

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ADDENDUM

American Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant and Effluent Disposal Project



MARCH 2020

PREPARED FOR:
American Valley
Community Services District
900 Spanish Creek Road
Quincy, CA 95971



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Final Environmental Checklist and Addendum

Prepared for:

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1 PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title: American Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant and Effluent Disposal Project

Project location: The wastewater treatment plant is located on Spanish Creek Road, east of Highway 89, just north and east of the Gansner Field Airport, in the community of Quincy, Plumas County, California

Lead agency's name and address: American Valley Community Services District
900 Spanish Creek Road
Quincy, CA 95971

Contact person: Jim Doohan, AVCS D General Manager

Project Proponent: American Valley Community Services District

Project Description: The proposed project entails improvements to the American Valley Community Services District wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and effluent disposal system. The primary purpose of the project is to comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements for wastewater treatment and discharge. The proposed improvements would be located primarily within the footprint of the existing WWTP and adjacent pastures, and would include a replacement treatment facility, new effluent disposal system, new solar power generation facility, and related equipment.

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2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

The Quincy Community Services District (QCSD) prepared and adopted the Quincy Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Disposal Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (2017 IS/MND), which evaluated at a project-level of detail, the environmental impacts of improving the wastewater treatment and effluent disposal capabilities of the Quincy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in order to comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley RWQCB) requirements. The IS/MND was prepared in December 2016, with a public comment period of December 29, 2016 through January 27, 2017; no comments were received (State Clearinghouse #2016122065). The project was approved by the QCSD and the IS/MND and mitigation monitoring and reporting program were adopted in February 2017.

2.2 PURPOSE OF THIS ADDENDUM

In January 2018, the American Valley Community Services District (AVCSD) was formed after the consolidation and dissolution of the QCSD and the East Quincy Services District (EQSD) (Resolution 2017-0006 of the Plumas Local Agency Formation Commission). Upon dissolution, all QCSD and EQSD assets and services were transferred to the newly formed AVCSD, including the Quincy WWTP, now referred to as the American Valley WWTP. AVCSD has since refined the design details of the proposed American Valley WWTP and Effluent Disposal Project (project). Based on review of the project as now proposed and in accordance with Section 15164 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, AVCSD has prepared this Addendum that documents how the project as currently proposed would not result in any new or substantially more severe environmental impacts compared to those evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. No subsequent CEQA document is necessary for this project. No action proposed would require federal review or approval; and therefore, no NEPA-related document is required.

2.3 CEQA GUIDELINES REGARDING AN ADDENDUM TO AN EIR OR NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Altered conditions, changes, or additions to a project that occur after certification of an EIR or negative declaration require additional analysis under CEQA only if they have the potential to result in new or more severe significant environmental impacts. The legal principles that guide decisions regarding whether additional environmental documentation is required are provided in the State CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15162 and 15164, which establish three types of documentation to address these changes: a subsequent EIR, a supplement to an EIR, or an addendum to an EIR or negative declaration.

Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines describes the conditions under which a subsequent EIR or Negative Declaration would be prepared. In summary, when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (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 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 or negative declaration;
- (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 measures or alternatives; 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.

Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that a lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a subsequent EIR if:

- (1) any of the conditions described above for Section 15162 would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR; and
- (2) only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.

According to Section 15164(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions to the previous analysis are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

The analysis herein is intended to determine if the project would result in the circumstances described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines. As described in the following sections, none of the criteria for a subsequent or supplemental EIR are met; therefore, an addendum is the appropriate CEQA documentation to address the project.

This addendum evaluates each environmental topics covered in the 2017 IS/MND prepared by QCSD, and also addresses the updated guidance for environmental analysis under CEQA that was recently adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. As explained below, the evaluation considers, for each environmental topic, any "changed condition" (i.e., changed circumstances, project changes, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in a different (i.e., new or substantially more severe) environmental impact significance conclusion than identified in the 2017 IS/MND.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This addendum describes the project-specific details of the proposed improvements to the American Valley WWTP and effluent disposal system, identifies what elements of the project have changed in the current proposal since adoption of the 2017 IS/MND, and compares the environmental impacts that would occur under the current proposal to those that were identified in the 2017 IS/MND prepared by QCSD.

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project is located in central Plumas County, within the semi-rural community of Quincy (see Figure 3-1). More specifically, the WWTP is located on Spanish Creek Road, east of Highway 89, just north and northeast of the Gansner Field Airport. The approximately 118-acre project site is located directly north and east of Spanish Creek, with Clear Stream flowing southwest to northeast, bisecting the site (see Figure 3-2). The AVCSO owns and operates the American Valley WWTP, which provides service to the communities of Quincy, East Quincy, and adjacent areas, with a service area boundary encompassing approximately 3,174 acres.

South and east of the site, land is undeveloped and currently used for cattle grazing. The Gansner Field Airport is located south and southwest of the project site. North and west of the project site, land is sparsely developed with some residential land uses. The proposed WWTP improvements, including future improvements in the adjacent pastures, would be completely located within lands owned by the AVCSO.

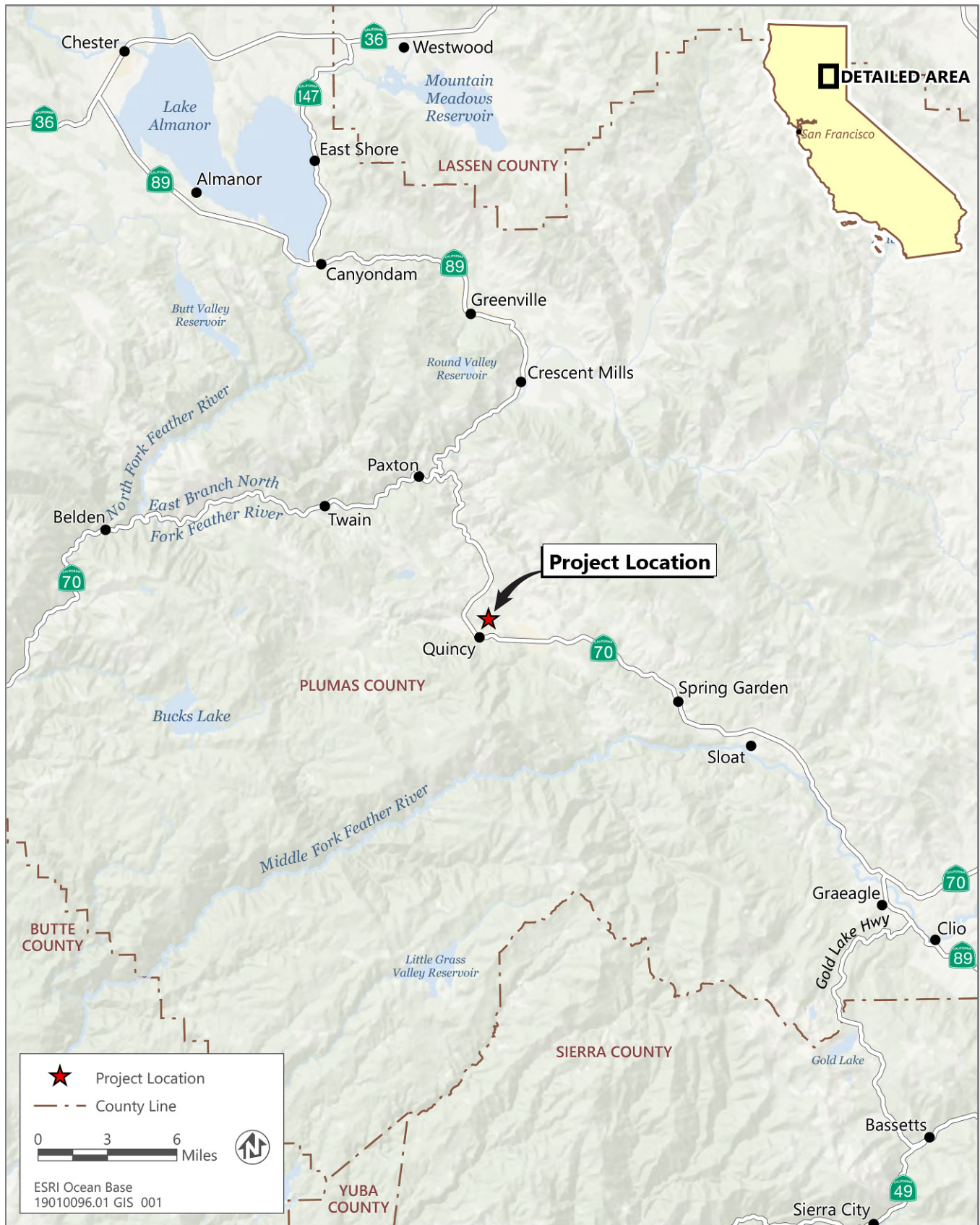
3.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT CHANGES

Since the 2017 IS/MND was adopted, AVCSO has engaged in the design of the proposed WWTP upgrades and has determined the final details of this component of the project. AVCSO is still proposing to construct improvements to the American Valley WWTP in order to comply with Central Valley RWQCB requirements and to maintain the capacity of the treatment facility to meet current and future demands. Consistent with the general description of the project analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND, the project as now proposed would replace the existing rotating biological contactor (RBC) treatment system with a more effective biological treatment system and install approximately 2,200 linear feet of new pipeline leading from the irrigation pond to the existing outlet structure. Where the 2017 IS/MND included two alignments for a new outfall pipeline connection directly from the WWTP to the existing outlet structure at the northeast corner of the existing emergency pond, either along the northern or southern berm around the emergency storage pond, the current project proposes that the new outfall pipeline be installed below-grade directly through the existing emergency storage pond to the existing outlet structure in the emergency storage pond.

The 2017 IS/MND included modifications to and expansion of the existing grit chamber; this has been revised to a new screenings and grit removal facility to replace the existing facility which will be abandoned in place. In addition, converting the irrigation pond into effluent storage basins, as described in the 2017 IS/MND would no longer occur. The irrigation pond will remain intact as currently configured and operated.

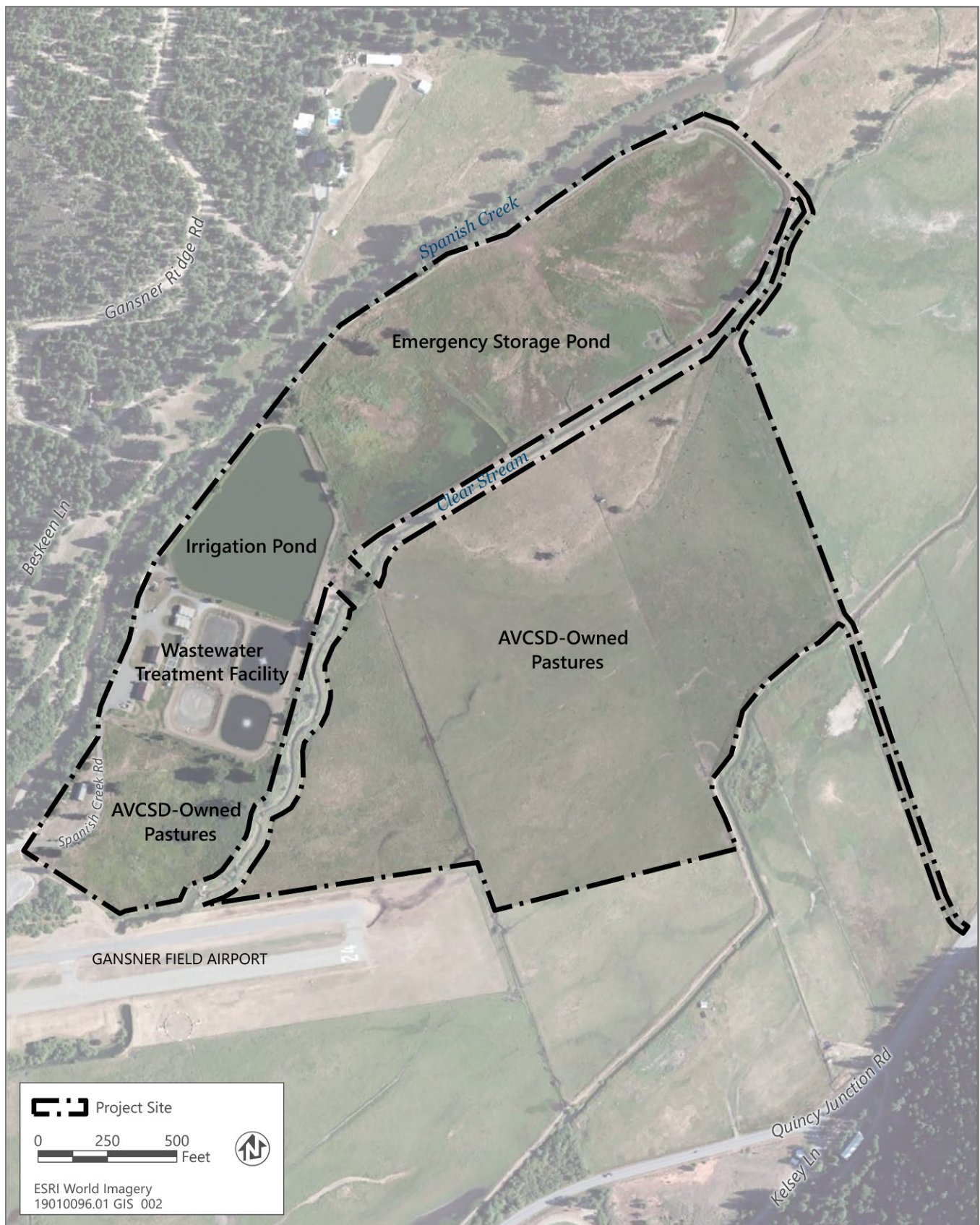
The near-term construction project no longer includes a filtration system or an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. Instead, the treatment facility would continue to use sodium hypochlorite for disinfection followed by sodium bisulfite for dechlorination prior to discharging effluent. Minor modifications are also necessary to upgrade the aging system; these improvements would include the construction of new sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite storage tanks with secondary containment, chemical metering pumps, and appurtenances; and improvements to the existing chlorine contact basin consisting of replacement of the existing Parshall flume.

