



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: City Council discussion and consideration of Resolution No. 06-23 certifying the Environmental Impact Report, adopting CEQA Findings and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and consideration of Resolution No. 08-23 approving the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project.

PREPARED BY: Dane Schilling, City Engineer
Tim Raney, Community Development Director

Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 06-23 and Resolution 08-23.

Background

On July 28, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 35-20 approving the \$2.6M grant/loan agreement to fund environmental and design efforts for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project (Project) and authorizing the City Manager to sign the agreement.

On November 10, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 43-20 amending the FY 2020-21 Budget and authorizing the City Manager to proceed with environmental review and engineering design Project which conveys wastewater as far as Highway 65 and Rancho Road.

On April 27, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 16-21 accepting the Basis of Design Report for the Project which provided parameters for final design efforts and a basis for initiating environmental efforts to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Also, October 11, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 34-22 accepting Amendment No. 1 to the Basis of Design Report and other related actions.

On January 24, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 04-23 authorizing the submission of an application to the CWSRF program requesting 100% State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant funding for Wheatland's share of total project costs. OPUD will be submitting a similar grant application for its share of cost.

Discussion

The Project consists of an approximately eight-mile-long sewer pipeline alignment located within portions of the City of Wheatland and unincorporated areas within Yuba County. Generally, the pipeline alignment would extend from an existing Malone Pump Station near the City of Wheatland's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) north to a point of connection with Olivehurst Public Utility District's (OPUD) wastewater system in an unincorporated area of the County. See Attachment 1 for a project location map.

The primary goal of the proposed project is to construct the necessary pipelines and pump stations to successfully convey all current and future wastewater into a regional sewer system serving south Yuba County. The proposed pipeline would connect to OPUD's force main (currently under design) near Rancho Road and State Route 65. OPUD's force main would then convey the flow to OPUD's WWTP, where the flows would be treated to a tertiary level and discharged into a tributary to the Feather River. Additionally, three new pump stations would be constructed along the new pipeline to convey all projected flows to the OPUD point of connection and a new Public Works corporation yard would be constructed within the Pump Station 2 site. After construction of the pipeline and pump stations, it is anticipated that the City's existing WWTP would be decommissioned, though the possibility exists for the WWTP to remain in operation for an interim period.

It should be noted that the City of Wheatland is in the process of negotiating interagency agreements with OPUD, including an Interagency Operating Agreement and an Interagency Capacity Purchase Agreement, which would require a separate approval by the Wheatland City Council prior to implementation of the proposed project. The interagency agreements are focused on operational and financial agreements between the City and OPUD, and would not affect any of the physical aspects of the proposed Project.

Environmental Review

City staff prepared an Initial Study for the proposed project in November 2021, which reviewed the potential impacts resulting from the proposed project regarding the following environmental issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forest Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Systems

- Wildfire

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Energy
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Wildfire

Subsequently, a Notice of Preparation of an EIR (NOP) was prepared for the proposed project. The NOP identified the proposed project, project entitlements, and the potential environmental impacts that were reviewed in the project-level EIR. The NOP was made available for public review on November 2, 2021, until December 1, 2021. A NOP scoping meeting was held by the City on November 16, 2021 to inform agencies and interested parties regarding the EIR for the proposed project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope of the EIR. The initial Study prepared for the project was included as an attachment to the NOP. The City received the following two comment letters on the NOP:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); and
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

The Draft EIR addressed the two NOP comment letters and reviewed the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project regarding the following areas:

- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning/Population and Housing
- Tribal Cultural Resources

The Draft EIR determined that impacts would be significant and unavoidable regarding the following two issues:

- Conversion of Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland
- Cumulative loss of agricultural land

All three pump stations and Public Works corporation yard are proposed on areas mapped as Grazing Land, which does not fall under the definition of agricultural land according to the California Public Resources Code (PRC). Implementation of the proposed sewer pipeline would involve soil trenching, installation of the pipeline in the trench, and then backfilling soils on top of the pipeline. Should the same soils that were removed be used to backfill the trench, then, following construction, the land where the sewer pipeline has been installed would generally be

returned to pre-project conditions. Accordingly, in such a case, the farmland rating and soil types would not be substantially affected. However, if off-site soils are used to backfill the trench, then the soil types and associated soil conditions along the pipeline would likely change. Furthermore, in order to ensure access to the proposed pipeline for ongoing maintenance and emergency conditions, an easement would be located along the length of the pipeline wherein agricultural operations could not occur. The only portion of the pipeline that has the potential to extend through an agricultural field that is designated as Farmland is located in the northwest region of the project site, where the pipeline would cross Best Slough.

The Draft EIR was made available for public review on December 14, 2022, until January 27, 2023. During the review period, one comment letter was received from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The comment letter provided background information regarding applicable regulations and required permits and did not address the adequacy of the EIR. A Final EIR was prepared, which responded to the comment letter and because no substantial modifications were made, recirculation is not necessary (see Attachment 3). The Final EIR was made available for public review on February 17, 2023, until February 27, 2023.

Pursuant to CEQA and as a result of the two significant and unavoidable environmental impacts, Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations have been prepared (see Attachment 2: Exhibit A).

Engineering Design

Project plans and technical specifications were developed between May 2021 and February 2022 in accordance with the Basis of Design Report and Amendment No. 1 to the Basis of Design Report, as well as in consultation with Raney Planning and Management for environmental constraints and in coordination with OPUD's design team.

Engineering plans, technical specifications and estimates (PS&E) for the Project are now substantially complete. The PS&E has been reviewed at the 50% and 90% levels of completion by third-party engineering consultant Willaim Lewis. Another review will be performed by Mr. Lewis on the final bid-ready PS&E documents prior to publicly bidding the Project.

The complete plan set of 356-drawings is hereby incorporated by reference. The first three sheets of the improvement plans showing the project location and index of sheets are included as Attachment 1. A complete set of the project plans can be viewed at City Hall or by following this link: [!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4_img.jpg\) Wheatland Regional Sewer Design](#)

Upon securing all necessary construction funding, completion of all right-of-way acquisitions, and obtaining all necessary environmental permits for the Project, a final bid-ready version of the PS&E, associated contract documents and instructions to bidders will be prepared and brought forth to the City Council for authorization to advertise the Project for public bidding.

