

APPENDIX A

Notice of Preparation

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PINOLE-HERCULES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT Contra Costa County

September 9, 2009

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.), the City of Pinole will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects associated with upgrades to the existing water pollution control plant (WPCP), which treats wastewater generated from both the City of Pinole and the City of Hercules.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Pinole has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) as notification that an EIR will be prepared. The purpose of an NOP is to provide sufficient information about the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts to allow the State of California's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), responsible and trustee agencies, and interested parties the opportunity to provide a meaningful response related to the scope and content of the EIR, including the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that the responsible or trustee agency, or OPR, will need to explore in the EIR (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082[b]).

A brief description of the proposed project and its location, along with a listing of environmental effects that may occur under the proposed project, are contained in the attached materials. An Initial Study, attached hereto, has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, which identifies the anticipated environmental effects of the project. The Initial Study satisfies the City's obligation under CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, subdivision (a)(1)(C), to identify the "probable environmental effects of the project."

Responses to this NOP must be sent no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082 [b]). If you wish to comment on the proposed project or the focus of contents of the upcoming Draft EIR, please send your written comments to the following address, no later than October 8, 2009:

City of Pinole
2131 Pear Street
Pinole, CA 94564-1774
Attention: Dean Allison
Email: DAllison@ci.pinole.ca.us

A scoping meeting will be held to receive written and oral input on the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held on September 24, 2009 from 6 PM to 8 PM, at the following location:

Pinole City Hall
2131 Pear Street
Pinole, CA 94564

PROJECT LOCATION

The Pinole-Hercules WPCP is located along the shoreline of San Pablo Bay, at 11 Tennent Avenue, Pinole, California, within Contra Costa County (see Exhibit 1). The WPCP is bordered by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the south; Pinole Creek to the northeast; Bayfront Park to the southwest; and San Pablo Bay to the west (see Exhibit 2). Land east and south of the project site, across the railroad tracks, consists of residential housing and a storage facility.

Regional access to the WPCP is provided from Interstate-80 via San Pablo Avenue. Local access to the plant is provided by Tennent Avenue, adjacent to a parking lot associated with Bayfront Park.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Pinole water pollution control facility began operations in 1956 as a primary treatment facility with discharge into San Pablo Bay. In 1971, the cities of Pinole and Hercules entered into a joint use agreement, which included expansion and upgrades. The plant is currently administered by the Pinole-Hercules WPCP Joint Powers Authority. Currently, the facility treats wastewater from both cities to secondary standards.

The WPCP is permitted to discharge 4.06 million gallons per day (MGD) average dry weather flows, and 10.3 MGD average wet weather flows. Treated effluent from the WPCP is conveyed northeast to the Rodeo Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant (RSD), where flows from the two treatment facilities are combined and discharged into San Pablo Bay through a permitted deep water outfall (Outfall 001). Currently, the WPCP also operates a shallow water discharge outfall (Outfall 002), located at the west side of the WPCP property boundary. This outfall is used when the conveyance pipeline capacity to RSD is exceeded during winter storm events, when influent levels are above the plant's 10.3 MGD permitted capacity. During these high influent flow periods, the excess influent is treated to a primary level and then blended with secondary treated wastewater, disinfected, and then dechlorinated prior to release into San Pablo Bay from this shallow water outfall. The existing facility layout is shown in Exhibit 2.

A corporation yard that is used by the City of Pinole Department of Public Works, Maintenance Division is also located within the Pinole-Hercules WPCP property boundary. It serves as a headquarters, including administration and equipment, from which the City provides streets, parks, sewer, building, and storm drain maintenance. Finally, the Pinole-Hercules WPCP also includes a co-generation plant that has been constructed to take advantage of the methane gas produced as a byproduct during the wastewater treatment process. The co-generation plant provides a portion of the on-site heat and electrical needs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As described above, the WPCP's National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit allows 4.06 MGD dry-weather and 10.3 MGD wet-weather discharge rates. Issuance of the most recent NPDES permit included the stipulation that the City of Pinole must examine and implement alternatives to eliminate the use of the shallow water Outfall 002, and eliminate blending. The Cities of Pinole and Hercules have decided to also implement a solution that would prevent the need for blending of primary and secondary treated wastewater prior to discharge, and are therefore requesting a permit that would increase their wet weather flow rate to 20 MGD. To accomplish this wet weather capacity increase, the City of Pinole originally proposed and evaluated six potential project alternatives. Based upon the results of that analysis, which considered biological resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, water quality, and financial feasibility, the following two options have been selected for detailed analysis in the EIR.



Source: City of Pinole

Regional Project Location

Exhibit 1

OPTION 1: NEW LARGER EFFLUENT PIPE TO RODEO

The Pinole-Hercules WPCP would undergo various on-site facility improvements, but would remain a secondary treatment plant. Proposed facility improvements include new secondary clarifiers, influent and effluent pump stations, aeration tanks, and other equipment, as shown in Exhibit 3. A new larger capacity pipeline would be installed from the Pinole-Hercules WPCP to the permitted Outfall 001 at the Rodeo Sanitary District, along with improvements to the existing outfall (Exhibit 4). Shallow water Outfall 002 would be abandoned. In addition, the existing corporation yard would be relocated to Pinole Shores Drive, between the Atichson Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad tracks and San Pablo Avenue (Exhibit 5).

Option 1 includes increasing the wet-weather flow capacity of the Pinole-Hercules WPCP to 20 MGD. Effluent water quality is not expected to change because the WPCP would remain a secondary treatment facility. If any inflows greater than 20 MGD occurred, such flows would bypass primary treatment and would be routed directly to the aeration basins for secondary treatment. The wet-weather plant capacity would be sized to accommodate 20 MGD based on the surface overflow capacity of the primary clarifiers, and the secondary treatment system and the disinfection system would be sized to handle wet-weather flows of 20 MGD in case an unusually wet winter should occur.

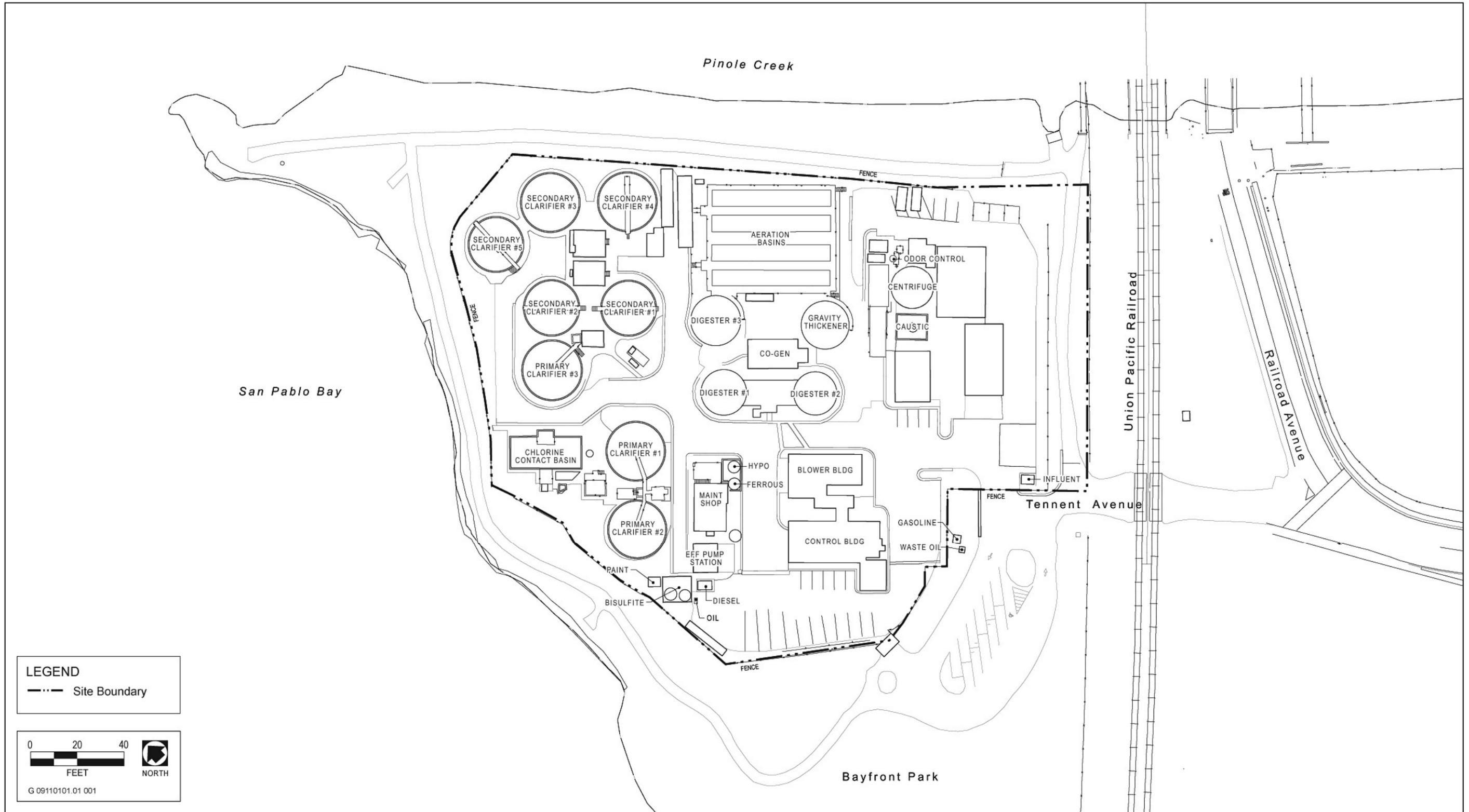
All treated, disinfected wastewater would be discharged to the existing permitted deepwater outfall (Outfall 001) at the Rodeo Sanitary District (RSD). A new forcemain, generally parallel to the existing forcemain route, would be constructed to ensure delivery of 20 MGD secondary treated effluent to RSD (if the need should occur). The diffuser on the exiting outfall would be modified to ensure at least 45:1 dilution at all times.