The project still proposes to construct a solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation facility, a filtration system, a UV disinfection system, and improvements to the land disposal system (including the recontouring and construction of berms in the pastures), construction of a new lift station and two pump stations, installation of approximately 20,000 feet of irrigation and effluent return lines, construction of effluent return ditches. However, these project components would not be constructed in the near term in conjunction with the improvements described above. These would be implemented sometime in the future as part of separate construction contracts.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Figure 3-1 Regional Location



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Figure 3-2 Project Site

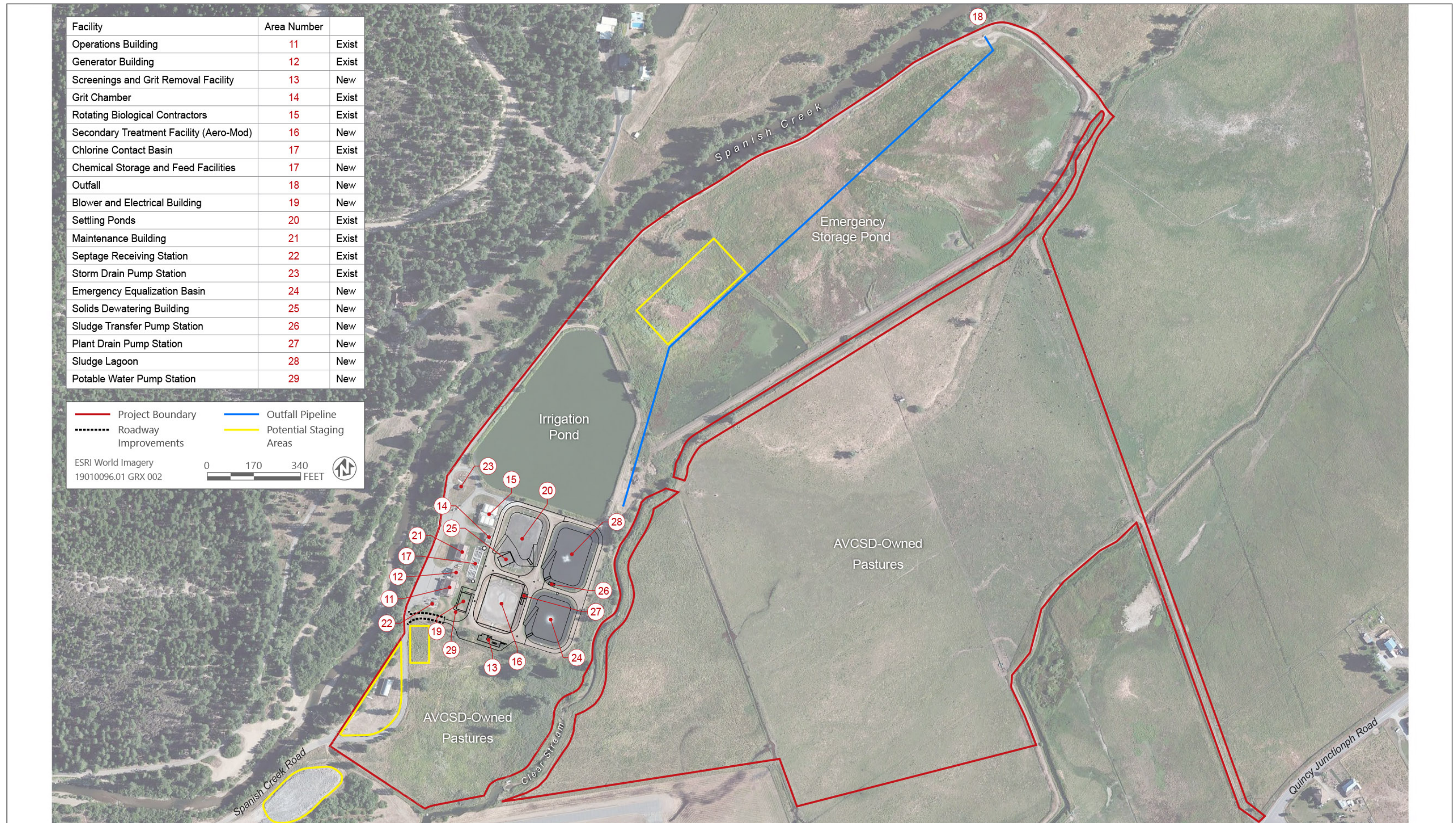
3.3 CURRENT PROJECT PROPOSAL

3.3.1 Proposed Near-Term Physical Improvements

TREATMENT FACILITY

The existing RBC treatment system would be replaced with a more effective biological treatment system. The new treatment system would feature a new screenings and grit removal facility, an Aero-Mod SEQUOX Plus® facility and associated infrastructure, and a new sludge dewatering system. This facility would be located mostly within the footprint of the existing sludge settling lagoons (also known as polishing ponds). More specifically, as shown in Figure 3-3, treatment facility improvements would include:

- ▶ Screenings and Grit Removal Facility:
 - Construct a new screenings and grit removal facility consisting of concrete channels, inlet gates, a mechanical bar screen, a manual bar screen, screenings compactors, grit removal, grit handling, influent flow measurement, and a flow split structure.
- ▶ Secondary Treatment Process:
 - Construct a new secondary treatment process designed for biological nutrient removal utilizing the proprietary Aero-Mod system. This system includes four separate treatment trains each containing first and second stage aeration, clarification, and aerobic digestion processes.
- ▶ Chemical Storage and Feed Facility Improvements:
 - Construct new sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite storage tanks with secondary containment, chemical metering pumps, and appurtenances.
- ▶ Chlorine Contact Basin Improvements:
 - Replace the existing Parshall flume.
- ▶ Blower and Electrical Building:
 - Construct a new building housing switchgear, motor control center, and drives for the new facilities as well as four aeration blowers which will supply air to the new secondary treatment process.
- ▶ Emergency Equalization Basin:
 - Repurpose an existing sludge settling lagoon for use as an emergency equalization basin including installation of inlet and outlet piping and a drain pump station.
- ▶ Solids Dewatering Facility:
 - Construct a sludge dewatering facility consisting of a building containing a screw press for dewatering of aerobically digested sludge, polymer storage and feed facility, flow meters, sludge conveyor, and monorail. This facility would also include a paved uncovered sludge storage area and a concrete lined sludge storage lagoon.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Figure 3-3 Proposed Near-term Improvements

- ▶ Sludge Transfer Pump Station:
 - Construct a sludge transfer pump station consisting of two sludge pumps to transfer sludge from the aerobic digesters or sludge lagoon to the solids dewatering facility.
- ▶ Plant Drain Pump Station:
 - Construct a sludge drain pump station to pump site storm water or emergency equalized flow from the emergency equalization basin to the head of the treatment process.
- ▶ Electrical Power Supply System:
 - Expand power supply and standby power system to provide power distribution to the new facilities.
 - Install a new standby generator in waterproof, sound attenuated enclosure.
- ▶ Instrumentation:
 - Expand and upgrade existing instrumentation and control systems. The existing instrumentation system will be upgraded to a new operating system and incorporate an additional distributed programmable logic controller that provides control and transmits plant status, alarms and control information to a central location.
- ▶ Site Demolition:
 - After successful commissioning of new treatment process facilities, demolish or abandon in place existing facilities including the RBCs, grit chamber, and other equipment.

OUTFALL PIPELINE

Approximately 2,200 linear feet of new 30-inch diameter HDPE pipe would be installed below ground diagonally from the irrigation pond across the existing emergency storage pond to the existing outlet structure at the northeast interior corner of the emergency storage pond. No modifications to the existing outfall structure along Spanish Creek on the north side of the berm surrounding the emergency storage pond would be required.

3.3.2 Proposed Future Physical Improvements

LAND DISPOSAL IMPROVEMENTS

In the event that Leonhardt Ranch pastures are no longer available for treated effluent disposal, the AVCS D's existing 80 acres of pasture, or the improved land disposal area, would be maximized for effluent disposal (see Figure 3-4). Specific improvements would include:

- ▶ Recontouring of the site and installation of a series of berms in the improved land disposal area.
- ▶ Installation of irrigation pipeline from the new treatment facility to the improved land disposal area.
- ▶ Installation of run-off return pipeline from the improved land disposal area, back to the new treatment facility.
- ▶ Construction of effluent return ditches to collect and deliver excess effluent from the improved land disposal area to the new treatment facility.
- ▶ Construction of one lift station and two pump stations to push water back and forth between the new treatment facility and the improved land disposal area.

SOLAR POWER GENERATION

PV panels may be installed on AVCSD-owned lands just southwest of the WWTP. The solar PV panels would cover approximately 2.5 acres and likely generate up to 300 kW of power once operational. In addition to the solar PV panels, inverters, and related electrical equipment (e.g., electrical line, circuit breakers) would be installed. The solar PV panels would be non-reflective and would convert sunlight directly into electricity. Although the exact site design and layout of the solar PV panels is yet to be determined, the panels would be mounted in uniform rows on steel piers and are not expected to exceed 12 feet tall. The panels would be south-facing, and would either be fixed in a tilted position and oriented to maximize absorption of sunlight, or alternatively, would be integrated with a single-axis, horizontal solar tracking system configured to optimize energy production by following the path of the sun throughout the day. An equipment pad containing inverters and a switchgear would be connected to the solar PV panels via underground polyvinyl chloride conduits. The equipment pad would be connected via an overhead or underground electrical line to a nearby Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative transformer.

FILTRATION AND DISINFECTION BUILDING

A new filtration and disinfection building may be constructed at the location of the current RBC building. The RBC building would be decommissioned and demolished. Secondary effluent treatment would shift from chlorine disinfection to filtration and UV treatment, as described below.

Filtration

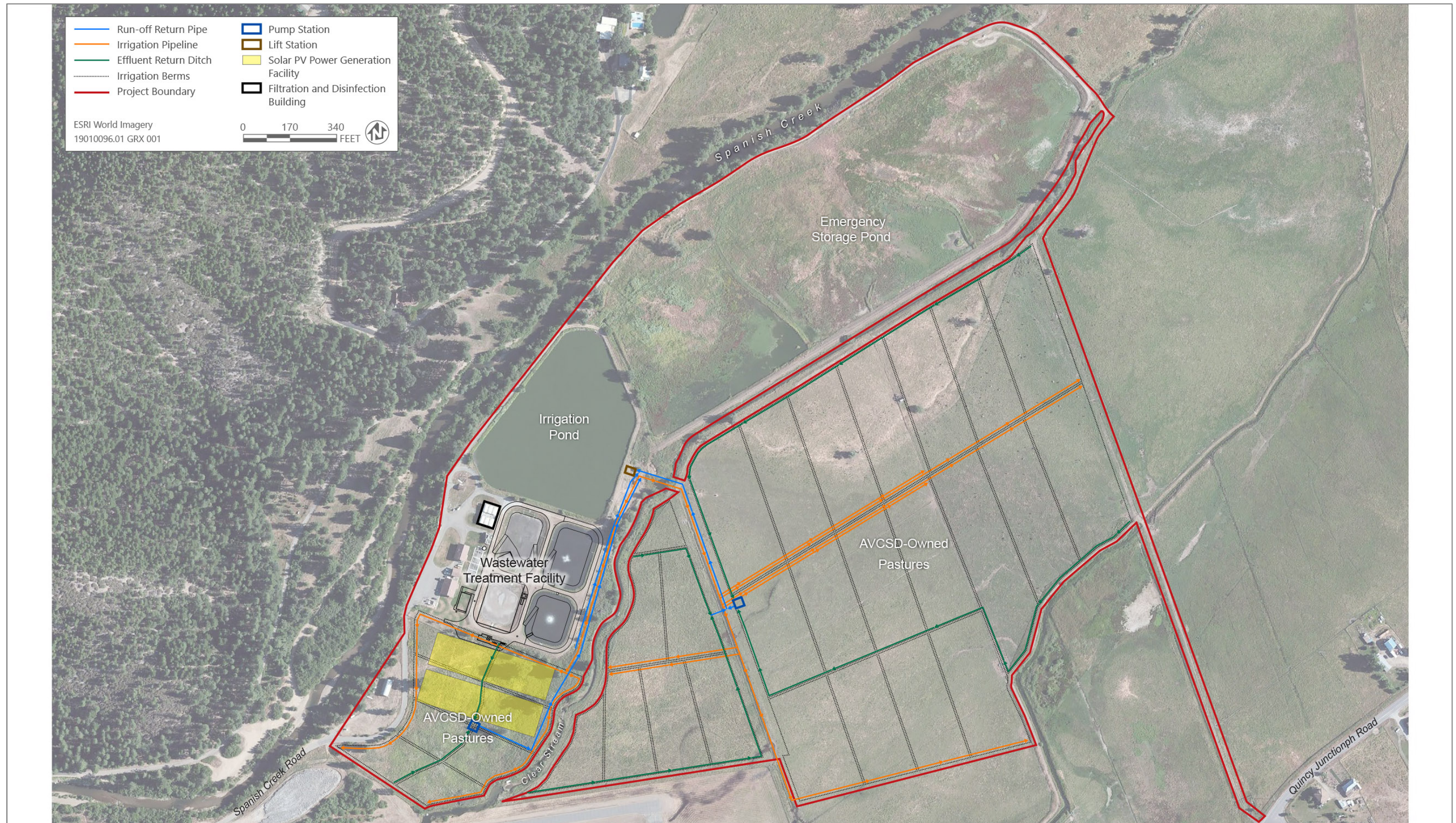
Clarified effluent would travel to one of two cloth disk filters for further removal of total suspended solids. Each of these filters consists of a water-filled, above-ground basin containing a vertical shaft. Several filter disks are located along the horizontal shaft and each disk is comprised of six sectors covered with a cloth filter media. Secondary effluent enters the basin through an inlet pipe and fills the tank. The hydraulic head in the basin forces water through the disk filters. This water is filtered by the cloth media as it passes to the interior of each disk. As the filters become clogged with captured particles, the filter rate slows and a backwash is initiated. A fixed suction head, or backwash shoe, is located on each disk. During a backwash cycle, the disks begin to rotate and a backwash pump pulls filtered water from the interior of the disk through the filter cloth and out the backwash shoe. Particulates trapped within the cloth media are removed by the reversed flow. This type of filter would not require the entire filter to shutdown to perform a backwash. An enclosure over the filter would help to protect the filter from the environment and limit the amount of algal growth.

