NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIR) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) (SCH # 2019110339) for the Lathrop Consolidated Treatment Facility (CTF) Surface Water Discharge Project is now available for review. Public review and comment on this document is invited for a 45-day period extending from October 21 through December 4, 2020.

PROPOSED PROJECT: Lathrop CTF Surface Water Discharge Project (State Clearinghouse # 2019110339)

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located within the City of Lathrop, CA (City) in San Joaquin County, approximately 10 miles south of the City of Stockton and directly west of the City of Manteca (Figure 1). Elements of the proposed project would be constructed (1) at the City's existing CTF, located on 54 acres of City-owned land at 18800 Christopher Way, Lathrop, CA; (2) beneath roadways in Lathrop between the CTF and the San Joaquin River, including Tesla Way, Harlan Road, and Inland Passage Way; and (3) along the right bank of the San Joaquin River, approximately 0.7 mile downstream of the I-5 overcrossing, at approximately river mile 55.8 (Figure 2).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City is proposing to establish a direct discharge of highly treated wastewater from its CTF to the San Joaquin River. Currently, recycled water generated at the CTF is stored in ponds and used for urban and agricultural irrigation. With implementation of the proposed project, the majority of CTF effluent would be discharged to the San Joaquin River during winter, when irrigation demands are low and river flow is relatively high, and less would be discharged during the irrigation season, when reuse of CTF recycled water would be maximized for landscape irrigation. This approach would allow existing storage ponds and land application areas designated for urban uses to be developed in accordance with the City of Lathrop General Plan.

The CTF currently treats wastewater to a very high level. The effluent meets the State's requirements for disinfected (using chlorine) tertiary-treated recycled water. State requirements include standards for treatment quality and specifies allowable uses and restrictions for recycled water. The proposed project would involve modifications to the CTF to remove chlorine, which could affect fish, from disinfected effluent to provide for discharge of dechlorinated effluent to the San Joaquin River. The project also includes installation of effluent pipelines within City road rights-of-way and a new side-bank outfall along the San Joaquin River, through which the effluent would be discharged. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in spring 2021 and be completed within approximately 18 months.

The City intends to obtain an initial National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge up to 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) average dry weather flow (current CTF design capacity) of treated effluent to the San Joaquin River. However, the effluent discharge pipeline and outfall would be designed to accommodate CTF flows at City buildout, of up to 6.0 mgd. The City previously approved, in 2013, expansion of the CTF to as much as 6.0 mgd.

The proposed project has the following objectives:

- Provide for planned City buildout and development based on the City's General Plan by providing effluent discharge to the San Joaquin River.
- Provide efficient and cost-effective wastewater services through buildout of the City.
- Maximize use of recycled water in the City presently and in the future.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ANTICIPATED: The Draft EIR identified significant or potentially significant effects associated with air quality; terrestrial biological resources; aquatic biological resources; cultural, tribal cultural, and paleontological resources; and hazards and hazardous materials. All significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level through mitigation.

ALTERNATIVES: The State CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. Consideration of a "no project" alternative is also required. The EIR includes a comparative analysis of the alternatives. In addition to the proposed project, the Draft EIR includes analysis of the following three alternatives:

- **Alternative 1:** No Project Alternative assumes no surface water discharge infrastructure would be constructed. All wastewater would continue to be recycled and reused for landscape irrigation or disposed of via land application. This would require use of lands for storage and disposal that are currently designated for urban development in the City of Lathrop's General Plan because acquisition of adequate storage and land application areas outside the City limits is infeasible. Thus, the City's ability to develop consistent with its General Plan would be constrained under this alternative.
- **Alternative 2:** Outfall Configuration Alternative assumes that a bottom diffuser outfall would be constructed instead of the proposed side bank outfall at the currently proposed outfall location for the project.
- **Alternative 3:** Manteca Water Quality Control Facility (wastewater treatment plant) Outfall Location Alternative assumes that all CTF effluent could be discharged at the Manteca WQCF outfall at river mile 57. (Note: The outfall for the proposed project would be located at river mile 55.8.) This would include construction of a discharge pipeline and future expansion of the Manteca outfall structure. The discharge pipeline route has not been specifically identified. However, it would require crossing the Union Pacific Railroad rail line and State Route 120.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE DISCLOSURE: On the project site there are no sites listed in the EnviroStor and Geotracker databases maintained pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