OPTION 2: CITY OF HERCULES ONLY TO WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER DISTRICT FACILITIES

Under this option, wastewater flows generated by the City of Hercules would be diverted to the West County Wastewater District water pollution control facility (WCWD). Wastewater flows generated by the City of Pinole would continue to be treated at the Pinole-Hercules WPCP, which would undergo various facility upgrades (Exhibit 6). The on-site upgrades would consist of a 450,000-gallon concrete storage tank, diversion box, pumps, 24-inch piping, and associated accessories. The storage tank would be mostly buried, with the base located approximately 28 feet below the ground surface. These upgrades would reduce the peak wet-weather flow at the plant to the capacity of the existing biological process units (10.3 MGD). Any flows above 10.3 MGD would be stored and then returned to the treatment process when flows drop below 10.3 MGD. The storage facility would be empty except during severe storm events. During the peak storm event, the equalizing storage facility would be filled and emptied within a 24-hour period.

A new parallel pipeline to Outfall 001 would also be constructed along the same route to RSD as described for Option 1 above (see Exhibit 4). Option 2 would not include relocation of the corporation yard.

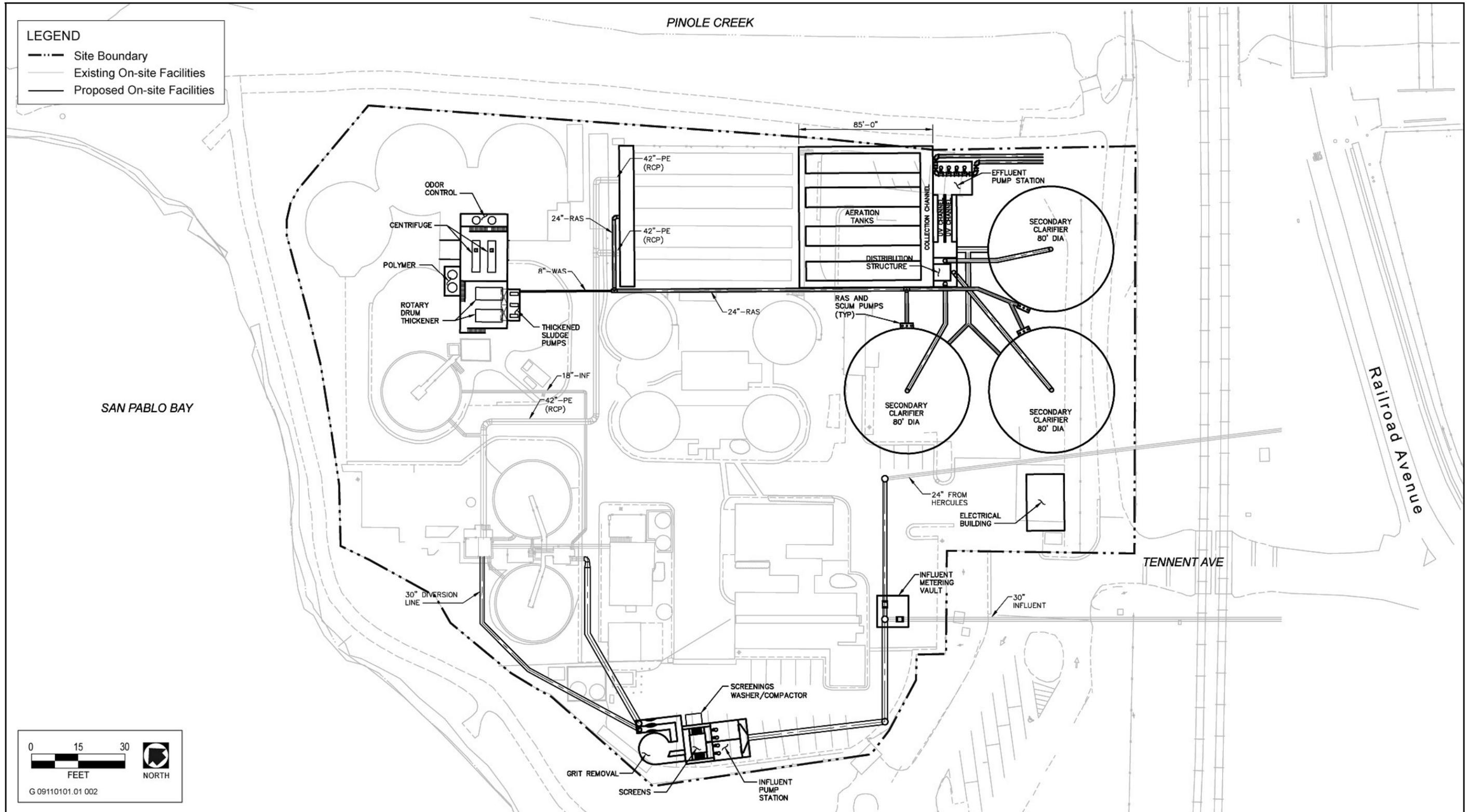
Option 2 would also involve transporting wastewater generated by the City of Hercules to the WCWD water pollution control facility (Exhibit 7). The Pinole-Hercules WPCP would then be operated solely to treat wastewater generated by the City of Pinole. It is expected that wastewater flows from the City of Hercules would consist of 2.25 MGD average dry weather flow and up to 7.0 MGD peak wet weather flow. Wastewater from the City of Hercules would be combined with wastewater from the WCWD service area and undergo secondary treatment by WCWD. It is anticipated that the existing dry weather capacity of the WCWD facilities (12.5 mgd, average dry weather flow) is sufficient to handle the combined flow. The existing wet season capacity (21 mgd, peak wet weather flow) would be expanded to handle up to 96 MGD. The commingled flows would be discharged through a deepwater outfall currently used by WCWD and the City of Richmond and operated by the West County Agency (a joint powers authority between the City of Richmond and the West County Wastewater District). The outfall is located off Port Richmond in the Central San Francisco Bay. The volume of treated wastewater discharged through the WCWD outfall would increase under Option 2.