Ultraviolet Disinfection

Filtered effluent would be received by one of six UV vessels. Each of the UV vessels would contain 72 UV lamps. The UV vessels would be within the same building as the disk filters to reduce exposure to the environment. Ideally, disinfected effluent leaving the UV system can gravity flow to Spanish Creek provided dilutions ratios are met. However, it may be necessary to pump treated effluent if headloss in the effluent pipeline is too large. The need for pumping is difficult to determine without knowing the exact equipment to be utilized and pipeline alignments. As such, further investigation of pumping requirements would be required during the design phase. Alternatively, effluent could be pumped to the AVCSD-owned pastures.

3.3.3 Proposed Project Operations

With implementation of the proposed improvements, the capacity of the WWTP would be maintained to accommodate an average dry weather flow of up to 1.25 million gallons per day (MGD) and peak wet weather flows of up to 4.9 MGD. Hydraulically the facility will be able to accommodate peak hourly flows of 6.5 MGD. This capacity accommodates anticipated future growth through 2035.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Figure 3-4 Proposed Future Work

The new treatment facility would employ an Aero-Mod SEQUOX Plus® facility. This process uses microorganisms to feed on organic constituents in the wastewater, providing both nitrification and denitrification, producing a high-quality effluent with low effluent nitrogen and ammonia. The system includes concrete common-wall construction to form four parallel treatment trains, each consisting of an anoxic selector, aeration basin, aerobic digester, and clarifier. The new treatment and discharge processes would include the following steps:

COLLECTION

The existing collection system would not change with implementation of the proposed improvements.

SCREENINGS AND GRIT REMOVAL FACILITY

Influent from the collection system would be pumped by existing offsite lift stations to the new screenings and grit removal facility, where it would pass through a self-cleaning mechanical climber bar screen to remove debris larger than ¼-inch. Screenings would be deposited in a screenings washer/compactor for removal of organic material and compaction prior to discharge into a dumpster for disposal. If the mechanical bar screen is out of service or its capacity is exceeded, a bypass channel through a ½-inch manual bar screen is provided for removal of large debris. Screened effluent would gravity-flow to the new grit removal facility where it passes through a stacked-tray grit removal tank. Grit from this system is transferred to a grit washer which removes organic material and conveys the "clean" grit to a dumpster. From the grit removal facility, the effluent flows to the Aero-Mod process.

An equalization basin would be provided to capture peak flows in excess of the new treatment system's peak design flow of 4.9 MGD. This excess flow would be diverted to the equalization basin through a passive overflow weir and metered back into the treatment system when flows decrease below the treatment system's peak design flow.

SETTLING, DENITRIFICATION, AND MIXING

Screened influent would exit the screenings and grit removal facility and first enter an anoxic selector that would promote bacterial growth while returning nitrate to the front of the treatment process for denitrification. To accomplish this, influent would be mixed with return activated sludge (sludge particles produced in the aeration basins) from the four clarifiers. A wall-mounted coarse-bubble aeration system would deliver large quantities of oxygen to provide mixing and keep solids in suspension.

STAGE 1 AERATION

Effluent from each of the two anoxic selectors would be diverted to the four stage 1 aeration basins where the biological reactions would occur. A wall-mounted fine-bubble aeration system would provide continuous mixing and dissolved oxygen for biochemical oxygen demand consumption, ammonification, and nitrification.

DIGESTERS

A portion of the mixed liquor (the concentration of suspended solids) formed in the stage 1 aeration basins would be transferred to one of the four aerobic digesters by air-lift pumps as waste activated sludge (excess sludge particles not returned to the anoxic selector). A wall mounted aeration system would provide aeration and mixing to the digester sludge. Digester supernatant (a relatively clear liquid that is removed from settled sludge) would travel over a weir into the Stage 2 aeration basins.

The sludge retained in the digesters would settle to the bottom and undergo stabilization for an average of 60 days before conveyance to the dewatering facility.

STAGE 2 AERATION

Remaining effluent from the stage 1 aeration basins would pass to the stage 2 aeration basins through blockouts in the interior walls. Similar to stage 1, a wall-mounted coarse-bubble aeration system would provide sequenced aeration that would allow for simultaneous nitrification and denitrification.

CLARIFICATION

Stage 2 effluent would be drawn from the surface of the aeration basins through outlet screens and dispersed along the bottom of one of four clarifiers. An air-lift pump would remove sludge at timed intervals from eight stationary suction hoods. Some sludge would be returned as return activated sludge to the anoxic selector. Clarified effluent (in which solids have settled and are separated from treated wastewater) would exit the clarifier through submerged effluent weirs. These weirs would allow the effluent flow to be regulated so that surges in influent flow could be absorbed by utilizing the clarifiers as retention basins.

DISINFECTION

Clarified effluent would gravity flow to the two existing chlorine contact basins where sodium hypochlorite would be dosed for disinfection followed by sodium bisulfite for dechlorination prior to discharging effluent.

Disinfected effluent leaving the chlorine contact basin can gravity flow through the new outfall pipeline to the outlet structure and Spanish Creek diffuser provided dilution ratios are met. Alternatively, effluent could gravity flow to the existing irrigation pond and to the AVCSO-owned pastures for irrigation.

SLUDGE PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL

The sludge retained in the digesters undergoes stabilization for 60 days before conveyance to the new sludge dewatering facility in order to achieve a Class B biosolids designation. The dewatering facility would include a screw press for dewatering digested sludge to approximately 15 percent solids content. From there, dewatered sludge would be conveyed to a paved sludge drying area for further drying prior to being off-hauled for landfill disposal. A concrete lined sludge storage lagoon would also be provided to store digested sludge during winter months, thereby minimizing hauling costs.

The dewatering facility would be enclosed in a separate building to protect equipment and electrical/control facilities. The facility would consist of a polymer blending system, screw press, conveyor, and monorail. The addition of polymer would be required to achieve optimal solids concentrations. Filtrate from the sludge would be returned to the screenings and grit removal facility for further treatment. The dewatering facility would be required to run approximately six hours each day during the summer months. Sludge would be weighed on a scale and then hauled to a landfill during the summer.

A sludge pumping station would allow pumping of digested sludge from either the Aero-Mod aerobic digesters or from the sludge storage lagoon to the dewatering facility for processing.

TREATED EFFLUENT DISCHARGE

With implementation of the proposed improvements to the treatment facility and given that the 2016 NPDES permit's discharge requirements are met, treated effluent could be discharged to Spanish Creek year-round. However, as described in the 2017 IS/MND, the AVCSO intends to continue its existing discharge practices, where effluent would be discharged to approximately 223 acres of AVCSO and Leonhardt Ranch-owned pastures. Regardless of disposal methods, the volume of treated effluent would not increase beyond the existing treatment capacity of 1.25 MGD.

In the event that Leonhardt Ranch pastures are no longer available for treated effluent disposal, the AVCSO would still have the option to discharge to AVCSO-owned pastures. If the pastures are improved in the future, the effluent

from the WWTP would be conveyed to the improved land disposal area via a new irrigation pump. The effluent would then be sent through a series of pipelines to flood irrigate different sections of the approximately 80 acres of land. The improved land disposal area would be partitioned off into "cells" by a system of berms. In addition, the cells would be graded so that excess effluent would drain towards the effluent return ditches. The cells would receive equal volumes of effluent. Excess effluent would be directed to an effluent return ditch that would return the effluent back to the screenings and grit removal facility via pump stations.

The new effluent pipeline from the treatment facility to the Spanish Creek outfall would result in more efficient water conveyance because effluent would be discharged through a gravity-fed pipeline instead of being held in the emergency storage pond where water exits the pond into Spanish Creek during high flows only.

Flows in excess of the daily peak design capacity (4.9 MGD) would be held in the emergency equalization basin and slowly metered back into the treatment plant when flows decrease.

The existing irrigation pond would continue to be used in its current manner and would not be impacted by the project.

3.3.4 Construction Considerations

DEMOLITION AND ABANDONMENT

Existing WWTP infrastructure such as the biological contactors would be partially demolished and abandoned once the new WWTP facility is operational. Mechanical and electrical equipment would be demolished and removed from the site. Concrete structures would be abandoned in place. Sumps or tankage in the abandoned facilities would be covered or filled with concrete to prevent stagnant water from accumulating. Solids contained in the existing sludge settling lagoons would be removed prior to demolition or new construction. Any soil spoils generated during construction would be placed in the abandoned emergency storage pond as loose fill. Remaining areas in the emergency storage pond would be allowed to be naturally inundated by rain and snowmelt.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Haul trucks would use Spanish Creek Road for near-term work. Staging areas within the project boundary could include a location west of Spanish Creek Road, south of the WWTP facility; a location east of Spanish Creek Road, south of the WWTP facility; and another location within the emergency storage pond during the summer months (see Figure 3-3). A county-owned off-site staging area is also being considered as a potential staging area. Additional paved areas within the WWTP facility could also be used for staging.

An entrance road would be widened south of the WWTP facility; the paved road would extend east from Spanish Creek Road to provide improved turning radius and access to the newly constructed blower and electrical building and the screenings and grit removal facility. A gate would be located at the intersection of the new entrance road and Spanish Creek Road. An unimproved ranch road from Quincy Junction Road to the WWTP may be used to facilitate future construction activities. This road may require some rough grading and gravelling depending on the contractor's desired use of the road.

Construction equipment likely to be used for the replacement treatment plant and effluent disposal system would include: compactor, bulldozer, excavator, crane, dozer, loader, grader, track excavator with vibratory equipment, dump truck, back-hoe, concrete truck (as necessary), boring equipment (if necessary), water trucks, and pick-up trucks. Additionally, the Aero-Mod facility would need to be supported on an improved soil foundation consisting of rammed aggregate piers and reinforced earth mat to prevent liquefaction induced settlement.

Ongoing raw material and equipment deliveries to the site would take place throughout the construction period. Near-term project construction of the proposed treatment facility and outfall pipeline improvements would require

approximately 26 months to complete and would occur between August 2020 and October 2022. Future work is not expected to occur within the next two years.

3.4 ENTITLEMENTS REQUIRED

3.4.1 Proposed Near-Term Physical Improvements

- ▶ State Water Resources Control Board – General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit and preparation of a storm water pollution prevention plan.
- ▶ Plumas County – Airport Land Use Commission review/approval of the proposed changes in land use within the airport influence area.
- ▶ Plumas County – Special Plan-Review Committee review/approval of the proposed improvements within the Combining Zone for Special Plan Scenic Areas (SP-ScA).

3.4.2 Proposed Future Physical Improvements

- ▶ Central Valley RWQCB – Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification.
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development – NEPA approval for funding.
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit for discharge of fill to Waters of the U.S.
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Section 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.
- ▶ Plumas County – Airport Land Use Commission review/approval of the proposed changes in land use within the airport influence area.
- ▶ Plumas County – Special Plan-Review Committee review/approval of the proposed improvements within the Combining Zone for Special Plan Scenic Areas (SP-ScA).

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

4.1 EXPLANATION OF CHECKLIST EVALUATION CATEGORIES

The purpose of this checklist is to evaluate the categories in terms of any “changed condition” (i.e., changed circumstances, changes to the previously evaluated project, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in environmental impact significance conclusions different from those found in the 2017 IS/MND. The row titles of the checklist include the full range of environmental topics, as presented in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, as updated December 28, 2018. The column titles of the checklist have been modified from the Appendix G presentation to help answer the questions to be addressed pursuant to CEQA Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. A “no” answer does not necessarily mean that there are no potential impacts relative to the environmental category, but rather that there is no change in the condition or status of the impact because it was previously analyzed and adequately addressed with mitigation measures in the IS/MND. For instance, the environmental categories might be answered with a “no” in the checklist because the impacts associated with the proposed project were adequately addressed in the 2017 IS/MND, and the environmental impact significance conclusions of the IS/MND remain applicable. The purpose of each column of the checklist is described below.

4.1.1 Where Impact was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND

This column provides a cross-reference to the pages of the IS/MND where information and analysis may be found relative to the environmental issue listed under each topic. Unless otherwise specified, all references point to the 2017 IS/MND document.

4.1.2 Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?

Pursuant to Section 15162(a)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines, this column indicates whether the changes represented by the current project may result in (1) new significant impacts that have not already been considered in the prior environmental review document, or (2) a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified impact. If ‘Yes’, then preparation of a subsequent IS/MND or supplement to the IS/MND would be required.

4.1.3 Do New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?

Pursuant to Section 15162(a)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, this column indicates whether there have been changes to the project site or the vicinity (circumstances under which the project is undertaken) that have occurred subsequent to the prior environmental documents, which would result in the project having new significant environmental impacts that were not considered in the prior environmental documents or having substantial increases in the severity of previously identified significant impacts. If ‘Yes’, then preparation of a subsequent IS/MND or supplement to the IS/MND would be required.