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached resolution certifying the EIR for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Project as adequate for addressing the environmental impacts of the proposed project and adopting the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the MMRP, and approving the Project based on substantially complete improvement plans dated February 23, 2023.

Alternatives

The City Council may choose not to certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), adopt the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), or approve the Project.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impacts will result from the proposed actions. Subsequent City Council authorization will be required prior to bidding the Project which will identify funding needed for construction.

Attachments

1. Cover Sheet and Drawing Index for Project Plans (first 3 pages)
2. Resolution 06-23 - Certifying and Exhibit A-Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations
3. Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2021110022) (first 4 pages)
4. Resolution 08-23 - Approving the Project

WHEATLAND REGIONAL SEWER PIPELINE PROJECT

DRAWING NUMBERING SYSTEM

THE FORCE MAIN DRAWINGS ARE SUBDIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES DISTINGUISHED BY THE FOLLOWING DETAILS TO THEIR NUMBERS.

- C-## GENERAL
- F-1## FORCE MAIN TYPICAL
- F-2## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 1
- F-3## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 2
- F-4## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 3
- F-5## FORCE MAIN TYPICAL SECTIONS, DETAILS
- F-6## WATER MAIN EXTENSION
- F-7## FORCE MAIN TYPICAL EROSION CONTROL
- F-8## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 1 EROSION CONTROL
- F-9## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 2 EROSION CONTROL
- F-10## FORCE MAIN SEGMENT 3 EROSION CONTROL
- F-11## EROSION CONTROL DETAILS

SHEET INDEX

VOLUME 4 - PIPELINE DRAWINGS

SHEET NUMBER	DRAWING NUMBER	SHEET TITLE
1	G-01	COVER SHEET
2	G-02	SHEET INDEX - 1
3	G-03	SHEET INDEX - 2
4	G-04	GENERAL NOTES - 1
5	G-05	GENERAL NOTES - 2
6	G-06	GENERAL NOTES - 3
7	G-07	GENERAL NOTES - 4
8	G-08	STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS & LEGENDS
9	G-09	SURVEY HORIZONTAL CONTROL & BASIS OF BEARINGS
10	G-10	SURVEY HORIZONTAL CONTROL - 2
11	G-11	SURVEY HORIZONTAL CONTROL - 3
12	G-12	SHEET LOCATION KEY MAP
13	G-13	STAKING AND TURNBACK ANALYSIS
14	G-14	HYDRAULIC GRADE LINE - 1
15	G-15	HYDRAULIC GRADE LINE - 2

FORCE MAIN PLAN AND PROFILE, SEGMENT 1

16	F-1001	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1001+00 TO STA 1002+50
17	F-1002	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1002+50 TO STA 1004+00
18	F-1003	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1004+00 TO STA 1006+50
19	F-1004	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1006+50 TO STA 1009+00
20	F-1005	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1009+00 TO STA 1012+00
21	F-1006	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1012+00 TO STA 1015+00
22	F-1007	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1015+00 TO STA 1018+00
23	F-1008	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1018+00 TO STA 1021+00
24	F-1009	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1021+00 TO STA 1024+00
25	F-1010	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1024+00 TO STA 1027+00
26	F-1011	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1027+00 TO STA 1030+00
27	F-1012	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1030+00 TO STA 1033+00
28	F-1013	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1033+00 TO STA 1036+00
29	F-1014	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1036+00 TO STA 1039+00
30	F-1015	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1039+00 TO STA 1042+00
31	F-1016	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1042+00 TO STA 1045+00
32	F-1017	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1045+00 TO STA 1048+00
33	F-1018	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1048+00 TO STA 1051+00
34	F-1019	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1051+00 TO STA 1054+00
35	F-1020	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1054+00 TO STA 1057+00
36	F-1021	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1057+00 TO STA 1060+00
37	F-1022	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1060+00 TO STA 1063+00
38	F-1023	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1063+00 TO STA 1066+00
39	F-1024	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1066+00 TO STA 1069+00
40	F-1025	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 1 STA 1069+00 TO STA 1072+00

FORCE MAIN PLAN AND PROFILE, SEGMENT 2

41	F-2001	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2001+00 TO STA 2004+00
42	F-2002	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2004+00 TO STA 2007+00
43	F-2003	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2007+00 TO STA 2010+00
44	F-2004	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2010+00 TO STA 2013+00
45	F-2005	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2013+00 TO STA 2016+00
46	F-2006	PLAN & PROFILE - SEGMENT 2 STA 2016+00 TO STA 2019+00



DATE	1/10/2024
BY	WJ/KMG
CHECKED BY	WJ/KMG
DATE	1/10/2024

COASTLAND | **DECCM**

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CITY OF WHEATLAND	PIPELINE REGIONAL SEWER
PROJECT NUMBER	774888
DATE: FEBRUARY 2023	DRAWING NUMBER
G.02	SHEET NUMBER
2	OF 130

SHEET INDEX - 1

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87	F-101	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 1
88	F-102	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS - 2
89	F-103	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS - 3
90	F-104	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 1
91	F-105	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 2
92	F-106	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 3
93	F-107	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 4
94	F-108	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 5
95	F-109	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 6
96	F-110	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 7
97	F-111	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 8
98	F-112	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 9
99	F-113	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 10
100	F-114	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 11
101	F-115	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 12
102	F-116	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 13
103	F-117	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 14
104	F-118	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 15
105	F-119	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 16
106	F-120	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 17
107	F-121	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 18
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113	F-127	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 24
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124	F-138	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 35
125	F-139	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 36
126	F-140	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 37
127	F-141	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 38
128	F-142	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 39
129	F-143	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 40
130	F-144	FORCE MAIN TYPICAL DETAILS - 41

FOR REDUCED PLANS, THE ORIGINAL SCALE IS 1"=40'

Print: 1/10/24 10:00 AM Project: 774888 Worksheet: Pipeline Regional Sewer Sheet Index - 1 Plot Date: Feb 27 2023 10:00 AM