Source: Dodson-Psomas 2009

Pinole-Hercules Existing WPCP Facility Layout

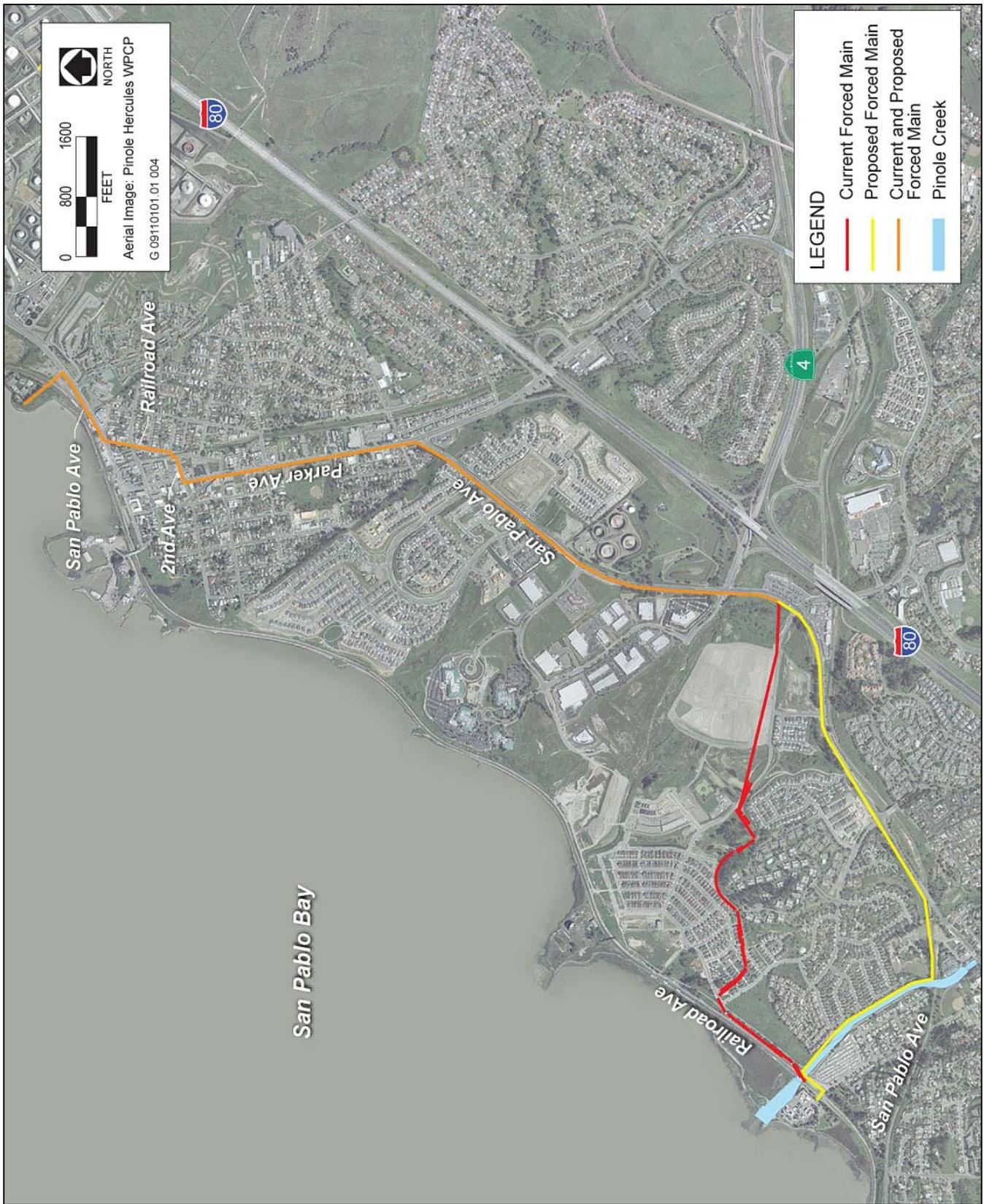
Exhibit 2



Source: Dodson-Psomas 2009

Proposed Pinole-Hercules Facility Improvements – Option 1

Exhibit 3



Source: Carollo Engineers 2008

Proposed Pipeline Route to Rodeo Sanitary District – Options 1 and 2

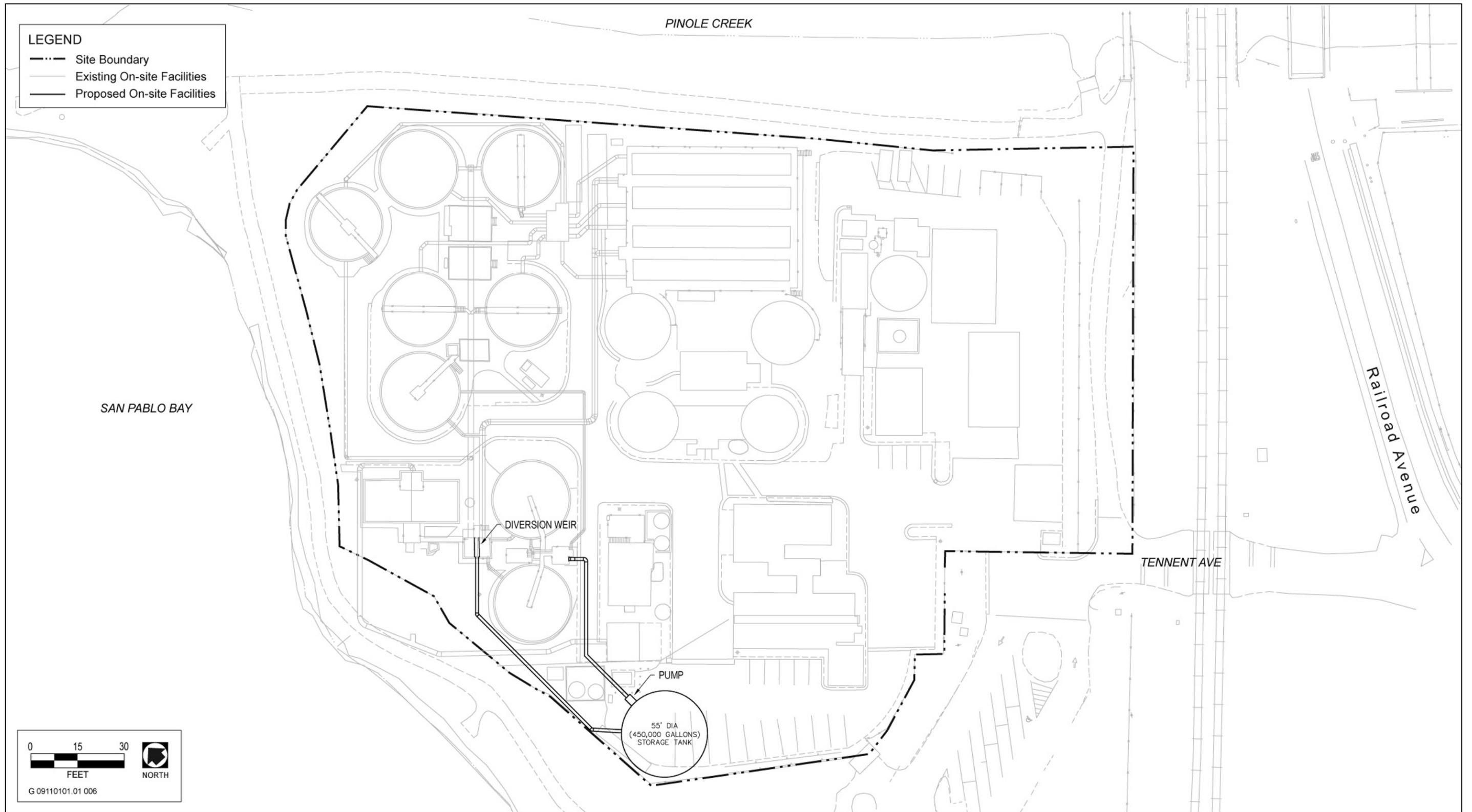
Exhibit 4



Source: City of Pinole 2009

Proposed Corporation Yard Location – Option 1

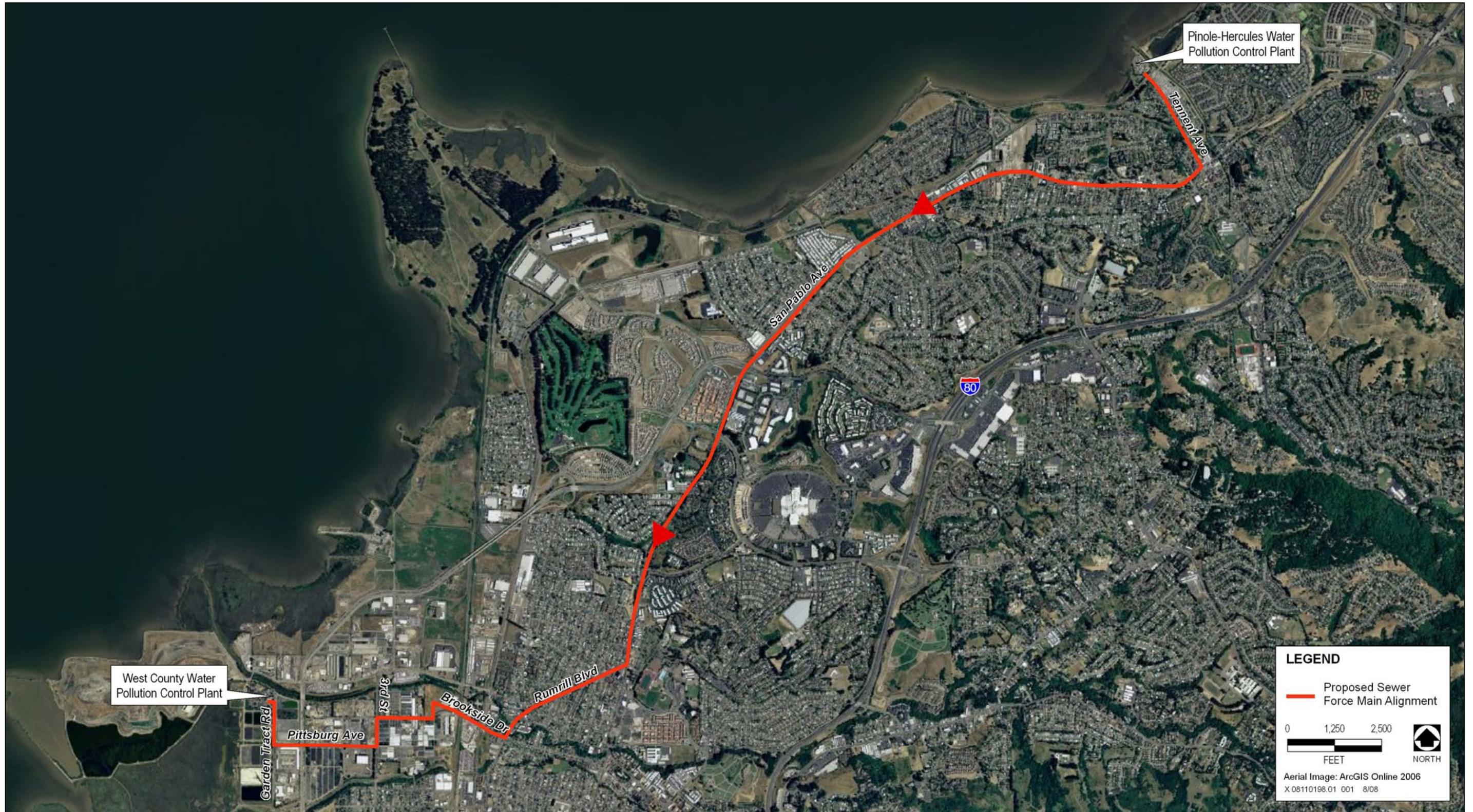
Exhibit 5



Source: Dodson- Psomas 2009

Proposed WPCP Facility Improvements – Option 2

Exhibit 6



Source: Carollo Engineers 2008

Proposed Pipeline Route to West County Water Pollution Control Plant – Option 2

Exhibit 7

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The proposed project is intended to achieve the following primary objectives:

- ▶ construct improvements to eliminate blending and avoid use of the existing shallow water outfall; and
- ▶ comply with conditions set forth in RWQCB Order Number R2-2007-0024.

TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This EIR includes a project-level analysis of the following: (a) Option 1 in its entirety, and (b) that portion of Option 2 that would allow the City of Pinole to keep its flows at the existing plant. These alternatives are evaluated at an equal level of detail through both quantitative and qualitative analyses, as appropriate. The EIR will contain enough details regarding Option 1, and the City of Pinole flows under Option 2, for a site-specific, project-level environmental review under CEQA, and will allow the consideration of discretionary approvals and permits required for these alternatives. The City's intention in evaluating Option 1, and the Pinole flows under Option 2, at a project level of detail is that the City may choose to adopt either of the options, and no further EIRs or negative declarations will be required by the City of Pinole for additional regulatory approvals following adoption of the EIR. However, implementation of Option 2 would also entail a second component: the City of Hercules would send its wastewater flows to the WCWD. This alternative, if implemented, would require (1) construction of a raw water conveyance pipeline to WCWD, (2) improvements at the WCWD WPCP, (3) an increase in the amount of permitted effluent discharge into San Pablo Bay, and (4) submittal of an anti-degradation analysis to the RWQCB for approval. This EIR contains a program-level discussion regarding the probable nature of the environmental impacts associated with conveyance of the City of Hercules flows to WCWD, because additional design-level information would be needed to evaluate this option at a project level of detail, and this design-level information does not exist. If Option 2 were selected, the City of Hercules, as lead agency under CEQA, would be required to determine if this EIR sufficiently considers the impacts of sending flows to the WCWD WPCP, and if not, would be required to conduct additional CEQA review.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EIR will be focused on several potentially significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Pinole-Hercules WPCP Improvement Project. Mitigation measures will be recommended wherever feasible to reduce potentially significant and significant impacts. The attached initial study checklist also discusses issue areas that will not be carried forward for further analysis in the EIR. Issues to be addressed in the focused EIR include: Land Use and Planning, Geology, Soils and Paleontology, Air Quality and Odors, Terrestrial Biology, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Cultural Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Climate Change, as discussed below.

- ▶ **Land Use and Planning** – The EIR will evaluate the proposed changes to on-site conditions and pipeline installation in terms of potential conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The EIR will also examine the potential for the proposed project to physically divide an established community.
- ▶ **Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources** – The EIR will evaluate the potential hazards related to seismic events (including fault ground rupture, strong seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, seiches), unstable soils (including shrink-swell potential), and erosion potential. The EIR will also evaluate the potential for paleontological resources to be damaged by project-related construction activities.
- ▶ **Air Quality and Odors** – The EIR will describe regional and local air quality in the project vicinity and evaluate the potentially significant air quality effects during project construction (temporary, short term) and operation (long term). The estimated air emissions will be modeled and compared to emissions thresholds of

the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Potential project-generated odorous emissions will also be evaluated.

- ▶ **Terrestrial Biology** – The EIR will describe the existing terrestrial biological resources and will evaluate the potential effects on those biological resources (i.e., terrestrial habitats and species).
- ▶ **Fisheries and Aquatic Resources** – The EIR will evaluate the potential impacts to fisheries and aquatic resources, including impacts to sensitive species and wetland habitats. Impacts to fisheries related to water quality will be compared to existing conditions.
- ▶ **Cultural Resources** – The EIR will include a cultural resource impact assessment. The EIR will describe the existing known cultural resources and the potential presence of unknown resources, and will evaluate the potential for project-related construction activities to damage or destroy both known and unknown resources (including prehistoric sites, historic-era buildings and structures, and human remains).
- ▶ **Hydrology and Water Quality** – The EIR will evaluate potential effects on hydrology and water quality, including alteration of drainage patterns, flooding, erosion, and water quality degradation of existing water bodies such as San Pablo Bay.
- ▶ **Noise** – The EIR will describe the potential construction and operational noise impacts and will compare these impacts to applicable noise thresholds.
- ▶ **Climate Change** – The EIR will evaluate the proposed project’s contribution to global climate change, consistent with Assembly Bill 32 (the California Climate Solutions Act of 2006) and OPR’s Technical Advisory (*CEQA and Climate Change*, June 19, 2008). The focus of the chapter will be to identify, to the extent feasible, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions anticipated to be generated and an assessment of whether the net change, as mitigated to the extent feasible, would constitute a substantial contribution to the significant adverse cumulative impact of global climate change. This assessment will also include an analysis of potential environmental benefits resulting from the use of methane (a wastewater treatment byproduct) in the existing on-site cogeneration plant to generate heat and electricity.

ALTERNATIVES

Consistent with the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 the EIR will examine a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that are potentially feasible. The alternatives must feasibly attain most of the project objectives of the proposed project while also avoiding or substantially lessening at least one of the significant environmental effects of the proposed project. CEQA does not require alternatives to be evaluated at the same level of detail as the proposed project (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[d]). As a result of scoping and agency consultation efforts conducted to date, the alternatives currently proposed for evaluation in the EIR include:

- ▶ **No Project Alternative.** State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e) requires that the Draft EIR include analysis of a “no project” alternative. The purpose of the No Project Alternative is to disclose the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts that would occur as a result of not approving the project.
- ▶ **Alternative 1: Full Tertiary Facilities.** Alternative 1 would upgrade the entire Pinole-Hercules WPCP from secondary to tertiary treatment. The current effluent discharge pipeline to the Rodeo Sanitary District would be abandoned and Outfall 001 would no longer be used. Instead, a new permitted outfall would be constructed in Pinole Creek for discharge of tertiary-treated effluent into the creek.
- ▶ **Alternative 2: Small Tertiary or Hybrid Solution.** Upgrades at the Pinole-Hercules WPCP would include the addition of a smaller tertiary facility to handle the increased wet weather flows. The existing pipeline to Outfall 001 at RSD would be upgraded and continue to be used. Flows from the new small tertiary or hybrid plant would be conveyed to a new pipeline and new outfall in Pinole Creek.

- ▶ **Alternative 3: All Flows to West County Wastewater District Facilities.** The existing Pinole-Hercules WPCP would be decommissioned and all existing flows would be diverted, via a new pipeline, to the West County Wastewater District facilities. The existing effluent pipeline to Outfall 001 at RSD would be abandoned.

One of the purposes of the NOP is to solicit input from responsible and trustee agencies and the public and interested organizations regarding potential alternatives to the proposed project. Therefore, the City welcomes comments during the public scoping process regarding these alternatives or suggestions for other alternatives to be examined in the EIR.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

To ensure that the full range of project issues of interest to responsible and trustee agencies and the public are addressed, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the EIR should be directed to the City at the address provided on the first page of this NOP by **5:00 p.m. on October 8, 2009**. Please provide the name and address of a contact person who should receive future correspondence regarding the project.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) is located along the shoreline of San Pablo Bay, at 11 Tennent Avenue. The Pinole Bayfront Park is located immediately west of the WPCP. Pinole Creek, a pedestrian and bicycle trail, and the shoreline of San Pablo Bay are located east of the project site. The vicinity south of the WPCP consists of residential housing, a storage facility, and Southern Pacific Railroad tracks that are in active use.

The WPCP site consists of an administrative building, corporation yard, parking areas, and various large industrial buildings that comprise the WPCP (see Exhibit 2). The existing plant facilities block the view of San Pablo Bay from Tennent Avenue and the residences and storage facility looking north, from Pinole Bayfront Park looking east, and from the pedestrian and bicycle trail looking west. The visual character of the WPCP is defined by industrial buildings and paved parking areas and access roads. Because of the industrial nature of the WPCP site, it does not contain scenic features.

The proposed pipeline to the Rodeo Sanitary District (RSD) would be installed adjacent to Pinole Creek between the plant and San Pablo Avenue, a distance of approximately 2,000 feet; Pinole Creek is a scenic resource. The remainder of the pipeline route to RSD, and the pipeline route to the West County Wastewater District Facility (WCWD), are within existing paved streets in an urban, built-up environment consisting of residential housing, public buildings, and commercial centers.

The proposed corporation yard would be located along Pinole Shores Drive immediately south of and adjacent to the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe railroad tracks. This site is already developed with existing buildings and a paved parking lot. This site is surrounded by developed urban land and does not contain scenic features.