4.1.4 Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?

Pursuant to Section 15162(a)(3)(A-D) of the CEQA Guidelines, this column indicates whether 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 environmental documents were certified as complete is available, requiring an update to the analysis of the previous environmental documents to verify that the environmental conclusions and mitigation measures remain valid. If the new information shows that: (A) the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the prior environmental documents; or (B) that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the prior environmental documents; or (C) that 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) that mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the prior environmental documents would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative, the question would be answered 'Yes' requiring the preparation of a subsequent IS/MND or supplement to the IS/MND. However, if the additional analysis completed as part of this Environmental Checklist Review finds that the conclusions of the prior environmental documents remain the same and no new significant impacts are identified, or previously identified significant environmental impacts are not found to be substantially more severe, the question would be answered 'No' and no additional IS/MND documentation (supplement to the IS/MND or subsequent EIR IS/MND) would be required.

4.1.5 Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?

This column indicates whether mitigation measures in the 2017 IS/MND or new mitigation measures identified in the additional analysis completed as part of this Environmental Checklist Review have been adopted to address effects in the related impact category. In some cases, the mitigation measures have already been implemented. A "yes" response will be provided in either instance. If existing mitigation is inadequate and AVCS D has declined to adopt new mitigation that would reduce the effects, a "no" response will be provided requiring the preparation of a subsequent IS/MND or supplement to the IS/MND. If "NA" is indicated, this Environmental Checklist Review concludes that there was no impact, or the impact was less-than-significant and, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

4.2 DISCUSSION AND MITIGATION SECTIONS

4.2.1 Discussion

A discussion of the elements of the checklist is provided under each environmental category to clarify the answers. The discussion provides information about the particular environmental issue, how the project relates to the issue, and the status of any mitigation that may be required or that has already been implemented.

4.2.2 Mitigation Measures

Applicable mitigation measures from the prior environmental review that would apply to the proposed amendment are listed under each environmental category. New mitigation measures are included, if needed.

4.2.3 Conclusions

A discussion of the conclusion relating to the need for additional environmental documentation is contained in each section.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

5.1 AESTHETICS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
1. Aesthetics. Would the Project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	pp. 21-22	No	No	No	NA
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	pp. 21-22	No	No	No	NA
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	pp. 21-22	No	No	No	NA
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	pp. 21-22	No	No	No	NA

5.1.1 Discussion

- a-c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential aesthetic impacts of the project and concluded that the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, nor would it result in substantial degradation of the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings. Additionally, there would be no impact related to scenic resources within a designated State Scenic Highway. The project as proposed now is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and consists of improvements to the existing wastewater treatment and effluent disposal facilities. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.
- d) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential light and glare impacts and concluded that the project would have a potentially significant impact related to the proposed solar PV panels. The project as proposed now includes these previously evaluated solar PV panels as future work. Consistent with the IS/MND, the proposed improvements to the treatment facility would include new sources of exterior lighting for security purposes. However, the new lighting would be similar in scale and type to existing facility lighting and would not be a new source of substantial light. The potential for glare could be increased by window surfaces, and exterior materials/coatings; however, these types of surfaces would be minimal and nearby residents, across

the river, would be screened by existing riparian vegetation along Spanish Creek that lines the perimeter of the project property. Therefore, no new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts would occur and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

The 2017 IS/MND identified Mitigation Measure 1.1, which required proposed solar PV panels to be coated with an anti-glare material. No additional mitigation measures are required for the project for this issue.

CONCLUSION

No project components in the proposed American Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project would create a new source of substantial light or glare. Therefore, the conclusions of the IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to aesthetics.

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources. Would the project:					
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	pp. 23-24	No	No	No	NA
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	pp. 23-24	No	No	No	NA
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	pp. 23-24	No	No	No	NA
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land?	pp. 23-24	No	No	No	NA
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	pp. 23-24	No	No	No	NA

5.2.1 Discussion

a-e) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on agricultural and forestry resources and concluded that no impacts would occur. The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The project would be located within the community of Quincy, and a large portion of the project site is designated as Agricultural Preserve in the Plumas County General Plan. The nearest mapped farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, is located approximately 34 miles southeast of the project site, east of the community of Beckwourth. The project would not result in the permanent conversion of Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use. The project would not be located on land zoned for forest land or timberland production and no forest land is present on site. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts to agriculture and forestry resources than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the IS/MND for this topic. No additional mitigation measures are required for the project for this issue.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to agriculture and forestry resources.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve Any New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
3. Air Quality. Would the project:					
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	pp. 25-27	No	No	No	NA
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	pp. 25-27	No	No	No	NA
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	pp. 25-27	No	No	No	NA
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	p. 27	No	No	No	NA

5.3.1 Discussion

- a-c) The previously adopted IS/MND evaluated impacts to air quality and concluded that impacts related to conflicts with air quality plans, considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants, and exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant. The project as now proposed includes similar types of construction and operation as the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The project could be considered to have less intense construction as the solar PV panels and possible AVCSO-owned pasture improvements are considered future work and would not be constructed at the same time as the near-term improvements. In addition, the irrigation pond would not be converted to effluent storage basins. Similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, the project as now proposed would implement Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District’s (NSAQMD) standard best management practices (BMPs) (e.g., preparation of a Dust Control Plan), and would adhere to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation, adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in 2008. The project would be constructed and operated in accordance with existing requirements of NSAQMD and CARB. Therefore, the project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the previously adopted 2017 IS/MND. The findings of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.
- d) As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, impacts related to emissions leading to odors would be less than significant. The WWTP is located in a semi-rural area with the nearest residence being over 500 feet from the majority of the proposed construction activities. Given this separation distance, potentially objectionable odors resulting from construction of the treatment plant improvements (e.g., paint fumes and diesel exhaust) would be minor. Similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, operational odors under the project as now proposed would also be minimal. The new equalization basins could provide some potential for odor generation; however, these basins would rarely be inundated with influent, and continuous aeration would minimize the potential for odors. Sludge would be dried and processed using an enclosed sludge blower dewatering facility, which would have less risk of odor than the existing process of drying sludge within on-site polishing ponds, which are not enclosed. Therefore, the project would not result in any new or

substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the previously adopted IS/MND. The findings of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the IS/MND for this topic. No additional mitigation measures are required for the project for air quality.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to air quality.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve Any New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
4. Biological Resources. Would the project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	pp. 29-31	No	No	No	Yes
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	pp. 31-34	No	No	No	Yes
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	pp. 31-34	No	No	No	Yes
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish and wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	pp. 32-33	No	No	No	Yes
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.	p. 33	No	No	No	NA
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	p. 33	No	No	No	NA

5.4.1 Discussion

- a) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated impacts on special-status species and concluded that there was a potentially significant impact related to the western pond turtle; proposed improvements that could affect potential western pond turtle habitat would be limited to the existing irrigation pond, which may be dewatered, excavated, lined, and converted to two effluent storage basins. Mitigation Measure 4.1 was identified to avoid impacts on the western pond turtle, resulting in a less than significant impact. The project as now proposed does not include converting the existing irrigation pond to effluent storage basins; the pond would continue

to be used in its current manner. Therefore, western pond turtles would not be disturbed, and impacts would be less than significant.

The previously adopted IS/MND concluded that impacts on all other special-status wildlife species and all special status plant species would be less than significant, primarily because of lack of habitat and because the species were not observed during field surveys.

For the project as now proposed, new biological database searches were conducted. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) records were reviewed for special-status wildlife and plants on January 28, 2020 (CNDDDB 2020, CNPS 2020, USFWS 2020). No additional special-status species or other changes were identified in the USFWS search results (USFWS 2020). The CNDDDB search was increased from a 5-mile radius to a search of the nine U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles surrounding the project site, which resulted in identification of one additional special-status species: foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*; CNDDDB 2020). Foothill yellow-legged frog is a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). There are many recent (i.e., 2017) occurrences of this species within Spanish Creek and its tributaries, approximately 4 miles west of the project site (CNDDDB 2020). The updated records search results are included in Appendix A.

Two species, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), were analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and were determined to be unlikely to occur because they were not detected during a survey of the project site and because of habitat conditions on the site. However, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is known to occur within Spanish Creek; recent occurrences demonstrate that the species has been detected approximately 4 miles west of the project site within a tributary to Spanish Creek (CNDDDB 2020). Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and threatened under CESA. Potentially suitable habitat for American badger, which is a CDFW species of special concern, includes the AVCSO-owned pastures southeast of the WWTP.

Suitable and likely occupied habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is present adjacent to the project site within Spanish Creek. Clear Stream, which runs along the southeast edge of the WWTP between the WWTP and the AVCSO-owned pastures, does not contain suitable habitat for these species. The stream is slow-moving and contains a silty substrate rather than cobblestone which is preferred by both species. The stream also contains excessive algae and has only sparse associated riparian vegetation, which further reduces the suitability for these species. As a result, foothill yellow-legged and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are not expected to occur within the AVCSO-owned pastures southeast of the WWTP.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs are closely associated with aquatic habitat, and rarely move more than a few feet into upland habitat. Foothill yellow-legged frog is known to occur within upland habitat up to approximately 200 feet away, but typically no more than 50 to 70 feet away, from aquatic habitat (CDFW 2018a). There are several natural barriers to movement between Spanish Creek and the project site. There is a steep, natural gradient from the creek to the top of the bank, ranging from approximately 10 feet to 40 feet along the northern boundary of the WWTP. The steep bank contains thick riparian vegetation (e.g., willow [*Salix* spp.] and alder [*Alnus* spp.]), which would further impede the movement of frogs from the creek into upland habitat. These features would likely deter foothill yellow-legged and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs from entering the project site, and in addition, there is no suitable aquatic habitat on the project site that would attract frogs to the project site.

Near-term project activities would largely be limited to the developed WWTP area; however, construction of the new screenings and grit removal facility would include development of a portion of an AVCSO-owned pasture. Use of the potential staging areas, project activities within the developed WWTP area, and near-term construction activities within the pasture south of the WWTP are unlikely to result in impacts on special-status wildlife species. However, future improvement activities within the AVCSO-owned pasture areas to the southeast of the treatment facility may include ground disturbing activities within undeveloped areas.

Future improvements within the AVCSO-owned pastures could result in loss of American badger burrows or inadvertent injury or death of American badgers, if present within the pastures. Mitigation Measure 4.4, which would require preconstruction surveys for badgers and protection of occupied dens, would be required prior to future pasture improvement activities within the AVCSO-owned pasture areas to reduce impacts on badgers to less than significant.

The CNDDDB and CNPS search results for special-status plants are shown below in Table 5-1. These searches combined identified 11 new special-status plant species that have potential to occur within the project site. Suitable habitat for these species (i.e., meadow, marsh, streambank) is not present within the pasture south of the WWTP where construction of the new screenings and grit removal facility would occur. However, potentially suitable habitat for these species is present within the AVCSO-owned pastures southeast of the WWTP. Future improvement activities within these pastures may include ground disturbance or vegetation removal, which could result in trampling, crushing, burial, or other damage or loss of these species, if present. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.5, which would require protocol-level special-status plant surveys and protection measures if special-status plants are identified, would be required prior to future pasture improvement activities to reduce impacts on special-status plant species to less than significant.

Table 5-1 Special-Status Plant Species with Potential to Occur within the Project Vicinity Based on Updated CNDDDB and CNPS Searches

Species	Listing Status ^a Federal	Listing Status ^a State	Listing Status ^a CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ^b
Pulsifer's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus pulsiferae</i> var. <i>pulsiferae</i>	–	–	1B.2	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland. Usually granitic substrate, sandy or rocky, often with pines or sagebrush. 3,757–6,102 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Webber's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus webberi</i>	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, broadleaved upland forest, meadows and seeps. Open brushy slopes and flats in xeric pine forest or mixed pine-oak forest. 2,379–4,003 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Constance's rockcress <i>Boechea constancei</i>	–	–	1B.1	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Mostly on open, bare, serpentine slopes and outcrops in chaparral and woodland. 3,199–6,644 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Small-leaved rockcress <i>Boechea microphylla</i>	–	–	3	Pinyon and juniper woodland. Rocky, volcanic or granitic substrate. 5,577–8,858 feet in elevation. Blooms July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Mingan moonwort <i>Botrychium minganense</i>	–	–	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, bogs and fens, meadows and seeps. Creekbanks in mixed conifer forest. 3,904–10,810 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Watershield <i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	–	–	2B.3	Freshwater marshes and swamps. Aquatic from water bodies both natural and artificial in California. 98–7,218 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	Not expected to occur. This species was not detected during 2016 surveys, and the project site does not contain suitable habitat
Bolander's bruchia <i>Bruchia bolanderi</i>	–	–	4.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Moss which grows on damp clay soils. Seems to colonize bare	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.