RESOLUTION NO. 08-23

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEATLAND APPROVING THE DESIGN OF THE WHEATLAND REGIONAL SEWER PIPELINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 35-20 approving the \$2.6M grant/loan agreement with the Yuba Water Agency (YWA) to fund environmental and design efforts for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project ("Project") and authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 43-20; 1) Amending the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget to allocate \$2,596,320 from the Sewer Collection Impact Fund (Fund #121) to cover the costs of environmental and engineering design services for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project; and 2) Authorizing the City Manager to proceed with environmental review and engineering design for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the City engaged its contract planning firm, Raney Planning and Management, and the City's contract engineering firm, Coastland Civil Engineering, to perform the required environmental and engineering design work for the Project; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 16-21 accepting the Basis of Design Report for the Project which provided parameters for final design efforts and a basis for initiating environmental efforts to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

WHEREAS, October 11, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 34-22 accepting Amendment No. 1 to the Basis of Design Report and other related actions; and

WHEREAS, engineering plans, specifications and estimates for the Project have reviewed by the City Engineer, reviewed by third party consultant, and are now substantially complete. Engineering plans dated February 2023, are hereby incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 06-23 certifying the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and

WHEREAS, upon securing all necessary construction funding, completion of all right-of-way acquisitions, and obtaining all necessary environmental permits for the Project, subsequent City Council authorization will be required prior to bidding the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California, hereby approves the engineering design of the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project as presented to City Council on February 28th, 2023.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California this 28th day of February 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Rick West, Mayor

Lisa Thomason, City Clerk

Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project

SCH# 2021110022

Final Environmental Impact Report

Prepared for
City of Wheatland



February 2023

Prepared by



1501 SPORTS DRIVE, SUITE A, SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project Final Environmental Impact Report

SCH# 2021110022

Lead Agency

City of Wheatland
Community Development Department
Planning Division
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Wheatland, CA 95692

Tim Raney
Community Development Director

Prepared By

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RESOLUTION NO. 06-23

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEATLAND CERTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE WHEATLAND REGIONAL SEWER PIPELINE PROJECT AS ADEQUATE FOR ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ADOPTING THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS AND THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Wheatland Community Development Department is seeking certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adoption of the 90 Percent Improvement Plans for the development of an approximately eight-mile-long sewer pipeline alignment and three pump stations to successfully convey all current and future wastewater into a regional sewer system serving south Yuba County, which is known as the Wheatland Regional Sewer Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the project is a regional sewer infrastructure improvement project that extends through properties within the City of Wheatland and unincorporated Yuba County. Generally, the pipeline alignment would extend from an existing pump station near the City's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) north to a point of connection with the Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) wastewater system in an unincorporated area of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of the construction of the necessary pipelines and pump stations to successfully convey all current and future wastewater into a regional sewer system serving south Yuba County. The proposed pipeline would connect to OPUD's force main near Rancho Road and State Route 65. OPUD would convey the flow to OPUD's WWTP, where the flows would be treated to a tertiary level and discharged into a tributary to the Feather River. Additionally, three new pump stations would be constructed along the new pipeline to convey all projected flows to the OPUD point of connection and a new Public Works corporation yard would be constructed within the Pump Station 2 site. The project also includes the decommissioning of the City's current WWTP; and

WHEREAS, the City, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), has completed the Final Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR" or "EIR") for the Project; and

WHEREAS, this document contains the City's certification of the EIR, its CEQA findings, and its statement of overriding considerations supporting approval of the Project considered in the EIR. The Final EIR has State Clearinghouse No. 2021110022; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Environmental Impact Report ("Draft EIR") was released for a 45-day public and agency review on December 14, 2022. The Draft EIR assesses the potential environmental effects of implementation of the Project, identifies means to eliminate or reduce potential adverse impacts, and evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Final EIR comprises the Draft EIR together with one additional volume that includes the comments on the Draft EIR submitted by interested public agencies, organizations, and members of the public; written responses to the environmental issues raised

in those comments; revisions to the text of the Draft EIR reflecting changes made in response to comments and other information; and other minor changes to the text of the Draft EIR. The Final EIR is hereby incorporated in this document by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED by the City of Wheatland City Council determines and certifies as follows:

- A. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
- B. The EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.
- C. The EIR was presented to the City Council who reviewed and considered the information contained therein prior to approving the Project. The EIR reflects the City Council's independent judgment and analysis as to the environmental effects of the Project.
- D. The City Council hereby certifies the EIR as adequate. A copy of the certified EIR is on file with the City Clerk.
- E. The City Council hereby adopts the findings concerning significant impacts, mitigation measures and alternatives, as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- F. The City Council hereby adopts the Statements of Overriding Considerations, as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- G. The City Council hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached here to and incorporated herein by reference, in order to ensure that all mitigation measures relied on in the findings are full implemented. The City will use the MMRP to track and ensure compliance with the Project's mitigation measures. The MMRP will remain available for public review during the compliance period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California this 28th day of February 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Rick West, Mayor

Lisa Thomason, City Clerk

Exhibit A

FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

WHEATLAND REGIONAL SEWER PROJECT EIR

A. Environmental Determination: EIR

1. The City Council of the City of Wheatland finds as follows:

Based on the initial study conducted for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Project (Project), the City of Wheatland's Community Development Department determined, based upon substantial evidence, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment and prepared an environmental impact report (EIR) on the Project. The EIR was prepared, noticed, published, circulated, reviewed, and completed in full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*) and the *CEQA Guidelines* (14 California Code of Regulations §15000 *et seq.*), as follows:

- a. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR was filed with the Office of Planning and Research and each responsible and trustee agency [and each federal agency involved in approving or funding the Project] on November 2, 2021, and was circulated for public comments for a 30-day review period from November 2, 2021 to December 1, 2021.
- b. A Notice of Completion (NOC) and copies of the Draft EIR were distributed to the Office of Planning and Research on December 14, 2022 to those public agencies that have jurisdiction by law with respect to the Project or which exercise authority over resources that may be affected by the Project, and to other interested parties and agencies as required by law. The comments of such persons and agencies were sought.
- c. An official 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIR was established by the Office of Planning and Research. The public comment period began on December 14, 2022 and ended on January 27, 2023.
- d. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was posted at the County Clerk's Office, placed in the Marysville Appeal-Democrat, posted on the City's website, and mailed to all interested groups, organizations, and individuals who had previously requested notice in writing on December 14, 2022. The NOA stated that the City of Wheatland had completed the Draft EIR and that copies were available for review or purchase at the City of Wheatland, Community Development Department, 111 C Street, Wheatland, CA 95692. The letter also indicated that the official 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR would end on January 27, 2023.
- e. Following closure of the public comment period, all comments received on the Draft EIR during the comment period, the City's written responses to the significant

environmental points raised in those comments, and any information added to the Draft EIR by the City were assembled to produce the Final EIR.