DISCUSSION

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Upgrades at the existing plant and the existing deepwater outfall at RSD would occur within urban settings that are already developed with industrial uses. Views of San Pablo Bay from the surrounding areas are already blocked by the existing facilities, and the proposed upgrades would have no impact on those existing blocked views. The proposed corporation yard is already developed with buildings and a paved parking lot, and does not contain, nor is it adjacent to, any scenic resources. The proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed underground, within existing urban, developed land, with the exception of the approximately 2,000-foot portion along Pinole Creek. Although Pinole Creek is a scenic resource, the pipeline would be installed underground. At the completion of construction activities, this 2,000-foot area along Pinole Creek would be returned to its current condition. The temporary, short-term disruption of views along the Pinole Creek corridor is considered a less-than-significant impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the proposed plant upgrades would be similar to, and the proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed in the same locations as, those described above under Option 1. Therefore, the same short-term, temporary disruption of views along the Pinole Creek corridor would occur. This impact on a scenic vista is considered less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, because the pipeline would be constructed underground within existing developed urban land, and because WCWD upgrades would be conducted at an existing industrial facility, it is anticipated that the type and level of impact related to substantial adverse effects on a scenic vista under Option 2(b) would likely be similar to that discussed above under Option 1 and would be less than significant.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

There are no state-designated scenic highways in the vicinity of any of the proposed project components. Therefore, there would be no impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the proposed plant upgrades would be similar to, and the proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed in the same locations as, those described above under Option 1 above. Therefore, there would be no impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.
- b) For the Hercules flows, because there are no state scenic highways within the vicinity of the pipeline route, and because the pipeline would be installed underground, the types and level of impacts under this option would likely be similar to those described in Option 1 above and would be less than significant.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Alternative 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

As discussed above, with the exception of Pinole Creek, all proposed facilities would be constructed within developed urban or industrial land. Installation of the 2,000-foot segment of underground pipeline along Pinole

Creek would result in a short-term, temporary impact on the visual quality of this portion of the creek corridor; however, the construction activities are not considered to result in a substantial degradation of visual quality, and the land adjacent to the creek corridor where construction activities would occur would be returned to pre-project conditions. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the proposed plant upgrades would be similar to, and the proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed in the same locations as, those described above under Option 1 above. Therefore, the same less-than-significant impact related to substantial degradation of visual quality would occur.
 - b) For the Hercules flows, because the pipeline route to the WCWD lies within developed and urban land, because the pipeline would be installed underground, and because upgrades to the WCWD plant would occur in an existing industrial setting, the types and level of impacts under this option would likely be less than those described in Option 1 above and would be less than significant.
- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

Alternative 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would not require any new substantial lighting sources such as high-mast lighting other than those already present at the existing plant and at the developed site proposed for the corporation yard. Proposed plant upgrade materials would consist primarily of concrete, with some metal surfaces. The only existing residence that could be affected by light or glare is screened from the plant site by several stands of large trees. There are no residences that would be affected by light or glare at the new corporation yard. The pipeline would be constructed underground, and therefore would require no lighting. Therefore, there would be no impact related to adverse effects on day or nighttime views from creation of new sources of light or glare.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the proposed plant upgrades would be similar to, and the proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed in the same locations as, those described above under Option 1 above. Therefore, there would be no impact related to adverse effects on day or nighttime views from creation of new sources of light or glare.
- b) For the Hercules flows, because the underground pipeline would not create new sources or light or glare, and because substantial upgrades at the existing WCWD that would require new sources of light or install new sources of glare are not anticipated, the type and level of this impact would likely be similar to that discussed above under Option 1 and would be less than significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agricultural Resources.				
<p>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.</p> <p>Would the project:</p>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Department of Conservation, Office of Land Conservation, maintains a statewide inventory of farmlands. These lands are mapped by the Division of Land Resource Protection as part of the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The maps are updated every 2 years with the use of aerial photographs, a computer mapping system, public review, and field reconnaissance. Farmlands are divided into the following five categories based on their suitability for agriculture.

- ▶ **Prime Farmland**—land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for crop production. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed appropriately.
- ▶ **Farmland of Statewide Importance**—land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for crop production.
- ▶ **Unique Farmland**—land that does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance but that has been used for the production of specific crops with high economic value.
- ▶ **Farmland of Local Importance**—land that either is currently producing crops or has the capability of production, but that does not meet the criteria of the categories above.
- ▶ **Grazing Land**—land on which the vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.

Other categories used in the FMMP mapping system are Urban and Built-Up Lands, Lands Committed to Nonagricultural Use, and Other Lands (land that does not meet the criteria of any of the other categories). According to the Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, the WPCP site and

proposed pipeline routes are designated as Urban and Built-Up Land (California Department of Conservation 2008).

DISCUSSION

- 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?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed facility upgrades and proposed pipeline route would not be located on land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, project implementation would not convert farmland to a non-agricultural use, and there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) Upgrades to the WPCP and construction of the new pipeline under Option 2 would occur on land designated by the FMMP to be Urban and Built-Up Land and would therefore not convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural uses. Thus, there would be no impact.
- b) The proposed pipeline to WCWD and WCWD upgrades would be installed within existing roadways and at an existing wastewater treatment plant, and would therefore likely result in similar types and levels of impacts to Important Farmland as discussed above under Option 1 and there would be no impact.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The WPCP and proposed pipeline routes are not located on land zoned for agricultural use or subject to a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) Upgrades to the WPCP and construction of the proposed pipeline to RDS under Option 2 would not occur on land that is zoned for agricultural use or subject to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, the pipeline to WCWD and the WCWD plant improvements would be installed within existing roadways and at an existing wastewater treatment plant, and not on land zoned for agricultural use or subject to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, there would be no impact.

- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

As discussed above, the WPCP upgrades and proposed pipeline route are not located on land zoned for agricultural use nor designated as Farmland by the Department of Conservation. Furthermore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in permitted dry weather capacity, and therefore would have no potential to provide treatment for additional residential or commercial land uses. Thus, the proposed project would not result in or induce conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use, and there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) Because upgrades to the WPCP and the proposed pipeline would be installed in the same locations as discussed above under Option 1, and because the WPCP's permitted dry weather capacity would not increase under this option, the Pinole flows at the existing plant would not result in or induce conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use, and there would be no impact.
- b) The physical installation of a pipeline to convey City of Hercules flows to WCWD, and the improvements at the existing WCWD plant, would have no impact on conversion of Farmland. However, the WCWD facility would require an increased in its permitted dry weather flow capacity under this option. There is a potential that the increase in WCWD treatment capacity could remove an obstacle to growth, indirectly resulting in conversion of farmland within the water district's service area; this will be considered in the growth-inducing analysis of the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with air quality will be discussed in the environmental impact report (EIR).

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. 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 Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with biological resources will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V.	Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
	a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with cultural resources will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
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.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with geology and soils will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A computerized database search of various agency lists was conducted for the WPCP, corporation yard, and pipeline routes to identify any known sites of hazardous material contamination. The results of that database search are listed in Table 1. There are no known hazardous material contamination issues located within the WPCP; however, there are reported leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites adjacent to the proposed pipeline routes. All but one of LUST sites reported along the proposed pipeline route to RSD have been remediated and therefore are not listed in Table 1 below. In contrast, there are multiple sites in need of remediation along the proposed pipeline route to WCWD. Refer to Table 1 for detailed information.

**Table 1
Potential Sources of Contamination along the Proposed Pipeline Routes**

Facility Name	Potential Contaminant	Potential Media	Regulatory Status
Pipeline Route to RSD Sanitary District			
TOSCO – Facility #482 401 Parker Avenue RSD, CA	Gasoline	Groundwater	Site Assessment
Pipeline Route to Richmond			
Chevron 550 San Pablo Avenue Pinole, CA	Gasoline	Groundwater	Remediation
Square Deal Garage 2500 San Pablo Avenue Pinole, CA	Gasoline	Aquifer used for Drinking Water	Site Assessment
Sugar City Building Materials Company 800 San Pablo Avenue Pinole, CA	Gasoline	Aquifer used for Drinking Water and Groundwater	Site Assessment
Matlack Inc. 850 Brookside Drive Richmond, CA	Diesel	Groundwater	Verification Monitoring
Shell Pipeline Brookside Drive Contra Costa, CA	Aviation Fuel and other petroleum	Groundwater	Site Assessment
Source: Geotracker 2009; Envirostor 2009			

While no schools are located within one-quarter mile of the WPCP or proposed corporation yard location, the following are found within one-quarter mile of the proposed pipeline route to RSD:

- ▶ A Little World Montessori Academy, 355 Parker Avenue, RSD
- ▶ RSD Hills Elementary School, 545 Garretson Avenue, RSD
- ▶ Saint Patrick School, 907 7th Street, RSD

Schools near the proposed pipeline route to WCWD include:

- ▶ La Casita Bilingual Preschool, 592 Tennent Avenue, Pinole
- ▶ Saint Joseph’s Elementary School, 1961 Plum Street, Pinole
- ▶ Shannon Elementary School, 685 Marlesta Road, Pinole
- ▶ Spectrum Center – Tara Hills, 16330 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo
- ▶ Bayview Elementary School, 3001 16th Street, San Pablo
- ▶ Middle College High School, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo
- ▶ Lake Elementary School, 2700 11th Street, San Pablo
- ▶ Verde Elementary School, 2000 Giaramita Street, Richmond
- ▶ Pacific Academy, 2925 Technology Court, Richmond
- ▶ A Better Chance School, 4138 Lakeside Drive, Richmond
- ▶ La Petite Academy, 1221 Nevin Avenue, Richmond

The Contra Costa Department of Health Services provides incident response for chemical spills, toxic release, and drug lab accidents, which includes: health hazard information, cleanup oversight, community warning system activation, and identification of unknown substances. If a facility discovers an incident, it is required to notify the

Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team, which would follow the Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Policy approved by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. If required, the Hazardous Materials Response Team and Fire Department provides assistance, notification, and evacuation actions (Contra Costa County 2009).

Public Resources Code 4201–4204 and Government Code 51175–51189 require identification of fire hazard severity zones within the state of California. Fire hazard severity zones are measured qualitatively, based on: vegetation, topography, weather, crown fire potential (a fire’s tendency to burn upwards into trees and tall brush), and ember production and movement within the area of question. Fire prevention areas considered to be under state jurisdiction are referred to as “state responsibility area,” whereas “local responsibility areas” are under the jurisdiction of local entities (e.g., cities, counties), are required to only identify very high fire hazard severity zones. The WPCP, proposed corporation yard, and proposed pipeline routes are located in a local responsibility area considered to be a non-very high fire hazard severity zone (CDF 2009).

There are no private or public use airports within 2 miles of the WPCP, proposed corporation yard, or proposed pipeline routes.

