

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting

Date: February 20, 2019

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting for the City of Lathrop Integrated Water Resources Master Plan

To: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible Agencies
State Trustee Agencies
Other Public Agencies
Organizations and Interested Persons

Lead Agency: City of Lathrop
Public Works Department
390 Towne Centre Drive
Lathrop, CA 95330

Project Planner: Greg Gibson, Senior Civil Engineer
ggibson@ci.lathrop.ca.us
(209) 941-7442

Notice of Preparation: This is to notify public agencies and the general public that the City of Lathrop, as the Lead Agency, will prepare an EIR for the City of Lathrop Integrated Water Resources Master Plan. The City of Lathrop is interested in the input and/or comments of public agencies and the public as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the agencies' statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, and public input. Responsible/trustee agencies will need to use the EIR prepared by the City of Lathrop when considering applicable permits, or other approvals for the proposed project.

Comment Period: Consistent with the time limits mandated by State law, your input, comments or responses must be received in writing and sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 5:00 PM, March 21, 2019.

Comments/Input: Please send your comments/input (including the name for a contact person in your agency) to: Attn: Greg Gibson, Senior Civil Engineer, at the City of Lathrop, 390 Towne Centre Drive, Lathrop, CA 95330, or by e-mail at: ggibson@ci.lathrop.ca.us

Scoping Meeting: On March 13, 2019, the City of Lathrop will conduct a public scoping meeting to solicit input and comments from public agencies and the general public on the proposed project and scope of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This meeting will be held at the Lathrop City Hall, Council Chambers, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

This meeting will be an open house format and interested parties may drop in to review the proposed project exhibits and submit written comments at any time between 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Representatives from the City of Lathrop and the EIR consultant will be available to address questions regarding the EIR process and scope. Members of the public may provide written comments throughout the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, contact Greg Gibson, Senior Civil Engineer, at (209) 941-7442 or ggibson@ci.lathrop.ca.us.

Project Title: City of Lathrop Integrated Water Resources Master Plan

1. Project Location and Setting

The Lathrop Integrated Water Resources Master Plan (IWRMP) project site (project site) is located throughout Lathrop, California. The IWRMP includes the improvement projects summarized in the proposed Water System Master Plan, Wastewater System Master Plan, and Recycled Water System Master Plan.

The City of Lathrop is located in San Joaquin County, approximately 10 miles south of the City of Stockton and directly west of the City of Manteca. The City lies east of the Coastal Range that separates California's Central Valley from the San Francisco Bay Area. Interstate 5 (I-5), a major north-south interstate corridor, bisects the City. The City is also connected by State Route (SR) 120 which runs east-west through the southeastern-most part of the City, and by Interstate 205, which connects Interstate 580 to I-5. The City is also served by the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) train, which travels along the southern and eastern border of the City. The community was originally developed primarily east of I-5. However, most major new developments have recently been constructed west of I-5 and others are currently planned or under construction in this area.

The City is relatively flat with natural gentle slope from east to west. The City's topography has an average elevation of approximately 20 feet above sea level.

The City's water service area is generally contiguous with the City limits and includes the railroad cargo container commercial enterprise that is outside of the City limits. The City's wastewater collection system service area is generally contiguous with the City limits. The City's recycled water distribution system is generally contiguous with the City limits and includes some facilities north of the City limits.

2. Project Background

For the past year, the City has been working to prepare a comprehensive update to the City's water, sewer and recycled water master plan documents in order to support growth in the City while maintaining safe, reliable utility services for existing users. Collectively, these documents are referred to as the City's IWRMP.

A comprehensive update to the City's water, sewer and recycled water master plan documents was needed to forecast and update water and sewer demand projections, address changes in regulatory requirements, population and growth projections, proposed land use, climate change and other factors. The last comprehensive update of the City's water, sewer and recycled master plans were prepared in 2001 and they have been amended numerous times. A Water Supply

Study was prepared and adopted by the City in 2009 to serve as the basis for future water planning documents. A draft Water Master Plan was prepared for the City in 2013, but was never finalized and adopted. Over the course of time, numerous amendments to the master plans and changes have occurred that necessitate a comprehensive update to these documents.