Species	Listing Status ^a Federal	Listing Status ^a State	Listing Status ^a CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ^b
				soil along streambanks, meadows, fens and springs. This species has an ephemeral nature and is disturbance adapted. 5,282–10,958 feet in elevation.	
Woolly-fruited sedge <i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	–	–	2B.3	Sphagnum bogs, freshwater marsh, lake margins. 1,969–6,398 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.
Mud sedge <i>Carex limosa</i>	–	–	2B.2	In floating bogs and soggy meadows and edges of lakes. 4,495–9,154 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.
Liddon's sedge <i>Carex petasata</i>	–	–	2B.3	Wetland. Broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland. 2,740–9,941 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Pointed broom sedge <i>Carex scoparia</i> var. <i>scoparia</i>	–	–	2A	Great Basin scrub. Wet, open places. 3,970–3,970 feet in elevation. Blooms May.	May occur. This species was not detected during 2016 surveys; however, potentially suitable wetland habitat is present
Sheldon's sedge <i>Carex sheldonii</i>	–	–	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps, riparian scrub. Mesic sites; along creeks and in wet meadows. 3,937–6,611 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable habitat within seasonal wetland and streamside habitats.
Northern coralroot <i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	–	–	2B.1	Wet, open to shaded, generally coniferous forest. In California, under firs, in partial shade. 3,986–5,709 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
English sundew <i>Drosera anglica</i>	–	–	2B.3	Bogs and fens, meadows. 4,265–6,562 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.
California twisted spikerush <i>Eleocharis torticulmis</i>	–	–	1B.3	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, lower montane coniferous forest. 3,593–3,858 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July.	May occur. This species was not detected during 2016 surveys; however, potentially suitable wetland habitat is present
Yellow willowherb <i>Epilobium luteum</i>	–	–	2B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Along streams and in seeps. 5,184–7,218 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable stream and wetland habitat.
Clifton's eremogone <i>Eremogone cliftonii</i>	–	–	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral. Openings; granitic substrates. 1,460–5,807 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Plumas rayless daisy <i>Erigeron lassenianus</i> var. <i>deficiens</i>	–	–	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest. Gravelly, open sites. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes on disturbed sites. 4,446–6,512 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Ahart's buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, chaparral. Serpentinite. On slopes, in openings. 902–4,856 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.

Species	Listing Status ^a Federal	Listing Status ^a State	Listing Status ^a CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ^b
Caribou coffeeberry <i>Frangula purshiana</i> ssp. <i>ultramafica</i>	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, chaparral, meadows and seeps. On serpentine. 2,379–6,004 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Webber's ivesia <i>Ivesia webberi</i>	FT	–	1B.1	Rocky or gravelly volcanic soils. 3,396–6,299 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Cantelow's lewisia <i>Lewisia cantelovii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 1,083–4,495 feet in elevation. Blooms May–October.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Hutchison's lewisia <i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>hutchisonii</i>	–	–	3.2	Upper montane coniferous forest. On slate; in openings. Sometimes on rhyolite tuff. 2,510–7,759 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Quincy lupine <i>Lupinus dalesiae</i>	–	–	4.2	Dry open or shaded slopes, summits, and trails. Plants often found in disturbed soils. 2,805–8,202 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Follett's monardella <i>Monardella follettii</i>	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest. Open rocky serpentine slopes. 1,969–6,562 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Tall alpine-aster <i>Oreostemma elatum</i>	–	–	1B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 3,789–6,709 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August.	May occur. This species was not detected during 2016 surveys; however, potentially suitable wetland habitat is present
Closed-throated beardtongue <i>Penstemon personatus</i>	–	–	1B.2	Usually on north-facing slopes in metavolcanic soils. 3,494–6,955 feet in elevation. Blooms June–September.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Sierra blue grass <i>Poa sierrae</i>	–	–	1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest. Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 1,198–4,921 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed <i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	–	–	2B.2	Marshes and swamps. Shallow water, ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches. 968–8,661 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland, stream, and irrigation ditch habitat.
Sticky pyrrocoma <i>Pyrrcoma lucida</i>	–	–	1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub. Alkaline flats, clay soils. 2,493–6,857 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Alder buckthorn <i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	–	–	2B.2	Meadows and seeps, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, riparian scrub. Mesic sites. 4,692–7,005 feet in elevation. Blooms May–July.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
White beaked-rush <i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	–	–	2B.2	Freshwater marshes and sphagnum bogs. 197–6,693 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.
Brownish beaked-rush <i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i>	–	–	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 148–5,610 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.

Species	Listing Status ^a Federal	Listing Status ^a State	Listing Status ^a CRPR	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ^b
Water bulrush <i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	-	-	2B.3	Montane lake margins, in shallow water. 2,461–7,382 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Feather River stonecrop <i>Sedum albomarginatum</i>	-	-	1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. In crevices and on ledges of serpentine outcrops and slopes. 853–6,398 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present within the project site.
Rocky Mountains Canada goldenrod <i>Solidago lepida</i> var. <i>salebrosa</i>	-	-	3.2	Moist streambanks, lakesides, moist meadows. 3,543–4,528 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable streambank and wetland habitat.
Hairy marsh hedge-nettle <i>Stachys pilosa</i>	-	-	2B.3	Great Basin scrub, meadows and seeps. Mesic sites. 2,575–6,709 feet in elevation. Blooms June–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.
Flat-leaved bladderwort <i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	-	-	2B.2	Mesic meadows, lake margins, marshes, fens. 2,198–8,711 feet in elevation. Blooms July–August.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable wetland habitat.

FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected by ESA)

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

2B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

² Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present because of poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

May occur: Suitable habitat is available; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Source: CNDDB 2020; CNPS 2020

b, c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated impacts on sensitive natural communities and concluded that there was a potentially significant impact related to the introduction and spreading of invasive plant species on the project site. Mitigation Measure 4.2 was identified to minimize the potential for introduction or spread of noxious weed species, resulting in a less than significant impact. The analysis also concluded that impacts to wetlands would be less than significant. The project as now proposed is similar to the project components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND; however, future improvements within the AVCSO-owned pasture areas could result in fill of a 0.2-acre wetland that was delineated and verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2017 (USACE 2017). If these pastures were to be improved, Mitigation Measure 4.6a, which would require installation of fencing to avoid effects to wetlands, and Mitigation Measure 4.6b, which would require that regulatory authorization be obtained for any project activities that would result in fill of jurisdictional wetlands, would be required to reduce impacts on wetlands to less than significant.

Future improvements within the AVCSO-owned pasture areas could also include a road crossing over Clear Stream and construction of a lift station which would deliver water from the irrigation pond through a pipeline across Clear Stream to the pastures. Clear Stream would likely qualify as a water of the United States and state. Therefore, prior to any future improvement activities that would potentially modify the bed, bank, or channel of Clear Stream; discharge any material into Clear Stream; or otherwise adversely affect Clear Stream, Mitigation Measure 4.6c, which would require regulatory authorization be obtained for any project

activities that would result in impacts to aquatic habitats within CDFW jurisdiction, would be required in addition to Mitigation Measure 4.6b to reduce impacts on Clear Stream to less than significant.

Additionally, staging activities at the staging area located west of Spanish Creek Road have the potential to occur within an area directly adjacent to riparian habitat associated with Spanish Creek. Staging activities may include storage of building materials or staging of vehicles or heavy equipment. If material storage or vehicle or equipment operation were to encroach on the riparian habitat adjacent to the proposed staging area, riparian vegetation could be inadvertently damaged or removed. Therefore, prior to initiation of any staging activities within this proposed staging area, Mitigation Measure 4.6d, which would require flagging of the boundary of the riparian habitat adjacent to the staging area by a qualified biologist, would be required to reduce impacts to riparian habitat to less than significant.

Impacts on open-water habitats, associated with the polishing ponds and irrigation ponds, were found to be less than significant because other suitable habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife exists nearby. With the project as now proposed, the irrigation pond would not be converted to effluent storage basins, thereby further reducing any impact on open-water habitat. The project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts to open-water habitats than those identified in the previously adopted IS/MND. No further analysis is required.

- d) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated impacts on migratory movements of wildlife and concluded that there was a potentially significant impact related to nesting migratory birds. Mitigation Measure 4.3 was identified to require compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by restricting dates of vegetation clearance, resulting in a less than significant impact. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND with regard to project boundary and vegetation clearance and would require compliance with Mitigation Measure 4.3. The project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the previously adopted IS/MND. The findings of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.
- e) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated whether the project would conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and concluded that implementation of the project could conflict with policies in the Conservation Element of the Plumas County General Plan. The 2017 IS/MND concluded that Mitigation Measures 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 would reduce impacts to less than significant. Under the project as now proposed, Mitigation Measure 4.1 would no longer be required because the project activity addressed by Mitigation Measure 4.1 (conversion of the irrigation pond to effluent storage basins) is no longer included proposed as part of the project. Because the project would not result in any new or substantially more impacts than those identified in the previously adopted IS/MND, the findings of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.
- f) As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, there is no adopted habitat conservation plan (HCP) or natural community conservation plan (NCCP) for this area. Therefore, no impact was identified. No new HCPs or NCCPs have been adopted. Therefore, there are no new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts that would occur pertaining to conflicts with adopted conservation plans. The findings of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 were identified in the 2017 IS/MND and previously adopted as part of the 2017 MMRP, and Mitigation Measure 4.1 is no longer required because the irrigation pond will no longer be converted to effluent storage basins. Mitigation Measure 4.2 requires education of construction crews on weed identification, cleaning

Mitigation Measure 4.4

Prior to ground disturbance activities associated with future pasture improvements in the AVCSO-owned pasture areas southeast of the WWTP, a qualified wildlife biologist will conduct surveys to identify any American badger burrows/dens. These surveys will be conducted not more than 15 days prior to the start of construction. If occupied

burrows are not found, further mitigation will not be required. If occupied burrows are found, impacts on active badger dens will be avoided by establishing exclusion zones around all active badger dens, within which construction-related activities will be prohibited until denning activities are complete or the den is abandoned. A qualified biologist will monitor each den once per week to track the status of the den and to determine when a den area has been cleared for construction.

Mitigation Measure 4.5

- ▶ Prior to ground disturbing activities associated with future pasture improvements in the AVCSD-owned pasture areas southeast of the WWTP, and during the blooming period for the special-status plant species with potential to occur on the site (Table 5-2), a qualified botanist shall conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plants following survey methods from CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFW 2018b).
- ▶ If special-status plants are not found, the botanist shall document the findings in a letter report to CDFW and/or USFWS and the project proponent, and no further mitigation will be required.
- ▶ If special-status plant species are found, the plant will be avoided completely (e.g., through establishment of buffers) to avoid take, if possible. If special-status plant species are found that cannot be avoided during construction, the project proponent would consult with CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate depending on species status, to determine the appropriate conservation measures to address direct and indirect impacts that could occur as a result of construction-type activities and would implement the agreed-upon conservation measures to achieve no net loss of occupied habitat or individuals. Conservation measures may include preserving and enhancing existing populations, creation of off-site populations on mitigation sites through seed collection or transplantation, and/or restoring or creating suitable habitat in sufficient quantities to achieve no net loss of occupied habitat and/or individuals. A conservation plan would be developed describing how unavoidable losses of special-status plants would be compensated.
- ▶ If relocation efforts are part of the conservation plan, the plan would include details on the methods to be used, including collection, storage, propagation, receptor site preparation, installation, long-term protection and management, monitoring and reporting requirements, success criteria, and remedial action responsibilities should the initial effort fail to meet long-term conservation requirements.
- ▶ Success criteria for preserved and compensatory populations would include:
 - The extent of occupied area and plant density (number of plants per unit area) in compensatory populations would be equal to or greater than the affected occupied habitat.
 - Compensatory and preserved populations would be self-producing. Populations would be considered self-producing when:
 - plants reestablish annually for a minimum of five years with no human intervention such as supplemental seeding; and
 - reestablished and preserved habitats contain an occupied area and flower density comparable to existing occupied habitat areas in similar habitat types in the project vicinity.
 - If off-site conservation includes dedication of conservation easements, purchase of mitigation credits, or other off-site conservation measures, the details of these measures would be included in the conservation plan, including information on responsible parties for long-term management, conservation easement holders, long-term management requirements, success criteria such as those listed above and other details, as appropriate to target the preservation of long term viable populations.

Table 5-2 Normal Blooming Period for Special-Status Plants that May Occur within the Project Site

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Woolly-fruited sedge												
Mud sedge												
Pointed broom sedge												
Sheldon's sedge												
English sundew												
Yellow willowherb												
Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed												
White beaked-rush												
Brownish beaked-rush												
Rocky Mountains Canada goldenrod												
Hairy marsh hedge-nettle												
Flat-leaved bladderwort												

Source: Data compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2020; CNPS 2020

Mitigation Measure 4.6a

Before any ground disturbing activities within the AVCSD-owned pasture areas southeast of the WWTP, the previously identified 0.2-acre wetland and a 50-foot buffer surrounding the wetland will be flagged or fenced under the direction of the qualified biologist with brightly visible construction flagging and fencing prohibiting access and activities within these areas. Foot traffic by construction personnel will also be limited in these areas.

Mitigation Measure 4.6b

If it is determined that fill of these features cannot be avoided, then the following measures will be implemented:

Prior to any ground disturbing activities within the AVCSD-owned pasture areas or improvement activities within Clear Stream (e.g., pipelines, road crossings) that could have direct or indirect impacts on waters of the United States, the appropriate Section 404 permit will be obtained. Any waters of the United States that would be affected by project implementation will be replaced or restored on a "no-net-loss" basis in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mitigation guidelines (or the applicable USACE guidelines in place at the time of construction-type activities). In association with the Section 404 permit (if applicable) and before the issuance of any grading permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be obtained.

Mitigation Measure 4.6c

If it is determined that disturbance or fill of Clear Stream cannot be avoided, then the following measures will be implemented to avoid or compensate for the loss or degradation of stream or riparian habitat, maintain consistency with Fish and Game Code Section 1602, and further reduce potential adverse effects on Clear Stream:

- ▶ The applicant will notify CDFW before commencing any activity within the bed, bank, or riparian corridor of any waterway. If activities trigger the need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, the proponent will obtain an agreement from CDFW before the activity commences. The applicant will conduct construction activities in accordance with the agreement, including implementing reasonable measures in the agreement necessary to protect the fish and wildlife resources, when working within the bed or bank of waterways that function as a fish or wildlife resource or in riparian habitats associated with those waterways.