DISCUSSION

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would involve the routine transport and handling of hazardous substances such as fuels and lubricants. Handling and transport of these materials could result in the exposure of workers to hazardous materials. The proposed project is required by law to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the handling and transport of hazardous materials, including California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal-OSHA) requirements. Thus, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) As discussed above, while construction activities would involve the routine transport and handling of hazardous substances, contractors would be required to comply with applicable federal state, and local law while upgrading the WPCP plant and installing the pipeline to RSD. Thus, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, hazardous materials used to install the pipeline to WCWD and to construct the WCWD plant improvements would be similar to those discussed above under Option 1 and the impact would be less than significant.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

As noted above, construction of the proposed project would involve the use of heavy construction equipment, which uses small amounts of hazardous materials such as oils, fuels, and other potentially flammable substances that are typically associated with construction activities. However, the City of Pinole would work with the project contractor to establish a construction staging area where hazardous materials would be stored during construction. Furthermore, the City of Pinole would require the contractor to prepare an accidental spill prevention and response plan. During construction activities, the City of Pinole would employ BMPs for spill control and

prevention as part of the SWPPP, which are required as part of the City of Pinole's NPDES permit (to be discussed further the "Hydrology and Water Quality" section of the EIR). Therefore, because the appropriate prevention and management practices would be in place as required by local and regional regulatory agencies, potential impacts from construction- and maintenance-related accidental spills of hazardous materials would be considered less than significant. (Potential impacts related to the release of hazardous materials from the proposed treatment facility or pipeline related to seismic events will be evaluated in the "Geology, Soils, and Paleontology" section of the EIR.)

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the City of Pinole would work with the project contractor to establish a construction staging area where hazardous materials would be stored during construction. Furthermore, the City would require the contractor to prepare an accidental spill prevention and response plan. In addition, implementation of BMPs and preparation of a SWPPP, which are required by the City of Pinole's NPDES permit, would also help to prevent and control hazardous materials spills. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, implementation of BMPs, preparation of a SWPPP, and other plans to reduce the potential for accidental spills would be required, and therefore this option would likely result in similar types and levels of impacts related to accidental spills as those described above under Option 1, a less-than-significant impact.
- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

There are no schools located within ¼ mile of the WPCP or proposed corporation yard; however, multiple schools are located with ¼ mile of the proposed pipeline routes (see the "Environmental Setting" section, above). As described previously, the handling and transport of hazardous materials used during construction would be regulated under applicable federal, state, and local laws. In addition, the proposed pipeline routes are located within major thoroughfares (e.g., San Pablo Avenue) where fuels, lubricants, and other typical construction-related materials are regularly transported. Furthermore, pipeline construction would not result in emissions of hazardous substances. Because the hazardous materials such as equipment lubricants and diesel fuels used during pipeline construction within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school are considered to be minor and would occur for a short-term, and because use of these materials is regulated by local, state, and federal law, the potential for a spill during pipeline construction that would be of large enough magnitude to adversely affect one of these schools is considered extremely unlikely. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, similar WPCP upgrades and construction of the same proposed pipeline would occur in the same location and require use of the same types of minor amounts of hazardous materials such as lubricants and fuels within ¼ mile of several existing schools, as described above. This impact would be less than significant for the same reasons described in Option 1, above.
- b) For the Hercules flows, numerous schools are located within ¼ mile of the proposed pipeline to WCWD; however, because the use of construction-related hazardous substances would be minor and is regulated by local, state, and federal law, the impact would be less than significant.

- a) **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**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

There are no sites within the WPCP boundary or proposed corporation yard included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. While there are numerous hazardous materials sites adjacent to the proposed pipeline route, all but one of the sites has been remediated, and there are no sites reported to be within the existing roadways. Because the proposed pipeline would be constructed within existing roadways, project implementation would not result in construction worker personnel coming into contact with materials from the TOSCO facility LUST, and therefore the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. There would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) The WPCP and proposed pipeline route to RSD does not contain any hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5; therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, the proposed pipeline route and the upgrades to the WCWD plant would not be installed within a hazardous material site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 54962.5; thus, there would be no impact.

- b) **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 for people residing or working in the project area**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan, nor is it within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, because there are no airport land use plans, public airports, or public use airports within two miles of the WPCP or proposed pipeline route to RSD, there would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, no public airports or public use airports are located within 2 miles of the proposed pipeline route or the WCWD plant; therefore, there would be no impact.
- c) **For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

None of the proposed project components would be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip; thus, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, no private airstrips are located within the vicinity of the WPCP or proposed pipeline route to RSD; thus, there would be no impact.

- b) For the Hercules flows, because no airstrips are located in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route or the WCWD facility, there would be no impact.
- d) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on emergency ingress and egress at the WPCP. Pipeline construction would require one lane along the affected roadways shown in Exhibit 4 to be closed in a phased manner as construction proceeds along the route. The City of Pinole would comply with ordinances requiring coordination among City departments, public notice of affected roadway closures, and roadway signs and flagman as appropriate. Because all of the affected roadways would remain open, project implementation would not result in substantial interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) Under Option 2, similar types of improvements at the WPCP, and the same pipeline to RSD, would be installed along the same route. Therefore, for the same reasons discussed above under Option 1, project implementation would not result in substantial interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and the impact would be less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, because the pipeline would be installed within existing roadways, and because the same type of compliance with roadway lane closure notification, signage, and flagman would occur, it is anticipated that project implementation would not result in substantial interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and the impact would be less than significant.
- e) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The upgrades to the WPCP and proposed pipeline to RSD would be located within a developed, urbanized area that does not have a high fire hazard severity rating and is not located adjacent to wildlands. Existing fire services would be sufficient to handle any emergency that arose during project construction activities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, upgrades to the WPCP and installation of the proposed pipeline to RSD would be constructed the same locations discussed above under Option 1, on land that does not have a high fire hazard severity rating and is not located adjacent to wildlands. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, the proposed pipeline route to WCWD would be built within existing roadways, and upgrades would be constructed to an existing wastewater treatment plant, which are not likely to have a high fire hazard severity rating. Therefore, there would be no impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with hydrology and water quality will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX.	Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
	a) Physically divide an established community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with land use and planning will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

In compliance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) has established the classification system shown in Table 2 to denote both the location and significance of key extractive resources.

Classification	Description
MRZ-1	Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence
MRZ-2	Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists
MRZ-3	Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data
MRZ-4	Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other mineral resource zone

Note: MRZ = Mineral Resource Zone
Source: Stinson, Manson, and Plappert 1987

Under SMARA, the State Mining and Geology Board may designate certain mineral deposits as being regionally significant to satisfy future needs. The board's decision to designate an area is based on a classification report prepared by CDMG and on input from agencies and the public. The project site lies within the designated South San Francisco Bay Production-Consumption Region, which includes all designated lands within the marketing area of the active aggregate operations supplying the South San Francisco Bay urban center. The WPCP, proposed corporation yard, and WCWD are located on land classified as MRZ-1. The proposed pipeline to RSD would be located within areas classified as MRZ-1 and MRZ-3. The proposed pipeline to WCWD would be located within areas classified as MRZ-4 and MRZ-1.

None of the proposed project components would be located on land that has been designated by the California Division of Mines and Geology as containing known mineral resources (MRZ-2). The areas of known mineral resources in the County are located as follows: (1) Port Costa (clay); Mt. Zion (diabase - an intrusive igneous rock that is used for roadbase and as rip-rap to prevent streambank erosion); and Camino Diablo (domegine sandstone - used in the manufacture of heat-resistant glass). None of these resources are located in the vicinity of the proposed project components. The closest quarry (stone/rock) to the project vicinity was located in Richmond, approximately 4 miles southwest of the WCWD and approximately 8 miles southwest of the Pinole-Hercules WPCP (Larose et al. 1999). This quarry has closed and the land has been reclaimed.

DISCUSSION

- 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?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project components would be located on urban land that is already developed and does not contain known mineral resources that would be of value to the region or the state. Although portions of the proposed pipeline would be installed in areas zoned MRZ-3, where the mineral resource significance cannot be determined based on available data, the proposed pipeline would be installed within existing paved roadways in those areas. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, the proposed plant upgrades and pipeline to RSD would be constructed in the same locations as those described above under Option 1. Therefore, there would be no impact related to loss of known mineral resources that would be of value to the region or the state.
- b) For the Hercules flows, although portions of the proposed pipeline would be installed in areas zoned MRZ-4, where the mineral resource significance cannot be determined based on available data, the proposed pipeline would be installed within existing paved roadways in those areas. Therefore, there would be no impact related to loss of known mineral resources that would be of value to the region or the state.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI.	Noise. Would the project result in:				
a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental impacts associated with noise will be discussed in the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Population and Housing. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing homes, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The WPCP service area consists of the municipal boundaries of the Cities of Pinole and Hercules, which have a combined population of approximately 43,000. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of these cities has increased by approximately 9,000 people between 1990 and 2007 (U.S. Census Bureau 2007). In 2008, approximately 19,200 people from the City of Pinole and approximately 23,700 people from the City of Hercules were utilizing the WPCP services. Currently, Pinole and Hercules contribute 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and 1.7 MGD dry weather flows, respectively, which is approximately 0.86 MGD less than the permitted flow (Contra Costa County LAFCO 2008).