The IWRMP has identified significant changes from previously approved master plan documents. Some of these changes include:

- Changes in demand factors for water, sewer and associated recycled water storage and disposal capacity.
- Changes in land use and growth projections from the General Plan.
- Closure of the Sharpe Army Depot and need for City to provide water and sewer service to the Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) and other organizations at the military base.
- Potential reductions to the City's water supply due to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation, and curtailment of South San Joaquin Irrigation District surface water rights.
- Consolidation of existing proposed wastewater treatment facilities into a single facility and associated recycled water system used for land disposal of effluent.
- Need for additional treatment of groundwater for arsenic, manganese, uranium and other constituents of concern.

3. Project Description

The proposed project includes adoption and implementation of the IWRMP, which includes the improvement projects summarized in the proposed Water System Master Plan, Wastewater System Master Plan, and Recycled Water System Master Plan. Each of these Plans is discussed in detail below.

A. WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

The Water System Master Plan focuses on development of water demand unit factors and projections, hydraulic assessment of the City's existing water infrastructure and key planned improvements, and development of recommended water system capital improvement projects (CIPs). Recommended CIPs were developed to support the City's water supply strategy and address the deficiencies identified in the hydraulic assessment. A project was developed to address each identified fire flow capacity deficiency, either by replacing existing mains, installing new mains, or replacing undersized hydrants. Additional projects were developed to improve transmission of supply sources within the City's distribution system.

Table 1 in the Initial Study summarizes all the identified capacity improvement projects and their estimated planning level opinion of probable costs (OPCs).

B. WASTEWATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

The Wastewater System Master Plan focuses on development of wastewater flow unit factors and projections, hydraulic assessment of the City's existing infrastructure and key planned conveyances, and development of recommended wastewater CIPs.

Recommended CIPs were developed to address the potential deficiencies identified in the hydraulic assessment. For each identified gravity sewer capacity deficiency, a project was developed to remove and replace the existing pipe with a larger diameter pipe. Existing pipe slopes and depths were preserved when upsizing sewers in-place. Proposed increases in pipe diameters were optimized to meet the applicable criteria, while preventing oversizing and resulting low velocities during dry weather conditions. Improvements were also identified to address the potential deficiency at the City's pump stations, including construction of parallel force mains and/or pump upgrades. EKI has also suggested installation of permanent flow meter and flow monitoring programs in the Historic Lathrop and Crossroads areas.

Table 2 in the Initial Study summarizes all the identified collection system improvement projects, including location, proposed improvements, estimated planning level costs, and alternatives.

C. RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

The Recycled Water System Master Plan focuses on an evaluation of recycled water use and disposal alternatives, recycled water balance analyses, hydraulic assessment of the City's existing recycled infrastructure and key planned improvements, and development of recommended recycled water system improvements and operational recommendations.

The City's recycled water system supports the disposal of the effluent produced by the City-owned Lathrop Consolidated Treatment Facility (CTF). When the draft of the Recycled Water System Master Plan was published in March 2018, the recycled water system had a disposal capacity of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and included seven agricultural land application areas (LAAs; A23, A28, A30, A31, A35, A35b, and A35c), nine storage ponds (S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S16, A, B, and C), their associated pump stations (PMP1, PMP2, PMP3, PMP10, and the Crossroads PMP), and approximately 30.3 miles of recycled water pipeline. This infrastructure supported the recent Phase 1 expansion of the Lathrop CTF and is referred to as "existing" or "Phase 1" infrastructure herein.

The City is currently expanding its recycled water distribution system to meet disposal requirements for the Phase 2 expansion of the Lathrop CTF, which will increase the Lathrop CTF treatment capacity and disposal capacity to 2.5 MGD. For purposes of this evaluation, it was assumed that the Phase 2 recycled water system expansion would be completed in two phases: Phases 2A and 2B. Phase 2A improvements were based on the planned initial infrastructure improvements as of October 2017, which were planned to provide a disposal capacity of 1.9 MGD. Phase 2B facilities would expand the disposal capacity to the full 2.5 MGD CTF Phase 2 treatment capacity.

Planned Phase 2A improvements included an expansion of the recycled water distribution network and the addition of a new lined recycled water storage pond (S28), a new percolation pond (PB-1), two new agricultural LAAs (A34 and A36), and a new pump station (RI-PS) that supplies recycled water to a private distribution system serving landscape irrigation use areas in the River Islands development area.