Mitigation Measure 4.6d

Prior to initiation of staging activities within the proposed staging area adjacent to Spanish Creek, the following measure will be implemented to avoid inadvertent adverse effects to riparian habitat associated with Spanish Creek:

- ▶ The applicant will obtain a qualified biologist to flag or otherwise demarcate (e.g., wooden stakes with flags attached) the edge of the riparian habitat (i.e., the drip line) adjacent to the proposed staging area. No storage of material or equipment or operation of vehicles or equipment will occur within the flagged area. Construction personnel will avoid entering the flagged area. The demarcated no-disturbance area will be included in project plans so that construction personnel are aware of these requirements. The flagging will be maintained by the applicant throughout the time that the proposed staging area is used for construction staging purposes.

CONCLUSION

Since approval of the 2017 IS/MND, the project has changed slightly and no longer includes conversion of the existing irrigation pond and Mitigation Measure 4.1 is no longer required. New mitigation measures have been identified because of updated records searches and recent surveys in the area; implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the conclusions of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new significant or substantially more severe significant impacts on biological resources.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
5. Cultural Resources. Would the project:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	Yes
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	Yes
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	Yes

5.5.1 Discussion

a-c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on cultural resources and concluded that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures 5.1 through 5.3. These mitigation measures would protect inadvertent discoveries of archaeological and historical resources, and human remains. The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and all project areas have been covered under the ENPLAN pedestrian survey. Mitigation Measures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 remain applicable; however, only 5.3 would apply to the entirety of the project while Mitigation Measures 5.1 and 5.2 would only be applicable to future improvement activities within the AVCSD-owned pasture areas to the southeast of the treatment facility. The project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the 2017 IS/MND.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 were identified in the IS/MND and would continue to remain applicable if the project were approved. Mitigation Measure 5.1 requires additional consultation with interested Native American tribes and the preparation of a plan for unanticipated discoveries. Mitigation Measure 5.2 requires the preparation of a data recovery plan. Mitigation Measure 5.3 describes the required steps should human remains be encountered. No additional mitigation measures are required, however revisions to Mitigation Measures 5.1 and 5.2 are shown below in underline (for new text).

Mitigation Measure 5.1

Before any ground disturbing activities within the AVCSD-owned pasture areas southeast of the WWTP, the AVCSD shall consult with interested Native Americans and the lead federal agency regarding the potential presence and need for protection of buried cultural resources. Depending on the results of the consultation, an Extended Phase I Testing Program and/or archaeological monitoring may be required. At a minimum, a Late Discovery Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the federal lead agency, SHPO, and interested Native Americans, and must be approved by the agencies prior to project construction. The Late Discovery Plan shall define the methodology, roles, and responsibilities should a potentially eligible unanticipated resource (historic or prehistoric) be identified. The Plan shall require that if such a resource is encountered, all ground-disturbing activities shall be halted within a 50-foot radius of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist examines the resource and makes a determination as to its eligibility. A Native American monitoring component may be included in the Late Discovery Plan.

Mitigation Measure 5.2

Before any ground disturbing activities within the AVCSD-owned pasture areas southeast of the WWTP, a Data Recovery Plan shall be prepared and implemented if a National Register of Historic Resources (NRHP) or California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) eligible resource is observed, and avoidance is determined to be infeasible. The Data Recovery Plan shall be developed in consultation with AVCSD, the lead federal agency, SHPO, and interested Native Americans. The Data Recovery Plan shall identify the type and extent of excavation needed within the project footprint and the scope of evaluation (obsidian hydration, carbon dating, stratigraphic analysis, etc.) necessary with respect to artifacts encountered. Implementation of the Data Recovery Plan would serve as mitigation for impacts on the cultural resources.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to cultural resources.

5.6 ENERGY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
6. Energy. Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	Not addressed	No	No	No	N/A
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Not addressed	No	No	No	N/A

5.6.1 Discussion

Energy was not a topic in the 2017 IS/MND. The topic was included in the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018.

- a) Project implementation would involve demolition and removal of mechanical electrical equipment and the construction of new facilities, all of which would require the use of off-road heavy-duty construction equipment and require fuel use; no buildings would be demolished. Energy would be required to operate and maintain construction equipment and transport construction materials. The one-time energy expenditure required to construct the physical buildings and infrastructure associated with the project would be nonrecoverable. Most energy consumption would result from operation of off-road construction equipment and on-road vehicle trips associated with commutes by construction workers and haul trucks trips. However, all construction activity would be necessary for project implementation and would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Project operation would not result in substantial changes to existing operations or result in increases in the number of employees. The new treatment facility, however, is expected to require more electricity because the facility provides a higher degree of treatment. The higher degree of treatment is required for AVCS D to meet the Central Valley RWQCB's waste discharge requirements. As such, the project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy. Therefore, there are no significant impacts related to the consumption of energy and no mitigation is required.
- b) Relevant plans that pertain to the efficient use of energy include the 2019 Integrated Energy Policy Report, which focuses on energy efficiency; demand response; renewable energy; the supply and reliability of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels; and achieving GHG reduction targets (CEC 2019). Although the project would require more energy use than the existing site, the project would be designed with energy efficiency design features under the 2019 California Energy Code. These standards establish minimum efficiency standards related to various building features, including appliances, water and space heating and cooling equipment, building installation and roofing, and lighting. In addition, transportation energy demand from the implementation of the project would be reduced by federal and State regulations including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Advanced Clean Car Standards, and Low Emission Vehicle Program. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

This report provides energy-related analysis in accordance with the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018. While not analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND, the proposed project changes would not result in significant impacts related to energy. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
7. Geology and Soils. Would the project:					
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.) ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv. Landslides? 	pp. 38 to 39	No	No	No	NA
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	p. 39	No	No	No	NA
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	p. 39	No	No	No	NA
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18- 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	p. 40	No	No	No	NA
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	p. 40	No	No	No	NA
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	NA

5.7.1 Discussion

a-e) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on geology and soils and concluded there would be no impact related to septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, and all other issues would be less than significant. As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, the nearest earthquake fault is approximately 45 miles east of the project site; the Plumas County General Plan seismic hazard mapping indicates that the County has a very low seismic hazard potential. Therefore, the potential for adverse effects

resulting from seismic ground shaking, or seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction would be less than significant. The project site is also not located on soils that may be prone to landslides. The Construction General Permit Order issued by the State Water Resources Control Board requires the preparation and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for all projects that disturb one or more acres of soil; best management practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment control developed in the SWPPP would result in a less-than-significant impact for soil erosion and loss of top soil. Because both the design and construction of project-related facilities in unstable soils is required by law to comply with Cal-OSHA regulations and California Building Standards Code, which were developed to reduce risks to life and property to the maximum extent practical, this impact would be less than significant.

The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to geology and soils than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND.

- f) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that potential impacts of the project on paleontological resources would be less than significant, however no analysis was provided. Pleistocene or older (older than 11,000 years) continental sedimentary deposits are considered as having a high paleontological potential while Holocene-age deposits (less than 10,000 years old) are generally considered to have a low paleontological potential because they are geologically immature and are unlikely to have fossilized remains of organisms. As stated in the 2017 IS/MND, the majority of the project area contains Greenhorn loam soils, which date to the Recent Holocene (1,000 to 150 before present) and therefore would have a very low likelihood of containing paleontological resources. Therefore, the findings of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the IS/MND for this topic, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to geology and soils.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	pp. 41-42	No	No	No	NA
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	pp. 41-42	No	No	No	NA

5.8.1 Discussion

a,b) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on greenhouse gas emissions and concluded the project’s contribution would be less than significant. As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) has not adopted thresholds of significance for greenhouse gases. According to NSAQMD staff, the District’s greenhouse gas policy is to quantify, minimize, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, as feasible. To determine the project’s overall impact on greenhouse gas levels, construction emissions were amortized over 20 years (the planning timeframe for the project) and added to the projected annual operational emissions. Long-term operational emissions of the project would be comprised of emissions generated by the activated sludge treatment system as well as those generated during the transport of sludge to a landfill located in Livermore, CA (combustion of diesel fuel).

The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND; however, sludge would no longer be transported to the Altamont Landfill in Livermore, located approximately 225 miles away from the WWTP. Instead, waste would be transported to either the Anderson Landfill in Shasta County (approximately 134 miles away) or the Lockwood Landfill in Sparks, Nevada (approximately 94 miles away). The use of either of these facilities would reduce the emissions generated by sludge hauling trips, which would occur up to once every four days. Therefore, the project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the IS/MND for this topic, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since approval of the 2017 IS/MND, the Altamont facility is no longer receiving waste from AVCS, however two other facilities in closer proximity have been identified. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions.

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Would the project:					
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	p. 43	No	No	No	NA
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	p. 43	No	No	No	NA
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA

5.9.1 Discussion

a, b) The 2017 IS/MND analyzed impacts related to increased use of hazardous materials and the increase in potential for a release of hazardous materials to the environment and concluded that potential impacts would be less than significant. Although additional sludge would be generated and frequently transported off-site to a landfill, sludge is not considered a hazardous material, and therefore, would not pose a significant hazard to the public. Project construction would involve use of relatively small quantities of materials such as diesel, gasoline, oils, and other engine fluids. Existing State standards govern the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. The project as now proposed will continue the existing process of

using liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite) to disinfect wastewater effluent in the near term. Although liquid chlorine is a hazardous material, this is not a new condition. The project would include the construction of new sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite storage tanks with secondary containment, chemical metering pumps, and improvements to the existing chlorine contact basin. These improvements would increase the safety of the existing liquid chlorine disinfectant process. Because work would be conducted in accordance with existing requirements, potential impacts would be less than significant. Future improvements could include the previously analyzed UV disinfection process, which is considered a non-hazardous material and a safer disinfection alternative for WWTP staff. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts compared to those identified in the 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

- c, d) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts related to hazards within one-quarter mile of a school or sites included on a list of hazardous materials sites and concluded there would be no impacts. The nearest school, Quincy Junior-Senior High School, is located approximately 0.4 miles southwest of the project site. No new schools have been constructed in the vicinity. The project site and adjacent lands are not located on the State's EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases (DTSC 2020; SWRCB 2020). Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.
- e) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential safety and noise hazards related to private airstrips in the area and within an airport land use plan and concluded there would be a less-than-significant impact. Due to the Gansner Field Airport's relatively small traffic volume, people working within the project area would not be exposed to excessive aircraft-generated noise levels. The project site is located on lands within portions of Gansner Airport's Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan zones 1, 3, 5, and 6. The 2017 IS/MND evaluated impacts related to the solar PV panels being constructed in zone 5, and identified Mitigation Measure 1.1, which required proposed solar PV panels to be coated with an anti-glare material to reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. Because the project as now proposed would be similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, it would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts. No mitigation is required.
- f, g) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts related to emergency access and wildland fires and concluded there would be a less-than-significant impact, due to minor construction-related traffic and the nature of the WWTP improvements. The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. Therefore, the project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND.

Mitigation Measures

The "Hazards and Hazardous Materials" section of the 2017 IS/MND identified Mitigation Measure 1.1 from Section III.C.1, "Aesthetics." No additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since approval of the 2017 IS/MND, the project has changed slightly and the UV disinfection process is now proposed as a future improvement. However, no new significant or substantially more severe impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials would occur with the project as now proposed. Therefore, the conclusions of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no new mitigation is required.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
10. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the Project:					
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	pp. 46-47	No	No	No	NA
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	p. 47	No	No	No	NA
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or iv. Impede or redirect flood flows? 	p. 47	No	No	No	Yes
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	p. 48	No	No	No	NA
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Not addressed	No	No	No	NA

5.10.1 Discussion

a, b, e) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on groundwater quality and recharge and concluded that impacts would be less than significant. The project as now proposed is similar to the components evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would not require new groundwater supplies for construction or operation of the project. Implementation of the project would result in a minor increase of impervious surfaces which would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge. Also similar to the project as evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, the project as now proposed has the potential to degrade water quality due to increased erosion during project construction and during operation; however as discussed in

the "Geology and Soils" section above, BMPs would be implemented to provide soil stabilization, sediment control, and spill prevention throughout the duration of construction and the project would comply with the terms of the Construction General Permit, which includes BMPs to reduce pollutants in post-construction runoff, as well as with the requirements for discharge to Spanish Creek under the jurisdiction and enforcement of the Central Valley RWQCB. Given these requirements, impacts of project construction and operation with respect to water quality standards and wastewater discharge requirements are expected to be less than significant and the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.

- c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential for the project to alter the existing drainage pattern of the site and runoff. Impacts related to runoff were found to be less than significant while impacts related to drainage would be potentially significant; implementation of Mitigation Measure 9.1, which requires engineered plans to ensure that stormwater runoff shall be allowed to enter natural drainage ways, would reduce this to a less-than-significant impact. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and if the AVCSO-owned pastures are improved in the future, the existing drainage patterns of these pastures would be altered due to recontouring and installation of berms. With respect to surface runoff, the project as now proposed would include similar levels of increased impervious surfaces. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no additional mitigation would be required.
- d) The project site is not located in an area prone to seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows, as described in the 2017 IS/MND. The irrigation pond and the southern half of the AVCSO-owned pastures are located with the 100-year flood zone. However, no modifications would occur in the irrigation pond and if the AVCSO-owned pastures are improved in the future, the pipelines would be underground and would not redirect flood flows. As with the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, construction of the project as now proposed would be subject to all provisions of Chapter 17, "Flood," of the Plumas County Code of Ordinances, including Section 8-17-.301 (Standards of Construction); and Section 8-17.302 (Standards for Utilities). It is the responsibility of the County Engineer to review final construction plans to ensure construction activities meet the standards of the Code. No new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts would occur. The findings of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 9.1 was identified in the IS/MND and would continue to remain applicable if the project were approved. Mitigation Measure 9.1 requires engineered plans for the proposed AVCSO-owned pastures improvements to include drainage details to ensure that at times when the improved land disposal area is not being irrigated with treated effluent, stormwater runoff shall be allowed to enter natural drainage ways. No additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

No new circumstances or project changes have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. The project as now proposed would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to hydrology and water quality and the conclusions of the 2017 IS/MND remain valid.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
11. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:					
a. Physically divide an established community?	p. 51	No	No	No	NA
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	p. 51	No	No	No	NA

5.11.1 Discussion

a, b) The Plumas County General Plan designates lands in the project site as Rural Residential and Agricultural Preserve. Plumas County zones the project site as Rural 10-acre (R-10) and Agricultural Preserve (AP). In addition, the majority of the project site is within a Combining Zone for Mobile Homes (MH) and Farming (F), and a smaller portion of the project site is designated as within a Combining Zone for Special Plan Scenic Areas (SP-ScA). The 2017 IS/MND analyzed impacts to land use and planning and concluded that the project would not physically divide an established community. Further, because the previously evaluated project included improvements to the existing WWTP site and QCSD-owned pastures, the 2017 IS/MND concluded that it would result in less-than-significant impacts related to conflicts with applicable land use plans, polices, or regulations. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would continue to be consistent with surrounding land use and zoning designation. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts to land use and planning and would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts compared to those identified in the 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the 2017 IS/MND for this topic, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the 2017 IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. The conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to land use and planning.