2. The following information is incorporated by reference and made part of the record supporting these findings:

a. The Draft and Final EIR and all documents relied upon or incorporated by reference include the following:

- Arcadis. *Scope of Work Notification Memo Wheatland, CA –Buried Railcar Incident*. August 2, 2022.
- ASTM International. *ASTM E1527, Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process*. 2013.
- Blackburn Consulting. *Geotechnical Basis of Design Report, City of Wheatland, Wheatland Regional Sewer Connection Project, Wheatland, CA*. March 2022.
- Cal-Adapt. *Local Climate Change Snapshot for Wheatland, California*. Available at: <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/local-climate-change-snapshot>. Accessed August 2022.
- California Air Resources Board. *2022 Scoping Plan Documents*. Available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/ab-32-climate-change-scoping-plan/2022-scoping-plan-documents>. Accessed July 2022.
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 - d. All records of decision, staff reports, memoranda, maps, exhibits, letters, synopses of meetings, and other documents approved, reviewed, relied upon, or prepared by any City commissions, boards, officials, consultants, or staff relating to the Project.
3. The City Council has final approval authority over the following Project entitlements:
 - a. Adoption of the Resolution certifying the EIR, approving the findings of fact and statement of overriding considerations, and adopting the mitigation monitoring plan;
 - b. Approval of 90 Percent Improvement Plans; and

- c. Approval of an Interagency Operating Agreement and an Interagency Capacity Purchase Agreement.
4. With respect to the entitlements over which the City Council has final approval authority and pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15090, the City Council certifies that:
 - a. The Final EIR constitutes an adequate, accurate, objective, and complete final environmental impact report in full compliance with the requirements of CEQA and the State *CEQA Guidelines*;
 - b. The Final EIR has been presented to the City Council, and the Council has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR prior to taking action on the Project;
 - c. The Final EIR reflects the City Council's independent judgment and analysis.
5. The City Council has final approval authority over the Project. In support of its approval, the City Council makes the following findings for each of the significant environmental effects and alternatives of the Project identified in the EIR pursuant to Section 15091 of the *CEQA Guidelines*:
 - a. Significant or Potentially Significant Impacts Mitigated to a Less-Than-Significant Level.

The following significant and potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project, including cumulative impacts, are being mitigated to a less-than-significant level, as set out below. A detailed discussion of each impact is included in the Draft EIR. Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA and Section 15091(a)(1) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, as to each such impact, the City Council, based on the evidence in the record before it, finds that changes or alterations incorporated into the Project by means of conditions or otherwise, mitigate, avoid or substantially lessen to a level of insignificance these significant or potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project. The basis for the finding for each identified impact is set forth below.

- **Impact 4.2-1: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan during project construction.** Implementation of the Project would result in construction-related emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) that would exceed the applicable thresholds established by the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). Thus, a significant impact could occur. Additionally, activities associated with the decommissioning of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) may result in construction-related emissions that would exceed the FRAQMD's thresholds of significance, and a significant impact could occur. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.2-1(a) requires use of higher-tier off-road equipment during construction, which would reduce

the NO_x emissions to below the applicable threshold. Mitigation Measure 4.2-1(b) requires a detailed air quality analysis be conducted prior to decommissioning activities to ensure the associated emissions would be reduced, as necessary, to below the FRAQMD thresholds of significance. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.1-1(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.2-4: Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people.** All three proposed pump stations would be located within the one-mile screening distance that is recommended by the FRAQMD for sewer pump stations, and as a result, a significant impact may occur. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.2-4 requires consultation with FRAQMD to determine if additional odor control devices are required. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.2-4 would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.2-6: Generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.** The proposed project is generally consistent with the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP); however, should all sustainability features not be implemented a significant impact would occur. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.2-6 requires compliance with the applicable sustainability measures included in the City CAP's Sustainability Checklist. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.2-6 would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-1: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on special-status plant species.** Construction activities may occur in areas where special-status plants have become established and significant impact could occur. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(a) requires a special-status plant survey be conducted for any inaccessible areas not included in the previous survey. Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(b) requires a new round of special-status plant surveys be conducted if construction does not commence by spring of 2024. Mitigation Measure 4.3-1(c) requires a planning-level special-status plant survey to be conducted for areas that would be disturbed through activities associated with the decommissioning of the current WWTP. If special-status plants are located within the area of proposed ground-disturbance, the plants shall be dug up and transplanted into a suitable area. The Mitigation Measures 4.3-1(a) through (c) would ensure that the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-2: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on special-status branchiopods.** The study area contains suitable habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. Therefore, development of the proposed project could have a significant impact. Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 requires a survey of vernal pool branchiopod habitat. If the species are found during the surveys, the loss of habitat would be mitigated through the preservation of suitable habitat at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-approved ratios, whichever

is greater, at an approved mitigation bank. Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-4: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.** Decommissioning of the City's existing WWTP could have a substantial adverse effect on Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB). Therefore, a significant impact could occur. However, Mitigation Measure 4.3-4 requires a protocol-level survey for VELB if decommissioning activities occur within 165 feet of a known elderberry shrub. Appropriate buffers would be established if an occupied shrub is identified. Consultation with the USFWS would be required if an occupied elderberry shrub must be removed. Mitigation Measure 4.3-4 would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-5: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on special-status fish species.** Without compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit or a contingency plan to prevent potential impacts related to the inadvertent release of drilling fluids or slurry into materials other than its intended entry and exit points (frac-out), the proposed project could have a significant effect on a special-status wildlife species. However, Mitigation Measures 4.3-5(a) requires implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.7-1 and 4.7-2, discussed below, and 4.3-5(b) requires the development of a Frac-Out Contingency Plan with preventive and responsive measures can be implemented by the contractor. Mitigation measures 4.3-5(a) and (b) would ensure the impact would be less than significant.

