

Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the City of Grass Valley has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the following project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. On the basis of that study, the City finds that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and will not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. Therefore, this Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

LEAD AGENCY

City of Grass Valley
125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact: Joe Heckel, Community Development Director
(530) 274-4711

PROJECT APPLICANT

City of Grass Valley, Public Works
125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact: Tim Kiser, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
(530) 477-4625

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located on Parcel 29-290-26, at 556 Freeman Lane, Grass Valley, CA. The project area is zoned "public."

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Grass Valley (City) Public Works Department operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that provides sewer service to 12,100 residents and 1,700 businesses. The City is proposing to implement improvements to the facility to improve water quality of its effluent discharge to meet new requirements from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The current project consists of the construction of improvements to the biological nitrogen removal process to meet nitrogen discharge limits and the addition of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection facilities for removal of fecal coliform to meet new discharge requirements for cyanide and trihalomethane (THMs) at the WWTP. The project will be constructed within the boundaries of the City of Grass Valley's existing WWTP. The proposed project consists of:

- Removal/decommissioning of existing chlorine gas disinfection equipment;
- Installation of UV disinfection facility in an existing chlorine contact basin;
- Addition of a sodium hypochlorite feed system for the non-potable water system;
- Installation of launder covers on one of the secondary clarifiers;
- Installation of covers on the tertiary filters and other yard structures; and
- Installation of air piping to improve denitrification facilities.

The air piping modifications will provide greater process control during periods of low influent flow to the WWTP to improve the ability to meet existing nitrogen limits. With the removal of the chlorine disinfection facilities and the addition of the UV disinfection, the THM and cyanide limits will be met.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

An Initial Study (IS) was prepared (attached) to assess the potential effects of the WWTP modifications on the environment in the project area. The analysis of environmental impacts related to the project is based on data gathered for this project and other related documents.

Based on the analysis presented in the IS, the proposed project and related actions will have less than significant impacts, or no impacts on the following resources:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Cultural Resources | • Public Services |
| • Land Use and Planning | • Recreation |
| • Mineral Resources | • Transportation and Traffic |
| • Noise | • Utilities and Service Systems |
| • Population and Housing | |

Potentially significant impacts to the resources listed below could result without mitigation. With the mitigation defined in the IS and this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), the project will have less-than-significant impacts on:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Aesthetics | • Geology and Soils |
| • Air Quality | • Hazardous Materials |
| • Biological Resources | • Hydrology and Water Quality |

Mitigation measures have been identified to reduce potentially significant impacts of the project. Implementation of identified measures will result in avoiding the impact or reducing it to a less-than-significant level. The mitigation measures are listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Aesthetics

Aesthetics-1: The metal roof shall be a neutral color that blends in with the rest of the facility. No obtrusive or bright colors shall be used or painted on the roof.

Air Quality

Air-1: The proponent shall employ the following measures during construction to reduce emissions from construction equipment and wind blown soils.

1. Use, where possible, of water or chemicals for control of dust in the decommissioning/removal of existing structures and construction operations.
2. Installation and use of hoods, fans, and fabric filters to enclose and vent the handling of dusty materials. Adequate contamination methods shall be employed during such handling operations.
3. Use of water, chemicals, chuting, venting, or other precautions to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne in handling dusty materials to open stockpiles and mobile equipment
4. Maintenance of roadways in clean condition.

Biological Resources

Biology-1: If construction or dismantling/decommissioning of any facilities is to occur within the nesting period of swallows (March 15 through August 15), surveys shall be performed by a qualified biologist within 30 days of the construction activity. The surveys shall determine which nests, if any, could be impacted by construction activities. Only nests that would be physically removed or damaged by construction would be impacted (ie. Nests in eaves of buildings within which equipment is removed but the building is not being altered would not affect nesting swallows). If nests are in use, construction activity at the facility shall be delayed and a qualified biologist shall continue the surveys until it has been determined that any young have fledged and are no longer using the nest. If construction activities occur outside of the nesting/breeding period, surveys will not be required. Swallows would not be present in nests outside of the breeding season (Armstrong et al. 2005). Nests can be removed outside the nesting period.

Geology and Soils

Geology-1: The project proponent shall ensure that the existing straw waddle located between the wastewater treatment plant and Wolf Creek is in good condition and shall install silt fencing between the plant and the creek within the areas of construction. Silt fencing and straw waddle shall be maintained during construction. The silt fencing shall be removed after completion of construction.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hazards-1: The City shall consult with DTSC prior to construction, in compliance with deed restrictions, for any precautions and measures that are required during excavation. The City shall provide the contractor with the measures required by DTSC and the measures shall be included in a Health and Safety Plan.

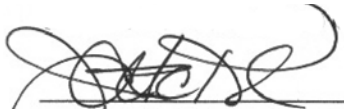
The City shall require project contractors to prepare a Health and Safety Plan prior to project construction. The City shall review and accept the plan prior to construction. The plan shall identify methods and techniques to minimize exposure of onsite workers to potentially hazardous materials during construction and operation (including measures identified by DTSC). The plan shall require implementation of appropriate control methods and approved containment and spill-control practices (i.e., spill control plan) for construction. The plan shall remain onsite along with spill clean-up kits at all times during construction.

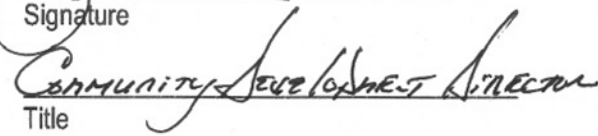
Hydrology and Water Quality
Geology-1 (as listed above).

REVIEW PERIOD

The review period for this MND is July 18 through August 17, 2007

All comments regarding the correctness, completeness or adequacy of this MND must be received by the City of Grass Valley by no later than 5:00 pm on August 17, 2007.



Signature


Title

7/10/07
Date