During 2017 and 2018, the Phase 2A improvements were implemented, with the exception that LAA A34 was not constructed. This resulted in an interim disposal capacity of approximately 1.55 MGD. In late 2018, LAA A34 was constructed, but as of December 2018, the permitting has not yet been performed to increase the disposal capacity to approximately 1.9 MGD.

In late 2018, there were some developments that may affect the phasing of the recycled water capacity as well as the configuration of Phase 2B. These developments include the possible removal or replacement of selected storage ponds and/or LAAs. These removals and/or replacements were not anticipated at the time of the original drafting of the Recycled Water System Master Plan and are therefore not considered in the analysis included in the Master Plan.

The hydraulic assessment of the distribution system indicated that the distribution system pipelines are adequately sized to meet performance criteria through Phase 2B. The Recycled Water System Master Plan identified the following improvements that should be implemented during the Phase 2A expansion, in addition to those currently under construction:

- Conversion of the low-pressure PMP-10 to a high-pressure pump station should be completed as soon as possible to be able to effectively convey recycled water from S16. This improvement is anticipated to be funded by developers.
- Installation of flow meters and automatic control valves with radio telemetry at each LAA turnout location to facilitate automated delivery of recycled water to the LAAs. Costs for these improvements were estimated to be \$480,000, not inclusive of estimated contingencies (PACE, 2018).
- Establish Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) controls on pump and storage ponds to automate system operations. Costs have not been estimated for these operational improvements.

For expansion of permitted recycled water uses in Phase 2B, the Recycled Water System Master Plan recommends the following improvements, in addition to those already planned:

- Increase the capacity of PMP-1 in conjunction with the installation of Pond S-X (located directly north of S5). This improvement is anticipated to be funded by developers.
- Install a new pond and pump station in the western portion of the City, potentially at locations S13 and PMP6, to meet storage requirements and to meet system pressure criteria in Phase 2B. This improvement is anticipated to be funded by developers.

Alternative uses of recycled water were evaluated in Phase 2B and beyond, including increased percolation and winter river discharge. These alternatives have the potential to provide increased water supply benefits and reduce the areas required for recycled water storage and disposal. The Recycled Water System Master Plan recommends that the City initiate a percolation study to assess locations in the City which have suitable soils for a percolation. The Plan also recommends that the City initiate discussion with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to better assess the potential for a river discharge permit.

D. SCADA TOWERS AND GENERATORS

Generators would be provided in conjunction with the proposed water pump station improvements shown in Table 1 of the Initial Study. The generators will be added as the new essential facilities are constructed and brought on-line, such as the CLSP water tank, River Islands water tank/SSJID turnout, and sewer pump stations (see Table 2 of the Initial Study). The generators would all be for emergency operations in the event of a power outage, and would only be run for maintenance and air quality permit testing requirements.

The generators would typically be enclosed within a building or semi-enclosed within a masonry wall enclosure in order to help attenuate noise. The type of enclosure would depend on the location. For example, generators near residential areas would be semi-enclosed or enclosed within a building, and generators in non-residential may not be enclosed.

Additionally, SCADA communication towers would also be provided. Currently, SCADA towers are located at the City of Lathrop Corporation Yard (2112 E. Louise Avenue), the City of Lathrop City Hall (390 Town Centre Drive), the Lathrop Consolidated Treatment Facility (LCTF) (18800 Christopher Way), and at a few other locations in the River Islands and CLSP development areas. The proposed SCADA towers are required in order to provide a line-of-sight for radio communications between the facilities. The towers would be 50- to 100-feet in height, or taller.

4. Uses of the EIR and Required Agency Approvals

A more detailed description of the required agency approvals is provided in the Initial Study.

5. Project Alternatives

The exact alternatives that will be evaluated in the Draft EIR will be determined through the Notice of Preparation and Scoping Process.

Areas of Potential Impacts: With the exception of the environmental topics dismissed in the Initial Study (see below), the EIR will analyze all other topics identified in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities, Cumulative Impacts, and Growth Inducing Impacts.

Initial Study: An Initial Study has been prepared for this Project. All environmental topics identified in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines were analyzed in the Initial Study. The Initial Study concluded that the proposed Project would have no impacts or less-than-significant impacts related to: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gases, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, and Wildfire.

Date: 2/4/19

Signature: 

Name/Title: Greg Gibson, Senior Civil Engineer

Phone/Email: (206) 941-7442 / ggibson@ci.lathrop.ca.us