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
12. Mineral Resources. Would the Project:					
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	p. 53	No	No	No	Yes
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	p. 53	No	No	No	NA

5.12.1 Discussion

- a, b) As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, there are no known significant mineral resources within the project site that would be of value to the region, as classified by the California Geological Survey and project implementation would not result in a change in land use patterns; therefore project would have no effect on the on-site or off-site availability of mineral resources. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts to mineral resources. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

There were no mitigation measures included in the IS/MND for this topic, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the 2017 IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to mineral resources.

5.13 NOISE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
13. Noise. Would the project result in:					
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	pp. 54-55	No	No	No	Yes
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	pp. 54-55	No	No	No	NA
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	p. 55	No	No	No	NA

5.13.1 Discussion

a, b) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that impacts the project related to groundborne vibration and permanent increases in ambient noise levels would be less than significant, and impacts related to substantial temporary increases of ambient noise levels would be less than significant with mitigation. Consistent with the 2017 IS/MND, the project as now proposed would not expose people to, or generate, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Project construction would consist primarily of excavation, grading, trenching, and concrete-pouring activities. Work would not involve the use of explosives, pile driving, or other intensive construction techniques that could generate significant groundborne noise or vibration. Also consistent with the 2017 IS/MND, the treatment facility improvements as now proposed would not result in a perceptible permanent increase in noise levels. Noise levels generated during normal operations of the new treatment facility are expected to be lower than the noise levels generated by the existing treatment facility. The replacement treatment facility would utilize blowers that are much quieter than the existing blowers.

Temporary noise associated with construction of the project as now proposed would be similar to that associated with the project as evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The same types of construction equipment would be used over a similar period of time, and construction noise levels at and near the project site would fluctuate, depending on the number and type of construction equipment operating at any given time. Mitigation Measure 12.1, which requires construction hours to be limited, was included in the 2017 IS/MND. This mitigation would also reduce potential noise impacts associated with the project as now proposed to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND.

c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of exposure of people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels associated with a private airstrip or being within an airport land use plan and concluded there would be no impact. Due to the Gansner Field Airport relatively small traffic volume, people

working within the project area would not be exposed to excessive aircraft-generated noise levels. No new private airstrips have been developed within the area since that time. Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts compared to those identified in the 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure 12.1 was identified in the IS/MND and would continue to remain applicable if the project were approved. Mitigation Measure 12.1 requires construction activities be limited to weekdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and on weekends and federally recognized holidays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to noise.

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
14. Population and Housing. Would the Project:					
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	p. 57	No	No	No	NA
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	p. 57	No	No	No	NA

5.14.1 Discussion

a, b) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on population, housing, and employment. The IS/MND concluded that the project would not result in any direct effects on population and would not involve the creation of any new housing or employment opportunities within the community, and there would be no impact. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. It would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly because the project would not increase the existing treatment capacity of WWTP. Therefore, the project would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures related to population and housing were included in the adopted 2017 IS/MND, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to population and housing.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?	
15. Public Services.						
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any public services:					
i.	Fire protection?	p. 58	No	No	No	Yes
ii.	Police protection?	p. 58	No	No	No	NA
iii.	Schools?	p. 58	No	No	No	Yes
iv.	Parks?	See below in Section 5.16, Recreation				

5.15.1 Discussion

- a) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that no impacts to public services would occur. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The project would not introduce new residents to the area and thus would not result in a direct increase in the demand for police and fire protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts than those identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures related to public services were included for the adopted 2017 IS/MND, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to public services.

5.16 RECREATION

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
16. Recreation.					
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	p. 59	No	No	No	NA
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	p. 59	No	No	No	NA

5.16.1 Discussion

a, b) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that no impacts to recreation would occur. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. The project would not introduce new residents to the area and thus would not result in a direct increase in the use of the existing park facilities. The project does not include the construction or expansion of new recreational facilities. Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts to recreation, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures related to recreation were included in the adopted IS/MND, and no additional mitigation measures required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to recreation.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
17. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project:					
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	pp. 60-61	No	No	No	NA
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	Not addressed	No	No	Yes	NA
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	p. 60	No	No	No	NA
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	p. 61	No	No	No	NA

5.17.1 Discussion

- a) The 2017 IS/MND concluded there would be no impact related to transit, roadway, and bicycle facilities, and impacts related to conflicts with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system would be less than significant. As discussed in the 2017 IS/MND, the proposed improvements would be located within the existing footprint of the WWTP and pastures immediately adjacent to the WWTP; therefore, the project would not substantially affect the surrounding transportation network in the long term. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would include minimal, short-term construction traffic and an approximately twice weekly haul truck trip for long-term sludge disposal. The project as now proposed would no longer transport sludge to the Altamont Landfill in Livermore, located approximately 225 miles away from the WWTP. Instead, waste would be transported to either the Anderson Landfill in Shasta County (approximately 134 miles away) or the Lockwood Landfill in Sparks, Nevada (approximately 94 miles away). Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.
- b) SB 743, passed in 2013, required the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop new CEQA Guidelines that address traffic metrics under CEQA. As stated in the legislation (and Section 21099[b][2] of CEQA), upon adoption of the new CEQA guidelines, "automobile delay, as described solely by LOS or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion shall not be considered a significant impact on the environment pursuant to this division, except in locations specifically identified in the CEQA guidelines, if any." The Office of Administrative Law approved the updated CEQA Guidelines on December 28, 2018, and the changes are reflected in new CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.3). State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 was added December 28, 2018, to address the determination of significance for transportation impacts. Pursuant to the new CEQA Guidelines, VMT will replace congestion as the metric for determining transportation impacts. The CEQA Guidelines state that "lead agencies may elect to be governed by [the] provisions of this section immediately. Beginning July 1, 2020, the provisions of this section shall apply statewide." Thus, local agencies have an opt-in period until July 1, 2020 to implement the updated guidelines now that they have been formally adopted. AVCS D has yet to formally adopt any CEQA

significance thresholds related to VMT, and the project as evaluated in this document will be up for final approval prior to the July 1, 2020 deadline for implementation of the updated CEQA Guidelines as they relate to Section 15064.3. Therefore, VMT is not analyzed herein and please refer to the preceding checklist question for detailed transportation impact analysis as it relates to automobile delay associated with the project. No new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts would occur. The findings of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and no further analysis is required.

- c) The 2017 IS/MND did not identify any geometric design features or incompatible uses that would substantially increase hazards. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would not alter public access routes or increase hazards due to transportation design features or incompatible uses. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts, and no mitigation is required.
- d) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that project would have a less than significant impact related to emergency access. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would not adversely affect emergency access in the short term because construction-related traffic would be minimal and spread over the duration of the construction schedule. Further, proposed improvements would be located within the existing footprint of the WWTP and adjacent pastures, which are not open to the public, and would therefore not interfere with emergency access. Therefore, the project as now proposed would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures related to transportation were included in the adopted IS/MND, and no additional mitigation measures required.

CONCLUSION

This report updates the regulatory setting addressing transportation analysis in accordance with the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018. No new significant or substantially more severe transportation impacts would occur with implementation of the project as now proposed. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to transportation.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
18. Tribal Cultural Resources.					
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:					
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	NA
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	pp. 35 to 37	No	No	No	NA

5.18.1 Discussion

a,b) No California Native American Tribe filed a formal request with the former Quincy Community Services District or the existing American Valley Community Services District asking to be consulted in accordance with California Assembly Bill 52. Communication with the Native American Heritage Commission did not reveal any known sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area; however, the local Native American community did indicate that the project area may be sensitive for tribal cultural resources and that there is potential for an ethnographic village to be located in the area. The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts of the project on tribal cultural resources and concluded that impacts would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measures 5.1 through 5.3, which would require additional consultation with interested Native American tribes, and the preparation of a plan for unanticipated discoveries, including required steps should human remains be encountered. All areas affected by the project as now proposed were covered under the ENPLAN archaeological pedestrian survey previously conducted to support preparation of the 2017 IS/MND. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would not result in any new or substantially more severe impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 were identified in the IS/MND and would continue to remain applicable if the project as now proposed were approved. Mitigation Measure 5.1 requires additional consultation with interested Native

American tribes and the preparation of a plan for unanticipated discoveries. Mitigation Measure 5.2 requires the preparation of a data recovery plan. Mitigation Measure 5.3 describes the required steps should human remains be encountered. No additional mitigation measures are required.

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was adopted, no new circumstances have occurred nor has any new information been found requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to tribal cultural resources.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
18. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the Project:					
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	p. 62	No	No	No	Yes
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	p. 63	No	No	No	NA
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	p. 63	No	No	No	NA
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	p. 63	No	No	Yes	NA
e. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	p. 63	No	No	No	NA

5.19.1 Discussion

- a) Consistent with the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND, the project as now proposed includes improvements to the wastewater treatment and effluent disposal facilities and construction of storm water drainage facilities in the land disposal area, if these pastures are improved; construction of these improvements could result in potentially significant environmental effects, as evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND. With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures described previously in this Addendum, and compliance with existing laws and regulations, the project as now proposed would not result in significant environmental effects. The project would not include expanded water, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.
- b, c) The 2017 IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts related to water supply and wastewater treatment capacity and concluded that the project would have a less than significant impact. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would require only minimal amounts of water during construction and would have no long-term impact on water supply. Additionally, the primary purpose of the

WWTP improvements is to maintain sufficient capacity to serve AVCS D's service area. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no additional mitigation is required.

- d, e) The 2017 IS/MND concluded that project would have a less-than-significant impact related to solid waste. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would produce minimal construction waste and yearly operational waste of up to approximately 2,730,000 pounds of dried sludge. However, the IS/MND anticipated that waste would be hauled to the Altamont Facility in Livermore. This is no longer the case; the WWTP would be served by either the Anderson Landfill or the Lockwood Landfill.

Anderson Landfill, Inc. is located at 18703 Cambridge Road, Anderson, in Shasta County. This facility currently has five separate units accepting waste; Unit 1 has an estimated closure date of 2093 and accepts 1,850 tons per day, and Unit 5 was constructed in 2019 (CalRecycle 2020). Lockwood Landfill is located at 2700 East Mustang Road, in Sparks, Nevada. The 555-acre facility receives approximately 5,000 tons per day and has a capacity of 302.5 million cubic yards. It currently contains 32.8 million cubic yards of waste and is not expected to reach capacity for over 100 years, with implementation of approved expansions (NDEP 2013; Washoe County 2016). Either facility has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs over the expected lifespan of the WWTP. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures were identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND regarding utilities, nor are any additional mitigation measures required the project as now proposed.

CONCLUSION

Since approval of the 2017 IS/MND, the Altamont Facility is no longer receiving waste from AVCS D, however two other facilities with sufficient permitted capacity have been identified. Therefore, the conclusions of the adopted IS/MND remain valid and approval of the project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to utilities.

5.20 WILDFIRE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Does Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
19. Wildfire. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:					
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Not addressed	No	No	No	NA
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	p. 44	No	No	No	NA
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	Not addressed	No	No	Yes	NA

5.20.1 Discussion

Wildfire was not a topic in the 2017 IS/MND. The topic was included in the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018.

- a) The project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (CAL FIRE n.d.) and is located within a “very high” fire hazard severity zone (CAL FIRE 2007). Plumas County has a wildfire evacuation map; the project site is not located along the main evacuation route (Plumas County 2017). In addition to not being located along the evacuation route, the project would not adversely affect emergency evacuation in the short term because construction-related traffic would be minimal and spread over the duration of the construction schedule. Further, proposed improvements would be located within the existing footprint of the WWTP and adjacent pastures, which are not open to the public, and would therefore not interfere with an emergency evacuation route. Therefore, the project would have a less-than-significant impact and no mitigation is required.
- b, c) As discussed in the “Hazards and Hazardous Materials” section of the 2017 IS/MND, potential impacts related to wildfire would be less than significant. According to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the proposed project is located primarily in a “very high” fire hazard area. However, the proposed project entails improvements to the existing WWTP and adjacent pastures and does not include residences or businesses. In addition, the project does not require the installation of roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities. The project as now proposed is similar to the project evaluated in the 2017 IS/MND and would not expose project workers or occupants to an increased risk of wildfire hazards or require the installation of infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk. Therefore, the project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts than those analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures were identified in the adopted 2017 IS/MND regarding wildfire, nor are any additional mitigation measures required.