DISCUSSION

- a) Induce substantial 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)?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Improvements to the Pinole-Hercules WPCP are based upon corrective measures required by RWQCB. The proposed project includes an increase in permitted wet-weather capacity only, in order to handle increased influent flow during winter storm events. The plant would not be permitted to treat additional wastewater from any new residential, commercial, or industrial development, if such development were to exceed its current permitted 4.06 MGD average dry weather capacity. Because the proposed permit change would not allow the plant to treat additional wastewater from new development, project implementation would not induce population growth, and there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, upgrades to the WPCP and installation of the pipeline to RSD would bring the WPCP into compliance with RWQCB discharge requirements and would result only in an increase of permitted wet-weather flow. Because the proposed permit change would not allow the plant to treat additional wastewater from new development, project implementation would not induce population growth, and there would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, the WCWD would require an increased in permitted dry weather flows, which could result in an indirect impact by providing treatment capacity for increased population growth. The type and

level of this impact could be greater than that discussed above for Option 1, and will be described and evaluated in the growth-inducing impacts analysis of the EIR.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing homes, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Construction of the proposed project includes upgrades to the existing WPCP facility and construction of pipelines in existing roadways. Trenches dug for pipeline placement would be backfilled upon installation. Because implementation of the proposed project would not displace existing homes, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the same reasons discussed above under Option 1, the proposed construction related to Pinole flows would not displace homes; thus, there would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, installation of the pipeline to WCWD would occur within existing roadways, and WCWD improvements would be constructed at an existing wastewater treatment plant. No displacement of homes would occur and there would be no impact.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Construction of improvements at the existing WPCP facility and construction of pipelines in existing roadways would not displace any people and would therefore not necessitate the construction of replacement housing. There would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, construction of improvements at the existing WPCP facility and construction of pipelines in existing roadways would not displace people or necessitate construction of replacement housing; therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, construction of a pipeline to WCWD would occur within existing roadways and construction of WCWD improvements would occur at an existing wastewater treatment plan, and would not displace people or necessitate construction of replacement housing; therefore, there would be no impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Public Services. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Pinole Fire Department provides emergency services to the WPCP. Fire Station 73 is the closest fire station and is located approximately 0.7 miles to the southeast at 880 Tennent Avenue. The Pinole Police Department is located within the same complex as the Fire Department.

The proposed project does not involve the construction of new school facilities. As discussed below, in Section 2.14, "Recreation," park facilities near the WPCP and proposed pipeline routes located within the City of Pinole and City of RSD are maintained by the City of Pinole Department of Recreation and the Contra Costa County Department of Recreation, respectively. Recreation facilities near the proposed project include: Bayfront Park and a bicycle trail located adjacent to the WPCP facility, Lefty Gomez Ballfield Complex located along the pipeline route to RSD, and Fernandez Park located adjacent to the pipeline route to the WCWD.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

Fire protection?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would not result in the need for any expanded fire or police protection services, nor would it require the construction of any school facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would require one 24–48 hour closure of the pedestrian/bicycle path along Pinole Creek. However, this impact would be short-term and temporary and would not result in any long-term physical adverse impacts. Thus, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) Implementation of Option 2(a) would not result in the need for any expanded fire or police protection services, nor would it require the construction of any school facilities. This option would require one 24–48-hour closure of the pedestrian/bicycle path along Pinole Creek; however, because this would be short-term and temporary and would not cause any long-term physical adverse effect, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) Installation of a pipeline to WCWD and WCWD plant upgrades is not anticipated to result in the need for any expanded fire or police protection services, nor would it require the construction of any school facilities. Because the pipeline would be constructed solely within paved streets, no effects to any recreational facilities would be expected. Thus, no impacts related to the effect of provision of governmental facilities on service ratios of public facilities would result and there would be no impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Recreation. Would the project:				
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Recreational facilities near the WPCP and proposed pipeline routes located within City of Pinole are maintained by the City of Pinole Department of Recreation. Recreational facilities located within the City of Rodeo are maintained by the Contra Costa County Department of Recreation. There are no recreational facilities near the project footprint located within the cities of Hercules, San Pablo, or Richmond.

Recreation facilities near the proposed project include: Bayfront Park, pedestrian/bicycle trails located east and west of the WPCP facility, Lefty Gomez Ballfield Complex located along the pipeline route to RSD, and Fernandez Park located adjacent to the pipeline route to Richmond.

DISCUSSION

- a) **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?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would provide improvements at the existing WPCP and installation of an underground forcemain. Therefore, project implementation would have no impact in terms of increasing the use of existing recreational facilities.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the proposed project would provide improvements at the existing WPCP and installation of an underground forcemain. Therefore, project implementation would have no impact in terms of increasing the use of existing recreational facilities.
- b) Installation of a pipeline to WCWD and upgrades to the existing treatment plant would not result in increased use of existing neighborhood or regional parks; thus there would be no impacts.

- b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project does not include construction of new parks and would not require the expansion of existing recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the required project improvements would not include construction of new parks and would not require the expansion of existing recreational facilities. Thus, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, the required project improvements would not include construction of new parks and would not require the expansion of existing recreational facilities; therefore, there would be no impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Regional access to the WPCP is provided by San Pablo Avenue, which is a four-lane north-south major arterial. Local access is provided primarily by Tennent Avenue. The proposed pipeline route to RSD would be installed in Railroad Avenue, San Pablo Avenue, 2nd Street, and Parker Avenue (Exhibit 4); the pipeline to WCWD would be installed in Tennent Avenue, San Pablo Avenue, Rumrill Boulevard, Brookside Drive, 3rd Street, Pittsburg Avenue, and Garden Tract Road (Exhibit 7).

The operating conditions of a roadway can be quantitatively described as one of six levels of service (LOS). LOS is influenced by factors including speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, and freedom to maneuver. A LOS level of A is considered to be the most free flowing traffic, and a LOS level of F would indicate very congested, stop-and-go traffic. Table 3 contains LOS and average daily trips for San Pablo Avenue, which is the primary route for both pipelines.

Roadway Segment	Level of Service	Average Daily Trips
San Pablo Avenue West of Del Monte Drive/Belmont Way	C	17,100
San Pablo Avenue West of Appian Way	C	20,600
San Pablo Avenue East of Pinole Valley Road	D	20,900
Source: City of Pinole 1995		

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) records ramp volumes for the California State Freeway System. The Pinole Valley Road exit along I-80 is the closest freeway ramp to the WPCP, and provides access to San Pablo Avenue (the primary route for both pipelines). In 2006, Caltrans collected traffic volumes for Pinole Valley Road ramps, as detailed in Table 4.

Table 4	
Average Daily Trips on Pinole Valley Road/Interstate 80 Ramps	
Ramp	Average Daily trips
Eastbound Off-Ramp	10,900
Eastbound On-Ramp	4,500
Westbound Off-Ramp	4,050
Westbound On-Ramp	9,800
Source: Caltrans 2009	

DISCUSSION

- a) **Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Project implementation would require no more than 8 construction workers at any given time over an approximately 30-month period, which would result in a total increase of approximately 16 daily worker commute trips. While upgrades to the WPCP would not be expected to substantially increase traffic near the project site, installation of the proposed pipelines would require closure of one lane on the roadways shown on Exhibit 4. Road closures would be expected to occur in increments, which would increase traffic and congestion in the immediate vicinity. However, closure of one lane is not expected to substantially increase traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system because it would occur in phases. In addition, the corporation yard employs 12 workers and receives approximately 15 deliveries per day, which amounts to a total of approximately 27 daily trips. These 27 trips associated with relocation of the corporation yard would not result in any change in the number of vehicles trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestions at intersections, because these trips are already occurring; thus, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, plant upgrades and pipeline installation would occur in the same locations and would require the same number of workers as described in Option 1 above. Therefore, project-related increases traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system would be considered a less-than-significant impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, construction of a pipeline to WCWD and WCWD plant improvements would likely require approximately the same number of construction workers and road closures as required for Option 1. Therefore, the level and types of impacts associated with traffic load and capacity would likely be similar to those discussed above under Option 1, and there would be a less-than-significant impact.

- b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

As described above, Option 1 would require no more than 8 construction workers at a given time over an approximately 30-month time period (16 total daily trips), and would require closure of one lane of affected roadways (shown in Exhibit 4) in increments. Relocation of the corporation yard would not result in an increase in trips associated with operation of that facility. The 16 daily construction worker trips would not substantially increase the number of vehicles on nearby roadways and would not exceed, individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard. Thus, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the same number of construction worker commute trips would occur, and the same lane closures along affected roadways would occur. The 16 daily construction worker trips would not substantially increase the number of vehicles on nearby roadways and would not exceed, individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard. Thus, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) For Hercules flows, construction of the pipeline along existing roadways and WCWD plant improvements would result in a similar number of construction worker commute trips and similar lane closures. This low level of daily construction worker trips would not substantially increase the number of vehicles on nearby roadways and is not likely to exceed, individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard. Impacts to level of service would therefore be less than significant.