Impact 4.3-6: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on western spadefoot. Development of the proposed sewer pipeline alignment, pump stations, and corporation yard could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on the western spadefoot, which is toad species that California has designated as a species of special concern. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.3-6(a) requires a survey of suitable habitat for the species within the study area. If the species is observed during the surveys, Mitigation measure 4.4-6(b) requires installation of an anchored, or keyed-in, silt fence to control sediment shall be installed along the impact area. Mitigation Measures 4.3-6(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-7: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on western pond turtle.** Development of the proposed

sewer pipeline alignment, pump stations, and corporation yard could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on the western pond turtle. However, Mitigation Measures 4.3-7(a) requires a survey of the species within the project area, and Mitigation Measure 4.3-7 (b) requires relocation of any individuals and fencing off active nests. Mitigation Measures 4.3-7(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-8: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on giant garter snake.** Development of the proposed sewer pipeline alignment, pump stations, and corporation yard could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on the giant garter snake. However, Mitigation Measure 4.3-8 (a) requires a field investigation for the species within the project site. If construction activities occur within giant garter snake habitat Mitigation Measure 4.3-8(b) requires that: a qualified biologist shall be on-site; construction activities shall be conducted between May 1 and October 1; aquatic habitat shall be dewatered and dried prior to construction; the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and USFWS shall be notified immediately if a giant garter snake is observed; all holes and trenches more than six inches deep near giant garter snake habitat shall be covered with plywood; and non-entangling erosion control material shall be used near giant garter snake habitat. Mitigation Measures 4.3-8(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-9: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on burrowing owl.** Development of the proposed sewer pipeline alignment, pump stations, and corporation yard could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on burrowing owl. However, Mitigation Measures 4.3-9(a) requires a survey for the species and nests within the project area. If burrowing owl is observed, appropriate buffers shall be established. Mitigation Measure 4.3-9(b) requires implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.9(a) if ground-disturbing activities associated with the decommissioning of the existing WWTP are to occur during the nesting season for burrowing owl. Mitigation Measures 4.3-9(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-10: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on Swainson's hawk.** Implementation of the project could impact Swainson's Hawk if hawks are present in the study area or along the Bear River during project construction or decommissioning activities, respectively. Therefore, a significant impact could occur. However, Mitigation Measures 4.3-10 (a) and (b) require that, if ground disturbance is proposed during the nesting season of Swainson's hawk, a targeted Swainson's hawk survey shall be conducted. If active Swainson's hawk nests are found within the project vicinity, appropriate buffers around nests shall be established. Mitigation Measures 4.3-10(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-11: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on other nesting birds and raptors protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code.** The project area contains suitable nesting habitat for other nesting birds and raptors, and thus construction within the project area during the nesting season could result in significant impact. However, Mitigation Measure 4.3-11(a) requires focused survey for nesting raptors if ground disturbance is proposed during the nesting season. If active nests are found, a buffer shall be established. If an active raptor nest is found within a tree that is proposed for removal, a qualified biologist shall be consulted for additional mitigation. Mitigation Measure 4.3-11(b) requires focused survey for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) if ground disturbing activities are proposed during the nesting season. If active special-status species nests/nesting colonies are located during the survey, a qualified biologist shall be consulted to establish a buffer. Mitigation Measure 4.3-11(c) requires the implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.3-11(a) and (b) during the decommissioning of the existing WWTP. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.3-11(a) through (c) would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-12: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on roosting bats.** The proposed project could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on roosting bats. However, Mitigation Measure 4.3-12(a) requires that, if tree removal is required, a bat habitat assessment shall be conducted. If potentially suitable habitat is observed, Mitigation Measure 4.3-12(b) requires further surveying during the active season to determine the presences of roosting bats. If roosting bats are identified within any trees planned for removal, Mitigation Measure 4.3-12(c) requires the trees be removed outside of pup season and only on days with temperatures in excess of 50 degrees Fahrenheit. If roosting bats are identified within any structures planned for removal, a bat exclusion plan shall be prepared.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-12(d) requires a qualified biologist shall conduct a bat habitat assessment of all potential roosting habitat features at the existing WWTP. If potential roosting habitat is identified, further surveying shall be conducted to determine the presence of roosting bats. If roosting bats are identified within any structures planned for removal, a bat exclusion plan shall be prepared.

Mitigation Measures 4.3-12(a) through (d) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-13: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.** Construction of the three pump stations and the Public Works corporation yard would effect approximately 0.2 acres of valley oak woodland. As part of the decommissioning of the City's existing WWTP, work associated with the infiltration basins, which are below the levee and within the Bear River floodplain, could include grading and site stabilization. Such areas could potentially contain riparian vegetation and/or officially designated sensitive natural communities. Without compliance with the provisions of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 1600, et seq., the proposed project could have a significant impact. However, Mitigation Measures 4.3-13(a) and (b) require the implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(c), which is discussed below. Mitigation Measures 4.3-13 (a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.3-14: 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.** Implementation of the proposed pumpstations and sewer alignment would impact aquatic resources. In addition, because the decommissioning of the existing WWTP would include work adjacent to the Bear River, the City could be required to submit a notification to CDFW consistent with Section 1602 of the CFGC. CDFW would determine whether a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) is necessary. The LSAA would be comprised of the final mitigation measure(s) and condition(s). Furthermore, the City would be required to complete an aquatic resources delineation (ARD) of the infiltration pond area that would be subject to permanent effects to ensure waters of the U.S. and/or State would not be impacted.

For potential impacts to federally or State-protected wetlands, the proposed project would require a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and an application for a Section 401 certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and would be subject to all the conditions set forth therein. The project would also be subject to the terms of the LSAA issued under CFGC Section 1600, et seq.