CONCLUSION

This report provides wildfire analysis in accordance with the updated Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which became effective on December 28, 2018. While the updated information provides additional detail for the project site, the proposed project changes would not result in significant impacts related to wildfire, and no mitigation is required.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental Issue Area	Where Impact Was Analyzed in the 2017 IS/MND.	Do Proposed Changes Involve New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do New Circumstances Involve New Significant Impacts or Substantially More Severe Impacts?	Any New Information Requiring New Analysis or Verification?	Do Previously Adopted or New Mitigation Measures Address/Resolve Impacts?
20. Mandatory Findings of Significance.					
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	pp. 21-64	No	No	Yes, discussed throughout environmental checklist	Yes
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when view in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	pp. 21-64	No	No	No	Yes
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	pp. 21-64	No	No	Yes, discussed throughout environmental checklist	Yes

CONCLUSION

Since the IS/MND was approved, there have been regulatory changes with regards to energy, transportation, and wildfire. However, no new significant impacts or substantially more severe impacts related to these issue areas were identified.

With the exception of Mitigation Measure 4.1 (western pond turtle), all approved mitigation in the IS/MND or contained in this document would continue to be applicable to the project as now proposed. Three new mitigation measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to American badger, special-status plants, and wetlands and regulated waters and would reduce the impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, no new significant impacts would occur with implementation of the project as now proposed.

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6 REFERENCES

5.4 Biological Resources

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5.6 Energy

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5.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

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5.19 Utilities and Service Systems

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- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. 2013. Solid Waste Disposal Site Permit – Lockwood Regional Landfill, Permit #SW214R03. Available: <https://ndep.nv.gov/uploads/land-waste-solid-permitdocs/lockwood-permit-rev03.pdf>.

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5.20 Wildfire

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7 LIST OF PREPARERS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

7.1 LIST OF PREPARERS

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8 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2017 IS/MND	Quincy Wastewater Treatment and Effluent Disposal Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
AVCSD	American Valley Community Services District
BMP	best management practice
CARB	California Air Resources Board
Central Valley RWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CEQA	State California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
EQSD	East Quincy Services District
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
MGD	million gallons per day
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's
project	proposed American Valley WWTP and Effluent Disposal Project
PV	photovoltaic
QCSD	Quincy Community Services District
RBC	rotating biological contactor
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WWTP	American Valley wastewater treatment plant

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Appendix A

Biological Resources Database Queries



Selected Elements by Element Code
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad

Element Code	Species	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
AAAAA01085	Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum southern long-toed salamander	None	None	G5T4	S3	SSC
AAABH01050	Rana boylei foothill yellow-legged frog	None	Candidate Threatened	G3	S3	SSC
AAABH01340	Rana sierrae Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1	WL
ABNKC01010	Pandion haliaetus osprey	None	None	G5	S4	WL
ABNKC10010	Haliaeetus leucocephalus bald eagle	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S3	FP
ABNKC12060	Accipiter gentilis northern goshawk	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
ABNME01010	Coturnicops noveboracensis yellow rail	None	None	G4	S1S2	SSC
ABNMK01014	Antigone canadensis tabida greater sandhill crane	None	Threatened	G5T4	S2	FP
ABPAE33040	Empidonax traillii willow flycatcher	None	Endangered	G5	S1S2	
ABPAU08010	Riparia riparia bank swallow	None	Threatened	G5	S2	
AMACC01090	Myotis thysanodes fringed myotis	None	None	G4	S3	
AMACC01110	Myotis volans long-legged myotis	None	None	G5	S3	
AMACC08010	Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	None	None	G3G4	S2	SSC
AMACC10010	Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
AMAF01013	Aplodontia rufa californica Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	None	None	G5T3T4	S2S3	SSC
AMAFJ01010	Erethizon dorsatum North American porcupine	None	None	G5	S3	
AMAJA03012	Vulpes vulpes necator Sierra Nevada red fox	Candidate	Threatened	G5T1T2	S1	
AMAJF01021	Pekania pennanti fisher - West Coast DPS	None	Threatened	G5T2T3Q	S2S3	SSC
AMAJF03010	Gulo gulo California wolverine	Proposed Threatened	Threatened	G4	S1	FP



Selected Elements by Element Code
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Element Code	Species	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
AMAJF04010	<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
CTT51120CA	<i>Darlingtonia Seep</i> Darlingtonia Seep	None	None	G4	S3.2	
IICOL58010	<i>Atractelmis wawona</i> Wawona riffle beetle	None	None	G1G3	S1S2	
IIHYM24250	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	None	Candidate Endangered	G2G3	S1	
IIHYM24460	<i>Bombus morrisoni</i> Morrison bumble bee	None	None	G4G5	S1S2	
IITRI16020	<i>Neothremma genella</i> golden-horned caddisfly	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
IMBIV27020	<i>Margaritifera falcata</i> western pearlshell	None	None	G4G5	S1S2	
NBMUS13010	<i>Bruchia bolanderi</i> Bolander's bruchia	None	None	G3G4	S3	4.2
PDAST3M262	<i>Erigeron lassenianus var. deficiens</i> Plumas rayless daisy	None	None	G3G4T2T3	S2S3	1B.3
PDAST8P2D3	<i>Solidago lepida var. salebrosa</i> Rocky Mountains Canada goldenrod	None	None	G5T5	S1	3.2
PDASTDT0E0	<i>Pyrrocomma lucida</i> sticky pyrrocoma	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
PDASTEAO20	<i>Oreostemma elatum</i> tall alpine-aster	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
PDBRA06090	<i>Boechera constancei</i> Constance's rockcress	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
PDCAB01010	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> watershield	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
PDCAR17010	<i>Eremogone cliftonii</i> Clifton's eremogone	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
PDFAB0F9J0	<i>Astragalus webberi</i> Webber's milk-vetch	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
PDFAB2B1A0	<i>Lupinus dalesiae</i> Quincy lupine	None	None	G3	S3	4.2
PDLAM180W0	<i>Monardella follettii</i> Follett's monardella	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
PDLAM1X1A0	<i>Stachys pilosa</i> hairy marsh hedge-nettle	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
PDLNT020A0	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i> flat-leaved bladderwort	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
PDONA060H0	<i>Epilobium luteum</i> yellow willowherb	None	None	G5	S1	2B.3



Selected Elements by Element Code
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Element Code	Species	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
PDPGN086UY	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's buckwheat	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
PDPOR04020	<i>Lewisia cantelovii</i> Cantelow's lewisia	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
PDRHA0C010	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i> alder buckthorn	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
PDRHA0H061	<i>Frangula purshiana</i> ssp. <i>ultramafica</i> Caribou coffeeberry	None	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	1B.2
PDR0S0X0Q0	<i>Ivesia webberi</i> Webber's ivesia	Threatened	None	G1	S1	1B.1
PDSCR1L4Y0	<i>Penstemon personatus</i> closed-throated beardtongue	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
PMCYP03720	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> woolly-fruited sedge	None	None	G5	S2	2B.3
PMCYP037K0	<i>Carex limosa</i> mud sedge	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
PMCYP03AE0	<i>Carex petasata</i> Liddon's sedge	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
PMCYP03C91	<i>Carex scoparia</i> var. <i>scoparia</i> pointed broom sedge	None	None	G5T5	SX	2A
PMCYP03CE0	<i>Carex sheldonii</i> Sheldon's sedge	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2
PMCYP092E0	<i>Eleocharis torticulmis</i> California twisted spikerush	None	None	G1	S1	1B.3
PMCYP0N010	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i> white beaked-rush	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
PMCYP0N080	<i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i> brownish beaked-rush	None	None	G5	S1	2B.2
PMCYP0Q1G0	<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i> water bulrush	None	None	G4G5	S3	2B.3
PMORC0M050	<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i> northern coralroot	None	None	G5	S1	2B.1
PMPOA4Z310	<i>Poa sierrae</i> Sierra blue grass	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
PMPOT03080	<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i> Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	None	None	G5	S2S3	2B.2
PPOPH010R0	<i>Botrychium minganense</i> Mingan moonwort	None	None	G4G5	S3	2B.2

Record Count: 59

*The database used to provide updates to the Online Inventory is under construction. [View updates and changes made since May 2019 here.](#)

Plant List

36 matches found. [Click on scientific name for details](#)

Search Criteria

California Rare Plant Rank is one of [1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3], Found in Quads 4012111, 4012018, 4012017, 3912181, 3912088, 3912087, 3912171 3912078 and 3912077;

[Modify Search Criteria](#)
[Export to Excel](#)
[Modify Columns](#)
[Modify Sort](#)
[Display Photos](#)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Blooming Period	CA Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank
Astragalus pulsiferae var. pulsiferae	Pulsifer's milk-vetch	Fabaceae	perennial herb	May-Aug(Sep)	1B.2	S2	G4T2
Astragalus webberi	Webber's milk-vetch	Fabaceae	perennial herb	May-Jul	1B.2	S1	G1
Boechera constancei	Constance's rockcress	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	May-Jul	1B.1	S2	G2
Boechera microphylla	small-leaved rockcress	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	Jul	3	S3	G4Q
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Sep	2B.2	S3	G4G5
Brasenia schreberi	watershield	Cabombaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	Jun-Sep	2B.3	S3	G5
Carex lasiocarpa	woolly-fruited sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Jul	2B.3	S2	G5
Carex limosa	mud sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Aug	2B.2	S3	G5
Carex petasata	Liddon's sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial herb	May-Jul	2B.3	S3	G5
Carex scoparia var. scoparia	pointed broom sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial herb	May	2A	SX	G5T5
Carex sheldonii	Sheldon's sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	May-Aug	2B.2	S2	G4
Corallorhiza trifida	northern coralroot	Orchidaceae		Jun-Jul	2B.1	S1	G5

			perennial rhizomatous herb (achlorophyllous)					
<u>Crataegus castlegarensis</u>	Castlegar hawthorne	Rosaceae	perennial deciduous shrub	May- Jun(Jul)	3	S3?	G5	
<u>Drosera anglica</u>	English sundew	Droseraceae	perennial herb (carnivorous)	Jun-Sep	2B.3	S2	G5	
<u>Eleocharis torticulmis</u>	California twisted spikerush	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Jul	1B.3	S1	G1	
<u>Epilobium luteum</u>	yellow willowherb	Onagraceae	perennial stoloniferous herb	Jul-Sep	2B.3	S1	G5	
<u>Eremogone cliftonii</u>	Clifton's eremogone	Caryophyllaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Sep	1B.3	S2S3	G2G3	
<u>Erigeron lassenianus var. deficiens</u>	Plumas rayless daisy	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Jun-Sep	1B.3	S2S3	G3G4T2T3	
<u>Eriogonum umbellatum var. ahartii</u>	Ahart's buckwheat	Polygonaceae	perennial herb	Jun-Sep	1B.2	S3	G5T3	
<u>Frangula purshiana ssp. ultramafica</u>	Caribou coffeeberry	Rhamnaceae	perennial deciduous shrub	May-Jul	1B.2	S2S3	G4T2T3	
<u>Ivesia webberi</u>	Webber's ivesia	Rosaceae	perennial herb	May-Jul	1B.1	S1	G1	
<u>Lewisia cantelovii</u>	Cantelow's lewisia	Montiaceae	perennial herb	May-Oct	1B.2	S3	G3	
<u>Lewisia kelloggii ssp. hutchisonii</u>	Hutchison's lewisia	Montiaceae	perennial herb	(Apr)May- Aug	3.2	S3	G3G4T3Q	
<u>Monardella follettii</u>	Follett's monardella	Lamiaceae	perennial shrub	Jun-Sep	1B.2	S2	G2	
<u>Oreostemma elatum</u>	tall alpine-aster	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Jun- Aug(Sep)	1B.2	S2	G2	
<u>Penstemon personatus</u>	closed-throated beardtongue	Plantaginaceae	perennial herb	Jun- Sep(Oct)	1B.2	S2	G2	
<u>Poa sierrae</u>	Sierra blue grass	Poaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Apr-Jul	1B.3	S3	G3	
<u>Potamogeton epiphydrus</u>	Nuttall's ribbon- leaved pondweed	Potamogetonaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	(Jun)Jul- Sep	2B.2	S2S3	G5	
<u>Pyrrocoma lucida</u>	sticky pyrrocoma	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Jul-Oct	1B.2	S3	G3	
<u>Rhamnus alnifolia</u>	alder buckthorn	Rhamnaceae	perennial deciduous shrub	May-Jul	2B.2	S3	G5	
<u>Rhynchospora alba</u>	white beaked- rush	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Aug	2B.2	S2	G5	
<u>Rhynchospora capitellata</u>	brownish beaked-rush	Cyperaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug	2B.2	S1	G5	
<u>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</u>	water bulrush	Cyperaceae		Jun- Aug(Sep)	2B.3	S3	G4G5	

			perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)					
<u>Sedum albomarginatum</u>	Feather River stonecrop	Crassulaceae	perennial herb	May-Jun	1B.2	S2	G2	
<u>Solidago lepidia var. salebrosa</u>	Rocky Mountains Canada goldenrod	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Sep	3.2	S1	G5T5	
<u>Stachys pilosa</u>	hairy marsh hedge-nettle	Lamiaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Aug	2B.3	S3	G5	

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Questions and Comments

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Resources

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- WETLANDS ✓

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What's next?

Define a project at this location to evaluate potential impacts, get an official species list, and make species determinations.

[DEFINE PROJECT](#)

Endangered species

Listed species ¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries ²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

Additional information on endangered species data is provided [below](#).

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

THUMBNAILS LIST

[SPECIES GUIDELINES](#) ..


Amphibians

Threatened CH



California Red-legged Frog
Rana draytonii

Endangered CH



No photo available

Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog
Rana sierrae

Fishes

Threatened CH



Delta Smelt
Hypomesus transpacificus

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

> What does IPaC use to generate the list of endangered species potentially occurring in my specified location?