction for the water blending facility would result in a 12-foot high by 14-foot wide by 28-foot long structure (392-foot concrete pad) within a 3,600 square foot enclosure, which will take roughly 12 weeks and involve 12 workers to complete.

The blending facility will include booster pumps and finished water tank. The tank is approximately 16 feet in height. An area of the building will be set aside as a control room and will house the electrical control equipment and any metering equipment. A computer terminal will be available for downloading of any information on the facility. Alarms will be provided for any malfunction that might occur at the facility.

Water Well

Drilling activities will disturb approximately 470 feet square and take about 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Installation of the pump and associated electrical would take about 2 weeks. A total of 10 to 12 workmen will be required. The depth of the water well is anticipated to be approximately 470 feet.

Water Tanks

On Site 2, two existing water storage tanks identified as Tank 1(118,500 gallons) and Tank 2 (17,000 gallons) will be replaced with a single, 212,000-gallon bolted steel water tank meeting the current California Building Code as well as AWWA D103 Factory-Coated Bolted Carbon Steel Tanks for Water Storage. The demolition and the installation of the water tanks will take about 6 weeks to complete. Ten to 12 workmen will be utilized for this task.

Water Pipeline

New pipelines will be installed between 3 to 6 feet below ground surface to connect wells 4,5,6,7 and 8 to conveyed water to the blending facility. From the blending facility the water will be conveyed back into the existing piping system.

Operations

As proposed, ongoing operation of the project would be conducted by existing staff. No new employees or permanent, habitable structures (i.e, an office), are proposed.

Treatment Type

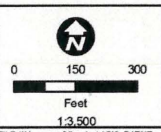
To achieve the 3.0 MCL variance that was approved by the SWRCB, the proposed treatment method is a blending tank. That water from the wells would be combined into a common pipe and conveyed to a tank for blending. This blended water would then be transported by use of booster pumps uphill for storage.

ATTACHMENT A:

Figures

PINON PINES FLUORIDE/MAGNESIUM REMOVAL UNIT & RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Aerial Overview Map - Site 1 & Site 2



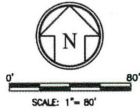
- SITE 1
- SITE 2

ATTACHMENT B:
Site Plans

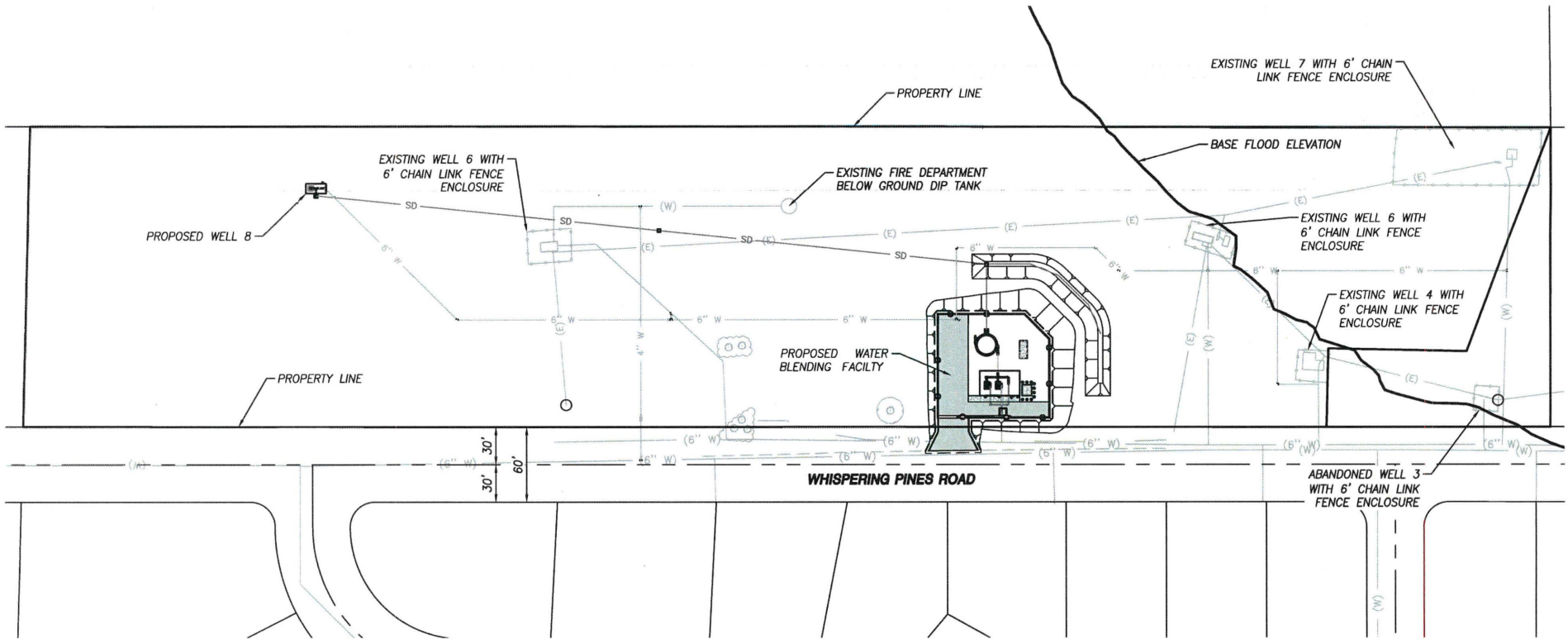
WATER BLENDING PLANT STATISTICAL DATA:

PARCEL 1 APN 256-120-03
 PARCEL 2 APN 256-120-15

BOOSTER PUMP STATION:
 EAVE HEIGHT 11'
 RIDGE HEIGHT 14'
 640 SF



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PROJECT NO.: 180040
 DRAWN BY: DF
 QA/QC BY: RG
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 SHEET NO.: 01 of 02

WATER BLENDING PLANT EXHIBIT

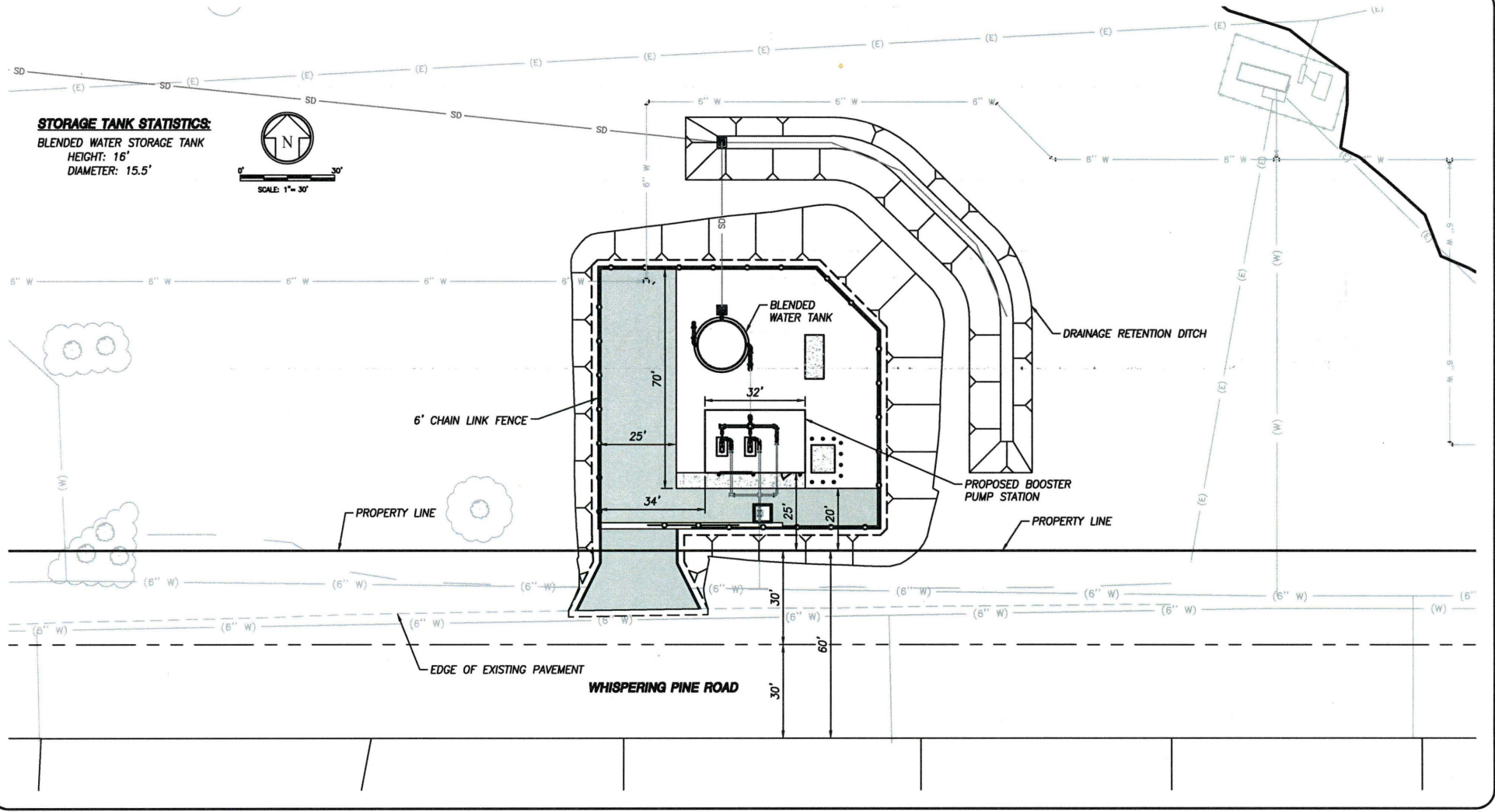
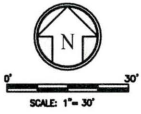
**FLUORIDE MITIGATION PROJECT
 PINON PINES MWC**



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STORAGE TANK STATISTICS:
BLENDED WATER STORAGE TANK
HEIGHT: 16'
DIAMETER: 15.5'



PROJECT NO.: 180040
DRAWN BY: DF
QA/QC BY: RG
SCALE: AS SHOWN
SHEET NO.:
02 OF 02

WATER BLENDING PLANT EXHIBIT

FLUORIDE MITIGATION PROJECT
PINON PINES MWC

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