Without compliance with the CWA and CFGC, the proposed project could have a significant impact. However, Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(a) requires that if the final sewer pipeline alignment requires disturbance of any of the areas that were

inaccessible during the previously conducted ARD, the City shall obtain permission to access the areas and map aquatic resources that could be affected during project construction, prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(b) requires that prior to the issuance of grading permits, the City shall apply for a CWA Section 404 permit from the USACE, if needed due to unavoidable impacts on waters of the United States.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(c) requires notification to the CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code to describe all of the activities associated with the proposed project. Written verification of the Section 1600 LSAA shall be submitted to the City of Wheatland Community Development Department.

Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(d) requires that prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities associated with the decommissioning of the existing WWTP, an ARD shall be conducted for the infiltration pond area that would be subject to permanent effects as part of decommissioning activities. If the results of the ARD indicate that decommissioning work would affect waters of the U.S. and/or State, the City of Wheatland shall obtain a CWA Section 404 authorization from the USACE and/or a Section 401 permit from the RWQCB, and comply with the provisions set forth therein. Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(e) further requires the implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-14(c). Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.3-14(a) through (e) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.3-15: Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.** Implementation of the proposed project would include activities such as the jack-and-bore process or horizontal directional drilling (HDD), which could result in a frac-out and potentially impact the waterways' ability to serve as a migratory corridor. In addition, without compliance with CFGC Section 1600, et seq., construction activities associated with the proposed project could impact the ability of the riparian woodlands within the study area to serve as a nursery site. Additionally, because the existing WWTP is adjacent to Bear River, activities associated with decommissioning could result in direct impacts relating to erosion, which could impact nursery sites within or adjacent to the Bear River.

Without mitigation measures to prevent impacts to Bear River, Best Slough, and Dry Creek and compliance with CFGC Section 1600, et seq., the proposed project could result in a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures 4.3-15(a) and (b) require implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.3-5(b), 4.3-13(a), 4.7-1, 4.7-2, and 4.3-14(c) discussed above. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-15(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.4-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5.** The project area is near the Jasper House, the location of which may include buried historic-period archaeological site indicators. The possibility exists that minor changes to the proposed alignment may occur during project construction and a significant impact may occur.

Mitigation Measure 4.4-1 requires that if the proposed alignment is changed during construction such that the Jasper House could be affected, additional work such as metal-detecting and excavation could be warranted. If historical resources are found, a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to determine further treatment. Mitigation Measure 4.4-1 would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.4-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5, or disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.** The possibility exists that previously unknown resources could be discovered within the project site during construction activities that disturb the ground. Therefore, a significant impact could occur.

Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 requires a protocol to be implemented if subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction. This protocol includes halting work within a 50-foot radius of the discovery and retaining a qualified archeologist to evaluate the discovery. If the discovery is determined to be a cultural resource, the Office of Historic Preservation shall be consulted to determine the appropriate treatment measures. If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, a qualified professional archaeologist shall be retained, and shall recommend reasonable protection measures sufficient to ensure the discovery is protected. If it is determined that the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which then shall designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant for the proposed project. Work shall not resume within the no-work radius until the City, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the treatment measures have been

completed to their satisfaction. Mitigation Measure 4.4-2 would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.5-3: Be located on a geological 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 lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse, or be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1B of the Uniform Building Code.** Compliance with the design considerations presented in the Geotechnical Basis of Design Report prepared for the proposed project would ensure potential impacts related to expansive soils are reduced to a less-than-significant level; however, because a final geotechnical engineering report has not yet been prepared, the proposed project could result in a significant impact. Additionally, in the event that new structures are proposed for the existing WWTP site subsequent to decommissioning, preparation of a design-level geotechnical report by a State-registered civil engineer would be necessary. Without future geotechnical investigation of site constraints, a significant impact could occur.

Mitigation Measures 4.5-3(a) requires a final geotechnical engineering report be prepared for the proposed project and submitted to the City of Wheatland Engineering Department, City of Wheatland Community Development Department, City of Wheatland Building Department, and Yuba County Building Department. Certification of completion of any requirements of the report shall be required for the proposed project, prior to issuance of building permits. Mitigation Measure 4.5-3(b) requires a final design-level geotechnical report be prepared for the subsurface conditions at the WWTP site. All recommendations set forth in the final design-level geotechnical report shall be incorporated into the design of the project. Mitigation Measures 4.5-3(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.5-4: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.** Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in a significant impact to unidentified paleontological resources during installation of the pipeline and other project ground-disturbing activities. Mitigation measure 4.5-2 requires that, if paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work shall halt within 50 feet of the find and the City of Wheatland Community Development Department shall be notified. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to inspect the discovery and, if deemed significant under criteria established by the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology, the resource(s) shall be preserved in an accredited and permanent scientific institution. Mitigation Measure 4.5-4 would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.6-1: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.** A site-specific analysis would be required to determine whether the actions required to decommission the existing WTP would result a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Failure to conduct a site-specific analysis prior to decommissioning of the existing WTP could result in a significant impact. However, Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 requires a site-specific analysis to be conducted to ensure that decommissioning activities would not create a significant hazard to the public and, if hazardous materials are detected, the analysis shall include the appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.7-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality during construction.** A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has not yet been prepared for the proposed project, and thus the proposed project could result in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure 4.7-1 requires the contractor to prepare a SWPPP for review and approval by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, City and County Director of Public Works, and the City and County Engineer. Mitigation Measure 4.7-1 would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.7-2: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality during operations.** Because a final Best Management Practices (BMP) and water quality maintenance plan has not been prepared, incorporation of proper source control measures cannot be ensured at this time. Therefore, the proposed project could result in a significant impact. However, Mitigation Measure 4.7-2 requires a detailed BMP and water quality maintenance plan be submitted to both the City and County Director of Public Works, and the City and County Engineer. Mitigation Measure 4.7-2 would ensure the impact is less than significant.
- **Impact 4.7-4: 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 impede or redirect flood flows, or in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation.** Portions of the proposed project are located within a Special Flood Hazard Zone (SFHA), and therefore could result in the impediment or redirection of flood flows such that on- or off-site structures would be exposed to flood risk. Thus, a significant impact could occur. Mitigation Measure 4.7-4(a) requires the project contractor to submit improvement plans to the City and County Director of Public Works, and the City and County Engineer for review and approval. Mitigation Measure 4.7-4(b) requires the finished building pad elevation at the Pump Station 1 site to be a minimum of one foot above the 100-year base flood elevation (BFE). Mitigation Measures 4.7-4(a) and (b) would ensure the impact is less than significant.