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport, and project implementation would have no effects on air traffic patterns. There would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the WPCP and proposed pipeline route to RSD are not located within 2 miles of an airport. Thus, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, the WCWD and proposed pipeline route to WCWD are not located within 2 miles of an airport; therefore, this impact related to a change of air traffic patterns is likely to be similar to that described above under Option 1. Thus, there would be no impact.
- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project includes upgrades at an existing wastewater treatment plant and installation of an underground pipeline in existing roadways, in a developed, urbanized area. The proposed project does not include design features such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections that would increase hazards, nor does it require incompatible land uses. Thus, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, plant upgrades and pipeline installation would be of a similar nature and occur in the same locations as discussed above under Option 1. Because the proposed project does not include design features such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections that would increase hazards, nor does it require incompatible land uses, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, it is anticipated that installation of a pipeline to WCWD within existing paved roadways, and construction of improvements to the existing WCWD plant, would not involve design features such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections that would increase hazards, nor would it require incompatible land uses. Therefore, there would be no impact.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Implementation of the proposed project would require loss of one of four lanes along San Pablo Avenue and other affected roadways shown in Exhibit 4, in phases over approximately 30 months. Traffic would continue to flow in both directions on these roadways, and the City of Pinole would follow ordinances requiring coordination among departments, noticing of lane closures, and appropriate signage and flagmen. Furthermore, construction of improvements at the existing WPCP would not block emergency ingress or egress at the plant. Therefore, project implementation would not result in inadequate emergency access. This impact would be considered less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, construction of plant improvements and installation of the pipeline to RSD would be of a similar nature and would occur in the same locations as described in Option 1. Traffic would continue to flow in both directions on the affected roadways, and the City of Pinole would follow ordinances requiring coordination among departments, noticing of lane closures, and appropriate signage and flagmen. Furthermore, construction of improvements at the existing WPCP would not block emergency ingress or egress at the plant. Therefore, project implementation would not result in inadequate emergency access. This impact would be considered less than significant.
- b) For Hercules flows, it is anticipated that traffic would continue to flow in both directions on the affected roadways, and the City of Hercules would follow ordinances requiring coordination among departments, noticing of lane closures, and appropriate signage and flagmen. Furthermore, construction of improvements at the existing WCWD plant is not expected to block emergency ingress or egress at the plant. Impacts to emergency access would therefore be expected to be of similar type and severity as described above under Option 1. This impact would be less than significant.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Project implementation would not result in alterations to existing parking facilities, nor would it increase the need for parking facilities as a result of operational activities. Adequate parking is available for construction workers. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, project implementation would not result in alterations to existing parking facilities, nor would it increase the need for parking facilities as a result of operational activities. Adequate parking is available for construction workers. Therefore, there would be no impact.

- b) For Hercules flows, it is unknown whether the increased in treatment capacity would result in the need for additional plant employees, however, any such increase would likely be minor. Similarly, it is expected that construction worker parking would be sufficient. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would require the installation of a pipeline within one lane of existing roadways, which would result in closure of one of four lanes of San Pablo Avenue. Although this may have a minimal effect on traffic flow rate, it would not be substantial, and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. During construction, the Pinole Creek bicycle path would be closed once for approximately 24 to 48 hours; however, other bicycle commute routes would be available. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, pipeline installation would require the closure of one lane along San Pablo Avenue. However, this impact would be temporary and minimal and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, pipeline construction within existing roadways would likely require the temporary closure of one lane along affected roadways shown in Exhibit 6. However, this impact would be temporary and minimal and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Natural gas and electricity are provided to the WPCP by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Hercules Municipal Utilities Department, respectively. The East Bay Municipal Utilities Department provides potable water. Wastewater and stormwater flows at the WPCP are directed back into the plant for treatment. Dried stockpiled sludge is considered to be a hazardous material and is hauled off site to the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburgh, CA. Recyclable materials removed from the wastewater (e.g., metals) are sold to a contractor, who resells recyclable material.

DISCUSSION

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Upgrades and improvements to the WPCP infrastructure are proposed in response to waste discharge requirements from RWQCB because the current discharge capacity is not adequate for wet weather flows. The proposed project and project alternative would upgrade and improve facilities so that the plant would be

consistent with discharge requirements discussed in RWQCB Order No R2-2007-0024. Thus, there would be no adverse impact (beneficial impact).

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the plant upgrades are proposed for the same reasons discussed above in Option 1. Therefore, there would be no adverse impact (beneficial impact).
- b) For Hercules flows, pipeline construction and plant improvements would occur for the same reasons discussed above in Option 1. Therefore, there would be no adverse impact (beneficial impact).
- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project consists of an upgrade to the existing WPCP, relocation of the corporation yard, and the addition of a wastewater force main to RSD. Environmental impacts associated with project-related improvements are discussed throughout this Initial Study, and will be further disclosed and analyzed in the EIR, as discussed in the attached Notice of Preparation (NOP). Where potentially significant impacts are identified in the EIR, feasible mitigation measures will be recommended.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the proposed project consists of an upgrade to the existing WPCP and the addition of a wastewater force main to RSD. Environmental impacts associated with project-related improvements are discussed through this Initial Study, and will be further disclosed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report, as discussed in the attached Notice of Preparation. Where potentially significant impacts are identified in the EIR, feasible mitigation measures will be recommended.
- b) For Hercules flows, the proposed project would consist of upgrades to the existing WCWD (the details of which are currently not known), and installation of an underground pipeline from the Pinole-Hercules WPCP to the WCWD within existing paved roadways. If this option were selected, the City of Hercules, as lead agency, would be required to prepare a separate environmental analysis under CEQA. As discussed in the attached NOP, the types and levels of impacts that could be associated with this option are identified, throughout this Initial Study and in the EIR to be prepared.
- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would require modifications to the existing stormwater drainage system at the WPCP to accommodate additional on-site facilities. This impact will be evaluated further in the “Hydrology and Water Quality” section of the EIR.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, the proposed project would require modifications to the existing stormwater drainage system at the WPCP to accommodate additional on-site facilities. This impact will be evaluated further in the “Hydrology and Water Quality” section of the EIR.

- b) For Hercules flows, the proposed project would likely require modifications to the existing stormwater drainage system at the WCWD to accommodate additional on-site facilities. This impact will be evaluated further, to the extent details are available, in the “Hydrology and Water Quality” section of the EIR.
- d) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed wastewater treatment plant improvements and pipeline construction would not require new or expanded water supplies or entitlements. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, proposed WPCP improvements and pipeline construction would not require new or expanded water supplies or entitlements. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- b) For Hercules flows, proposed WCWD treatment plant improvements and pipeline construction would not require new or expanded water supplies or entitlements. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- e) **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

As discussed in the NOP, the proposed project consists of upgrades to the existing treatment facility, improvements at the existing deepwater outfall, and construction of a new pipeline to RSD that are necessary to allow the plant to treat increased wet weather flows during winter storm events. Environmental impacts associated with project-related improvements are discussed throughout this Initial Study, and will be further disclosed and analyzed in the EIR, as discussed in the attached NOP. Where potentially significant impacts are identified in the EIR, feasible mitigation measures will be recommended.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For Pinole flows, upgrades to the existing treatment facility and construction of a new pipeline to RSD are necessary to allow the plant to treat increased wet weather flows during winter storm events. Environmental impacts associated with project-related improvements are discussed throughout this Initial Study, and will be further disclosed and analyzed in the EIR, as discussed in the attached NOP. Where potentially significant impacts are identified in the EIR, feasible mitigation measures will be recommended.
- b) For Hercules flows, upgrades to the existing WCWD treatment facility and construction of a new pipeline to WCWD are necessary to allow the increased wet weather flows to be properly treated during winter storm events. As discussed in the attached NOP, the types and levels of impacts that could be associated with this option are identified at a general, program level, throughout this Initial Study and in the EIR to be prepared.
- f) **Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?**

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

Implementation of the proposed project would not be expected to result in long-term increased generation of solid waste. Currently, all influent is treated and discharged, and the associated solid waste is hauled off site. Because the proposed project would not involve an increase in the permitted volume of dry weather flows, solid waste

associated with the treatment process would not be expected to increase. In addition, no new staff would be required that could increase the amount of administrative waste. The plant has a recycling program, which includes the resale of recyclable material recovered from the wastewater treatment process. Upgrades to the WPCP would result in a short-term increase in solid waste disposal needs associated with construction activities. Because this increase would be easily accommodated by nearby landfills, this impact would be less than significant.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, because the project-related improvements would be similar to those description above under Option 1, the solid waste disposal needs would also be similar. Therefore, for the same reasons described above in Option 1, this impact would be less than significant.
- b) For the Hercules flows, it is anticipated that project-related construction and operational activities would result in similar types and levels of impacts related to solid waste disposal needs as those discussed above under Option 1. This impact would be less than significant.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Option 1: New Larger Effluent Pipeline to RSD

The proposed project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including recycling. Currently the WPCP produces non-hazardous waste, hazardous waste, and recyclable materials. Implementation of the Option 1 would not change disposal procedures. There would be no impact.

Option 2: (a) Pinole Flows at Existing Plant, (b) Hercules Flows to WCWD

- a) For the Pinole flows, all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including recycling would be implemented. Currently the WPCP produces non-hazardous waste, hazardous waste, and recyclable materials. Implementation of Option 2 would not change disposal procedures. There would be no impact.
- b) For the Hercules flows, compliance with statutes and regulations related to solid waste would be expected in a similar manner as discussed above for Pinole flows; there would be no impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. 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, 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<small>Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087. Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; <i>Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino</i>, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); <i>Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors</i>, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).</small>				

DISCUSSION

- 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, 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?**

Options 1 and 2 have the potential to result in significant impacts related to biological resources (i.e., wildlife species, wetlands, etc.) and cultural and historical resources. These issues will be addressed in the EIR.

- 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 viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)**

Options 1 and 2 could have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. This issue will be addressed in the EIR.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Options 1 and 2 could have impacts related to air quality, water quality, noise, and seismic hazards (geology) that could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. These impacts will be addressed in the EIR.

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