- **Impact 4.9-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074.** Ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project could result in a significant impact if unknown buried tribal cultural resources are discovered. However, Mitigation Measure 4.9-1(a) requires all personnel involved in project construction to attend cultural resource awareness training. Mitigation Measure 4.9-1(b) would require that all project improvement plans include language regarding the protocol to be followed if potential cultural resources are discovered during construction. This protocol includes stopping all work with a 100-foot buffer of the discovery, and retention of a qualified cultural resources specialist and Native American Representative from the traditionally and culturally affiliated Native American Tribe(s). Mitigation Measure 4.9-1(c) would require language regarding consultation with the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) be noted on project Improvement Plans. This includes language regarding noticing the UAIC prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities, tribal monitoring, and the tribal authority. Mitigation Measures 4.9-1(a) through (c) would ensure the impact is less than significant level.

b. Significant or Potentially Significant Impacts Which Could Not Be Fully Mitigated to a Less-Than-Significant Level.

Mitigation measures to mitigate, avoid, or substantially lessen the following significant and potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project, including cumulative impacts, have been identified. However, pursuant to Section 21081(a)(3) of CEQA and Section 15091(a)(3) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, as to each such impact and mitigation measure, the City Council, based on the evidence in the record before it, specifically finds that the mitigation measures are infeasible or ineffective at reducing the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Each impact and mitigation measure and the facts supporting the finding of infeasibility of each mitigation measure are set forth below. A detailed discussion of each impact is included in the Draft EIR. Notwithstanding the disclosure of these impacts and the finding of infeasibility, the City Council elects to approve the Project due to the overriding considerations set forth below in Section e., Statement of Overriding Considerations.

- **Impact 4.1-1: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.** A portion of the pipeline in the northwest region of the project site has the potential to extend through an active agricultural field that is designated as Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland. In addition, although the proposed pipeline alignment would not result in above-ground development that would permanently convert agricultural land to other uses, the project would prevent the use of land designated as Prime and/or Unique Farmland for agricultural uses within the access easement area. Therefore, a significant impact would occur. Potential mitigation for impacts related to the

conversion of Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland to non-agricultural uses could include purchasing agricultural conservation easements outside the project area. However, this mitigation would not create new agricultural land; rather, it would simply preserve existing agricultural land elsewhere. Consistent with the Wheatland General Plan EIR, feasible mitigation measures do not exist to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

- **Impact 4.1-2: Involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could cumulatively result in loss of Farmland to non-agricultural use.** As discussed above, a portion of the pipeline has the potential to extend through an active agricultural field that is designated Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland. Although the proposed pipeline alignment would not result in above-ground development that would permanently convert agricultural land to other uses, the project would prevent the use of Farmland for agricultural uses within the access easement area. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution towards the significant cumulative impact related to farmland conversion would be considered cumulatively considerable when viewed in conjunction with other development in the region. Because, as discussed above, feasible mitigation measures do not exist to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level, the impact would remain cumulatively considerable and significant and unavoidable.

c. Project Alternatives.

The City Council has considered the Project alternatives presented and analyzed in the Draft EIR and presented during the comment period and public hearing process. Some of these alternatives have the potential to avoid or reduce certain significant or potentially significant environmental impacts, as set forth below. The City Council finds, based on specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, that these alternatives are infeasible. Each alternative and the facts supporting the finding of infeasibility of each alternative are set forth below.

- **No Project/No Build Alternative.** The No Project (No Build) Alternative is defined as the continuation of the existing conditions of the project site. Under this alternative, the City would not connect to the new regional WWTP, and that the City would continue to use the existing WWTP and the associated facilities. The improvement activities associated with the proposed project would not occur and the physical environmental impact of the project would not occur. However, the City's current WWTP has reached the end of its useful life, which means the City will be facing substantial capital costs just to maintain its current capacity and meet water quality regulations. It will be difficult and costly to expand the current WWTP to meet planned City growth. Due to changing regulatory conditions, the existing WWTP would also likely require extensive improvements to meet current and anticipated future water quality protection requirements. Thus, under the No Project (No Build) Alternative, future growth of the City of Wheatland would be

limited to the capacity of the existing WWTP, and the City would not be able to continue to grow according to City plans unless the WWTP is expanded or a feasible alternative to wastewater treatment and disposal is implemented. The No Project (No Build) Alternative is environmentally superior to the proposed project because it will not have any significant and unavoidable impacts on agricultural resources. However, the No Project (No Build) Alternative is considered infeasible for economic, legal and social reasons because the City must accommodate its fair-share of regional housing needs allocations and without additional WWTP capacity, it will not have sufficient infrastructure to approve new development. The No Project (No Build) Alternative also would not meet any of the project objectives and would not fulfill the stated aims of the City's General Plan. For all of these reasons, the City Council rejects the No Project (No Build) Alternative.

- **Pipeline Realignment Alternative.** The Pipeline Realignment Alternative would consist of altering the currently planned path of the proposed sewer pipeline in an effort to reduce environmental impacts to the maximum extent possible, particularly impacts to agricultural resources and biological resources. For example, while the currently proposed project would involve a crossing of Best Slough in the northwestern portion of the project site, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would alter the pipeline's alignment to avoid crossing Best Slough. Although complete avoidance of a crossing of Dry Creek is not possible, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would involve a pipeline alignment that would minimize the impacts upon the creek to the maximum extent possible. In addition, Pump Station 1 is currently proposed in a floodplain, as well as on the site of an existing drainage ditch identified as an aquatic resource. Under the Pipeline Realignment Alternative, Pump Station 1 would be relocated to an alternative site that is outside of both the floodplain and any sensitive habitat. Similarly, Pump Station 2 would be relocated to an alternative site in order to avoid any impact to the existing vernal pool and seasonal wetland located on the site where Pump Station 2 is currently proposed to be located. Consideration would also be made to place Pump Stations 1 and 2 as far from the nearest sensitive receptor(s) as possible. All other aspects of the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would remain the same as the proposed project, including the future decommissioning of the existing WWTP facilities.

The Pipeline Realignment Alternative would result in fewer impacts to Agricultural Resources, Biological Resources, and Hydrology and Water Quality, and greater impacts to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Because the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would likely still involve the placement of the pipeline within land designated Prime or Unique Farmland, impacts to agricultural resources under the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would remain significant and unavoidable. Thus, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would not be environmentally superior to the proposed project with all the mitigation measures incorporated.

Because the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would involve the same project components as the proposed project, including a new pipeline, pump stations, corporation yard, and the future decommissioning of the existing WWTP, the Alternative would meet the majority of the Project Objectives. However, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative would involve a longer pipeline than the proposed project in order to reroute the pipeline to avoid sensitive habitat, at an anticipated additional cost of \$10-million. Thus, the ultimate cost to implement the project under the Alternative would likely be significantly more than that of the proposed project, and therefore would render this Alternative financially infeasible. Additionally, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative is financially and legally infeasible because the City does not control all the parcels needed to assemble this alignment, and if the City had to acquire these parcels through eminent domain, the funding that the City is relying on to help pay for this project would expire before the parcels could be obtained. Further, the Pipeline Realignment Alternative is not environmentally superior to the proposed project as mitigated because the Pipeline Realignment Alternative does not eliminate the significant and unavoidable impacts to Agricultural Resources. For all of these reasons, the City Council rejects the Pipeline Realignment Alternative.

- **Aboveground Pipeline Alternative.** The Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would be similar to the proposed project in terms of pipeline alignment, pump station locations, corporation yard, and future decommissioning of the existing WWTP. However, under the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative, the pipeline would not be placed underground. Instead, the majority of the pipeline would be placed directly on top of the ground surface. The pipeline would be well supported using appropriately located footings along the alignment to increase structural integrity. The Alternative would include attachment of the pipeline to the Dry Creek Bridge at the Dry Creek crossing, thereby eliminating the need for HDD at that crossing. All other pipeline crossings proposed as part of the proposed project, such as the undercrossing of Best Slough using HDD, would be similar to the proposed project under the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative.

Because the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would involve the development of the pipeline above ground, the pipeline would be visible from publicly accessible vantage points in the area. Such views of the pipeline could be considered a substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Thus, impacts related to aesthetics could be greater under the Alternative in comparison to the proposed project. Additionally, impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials would be greater under the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative than under the proposed project because the pipeline carrying untreated sewage would be exposed and could be subject to collisions or attack resulting in spills.

Given that the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would involve the same project components as the proposed project, including a new pipeline, pump stations, corporation yard, and the future decommissioning of the existing WWTP, the Alternative would meet all Project Objectives.

The Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would result in fewer impacts to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Tribal Cultural Resources, and similar impacts to Agricultural Resources, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Because the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would still involve the placement of the pipeline within land designated Prime or Unique Farmland, impacts to agricultural resources under the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative would remain significant and unavoidable. The Aboveground Pipeline Alternative is infeasible for social, legal, and financial reasons because it involves running a high-capacity pipeline of untreated wastewater aboveground for approximately 8-miles, which would require extensive design features to ensure no leakage or spillage, would expose the pipeline to damage and sabotage, and which would be visually jarring. Further, the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative is not environmentally superior to the proposed project as mitigated because the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative does not eliminate the significant and unavoidable impacts to Agricultural Resources. For all of these reasons, the City Council rejects the Aboveground Pipeline Alternative.

- **Proposed Project (with Mitigation Measures).** As set forth above, with all the mitigation measures identified above and incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the proposed project's environmental impacts on all impact categories except Agricultural Resources will be mitigated below a level of significance; the only remaining significant and unavoidable impacts of the proposed project, with mitigation, are on Agricultural Resources. As noted above, the No Project (No Build) Alternative likely is environmentally superior to the proposed project. When the "no project" alternative is the environmentally superior alternative, the environmentally superior alternative among the other (action) alternatives must be identified. *CEQA Guidelines* § 15126.6(e)(2). The proposed project with mitigation is the environmentally superior alternative.

d. Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Pursuant to the *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15092, the City Council finds that in approving the Project it has eliminated or substantially lessened all significant and potentially significant effects of the Project on the environment where feasible. The City Council further finds that it has balanced the economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the Project against the remaining unavoidable environmental risks in determining whether to approve the Project, and has determined that those benefits outweigh the unavoidable environmental risks and that those risks are acceptable. The City Council makes this statement of overriding considerations in accordance with Section 15093 of the *CEQA Guidelines* in support of approval of the Project.

The City of Wheatland recognizes that the project would have the following significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment:

- **Impact 4.1-1: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.**
- **Impact 4.1-2: Involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could cumulatively result in loss of Farmland to non-agricultural use.**

The impacts above are outweighed by the benefits offered by the Project. The following specific benefits would be provided by the project:

- The project would provide a financially feasible and viable alternative for wastewater treatment and disposal to the continued use of the existing WWTP sufficient to meet existing and future demands of the City of Wheatland, as well as to comply with State treatment requirements.
- The project would provide long-term sewer stability for the City with an opportunity for future expansion.
- The project would connect the City's wastewater into a regional sewer system for South Yuba County, thereby implementing the SWRCB policy of encouraging consolidation of smaller plants into larger, regional systems.
- The project would provide needed infrastructure to support employment and housing development in the City in order to improve economic development

activities within the City and accommodate the City's fair-share of regional housing needs allocations.

- The project would modernize the City's wastewater operations, equipment, and controls and ensure that the facilities meet anticipated future standards.

6. Upon approval of the Project, the City shall file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk of Yuba County and, if the Project requires a discretionary approval from any State agency, with the State Office of Planning and Research, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA Section 21152.
7. Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15091(e), the administrative record of these proceedings is located at, and may be obtained from, the City of Wheatland, Community Development Department, 111 C Street, Wheatland, CA 95692. The custodian of these documents and other materials is the City Clerk.

B. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21081.6 and *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15091, and in support of its approval of the Project, the City Council adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to require all reasonably feasible mitigation measures to be implemented by means of Project conditions, agreements, or other measures, as set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

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