WHERE DRAFT EIR MAY BE OBTAINED: A copy of the Draft EIR is available for viewing and download on the City's website at https://www.ci.lathrop.ca.us/com-dev/page/public-review-documents. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, printed copies of the Draft EIR will not be available for review at public buildings or libraries. Individuals that are unable to access the Draft EIR at the website listed above or would require a computer disk or thumb drive containing a copy of the document should contact Michael King at mking@ci.lathrop.ca.us or 209-941-7430 to obtain a copy.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: October 21 to December 4, 2020

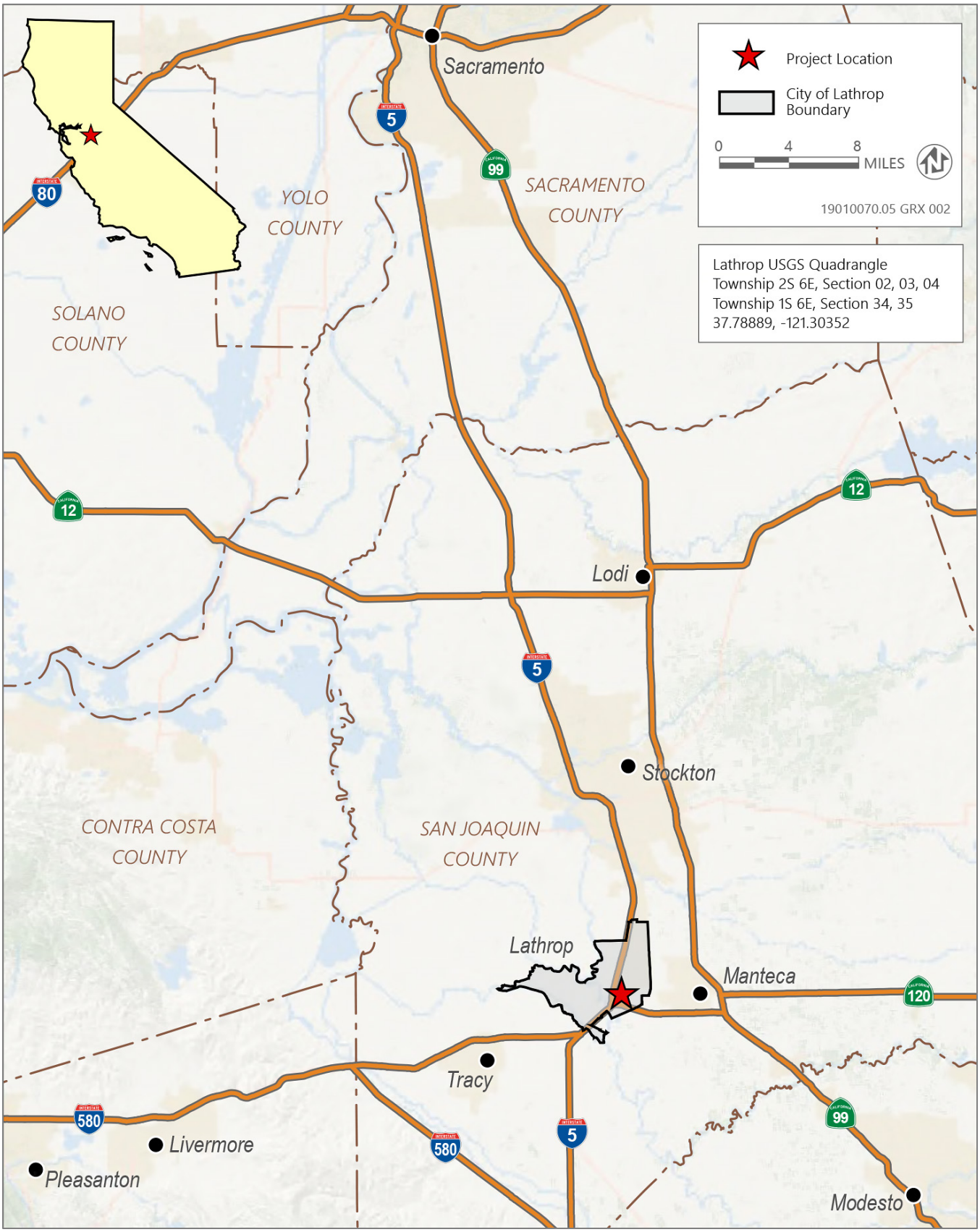
PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting for the Draft EIR will be hosted online via WebEx on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the following web address:

https://cityoflathrop.webex.com/cityoflathrop/onstage/g.php?MTID=eef92a7c4b6d9a5281883a329f2958847
Event number (access code): 146 015 4043
Event password: SScZVJkA364

The purpose of the public meeting is to present the findings of the environmental analysis and receive comments on the Draft EIR.

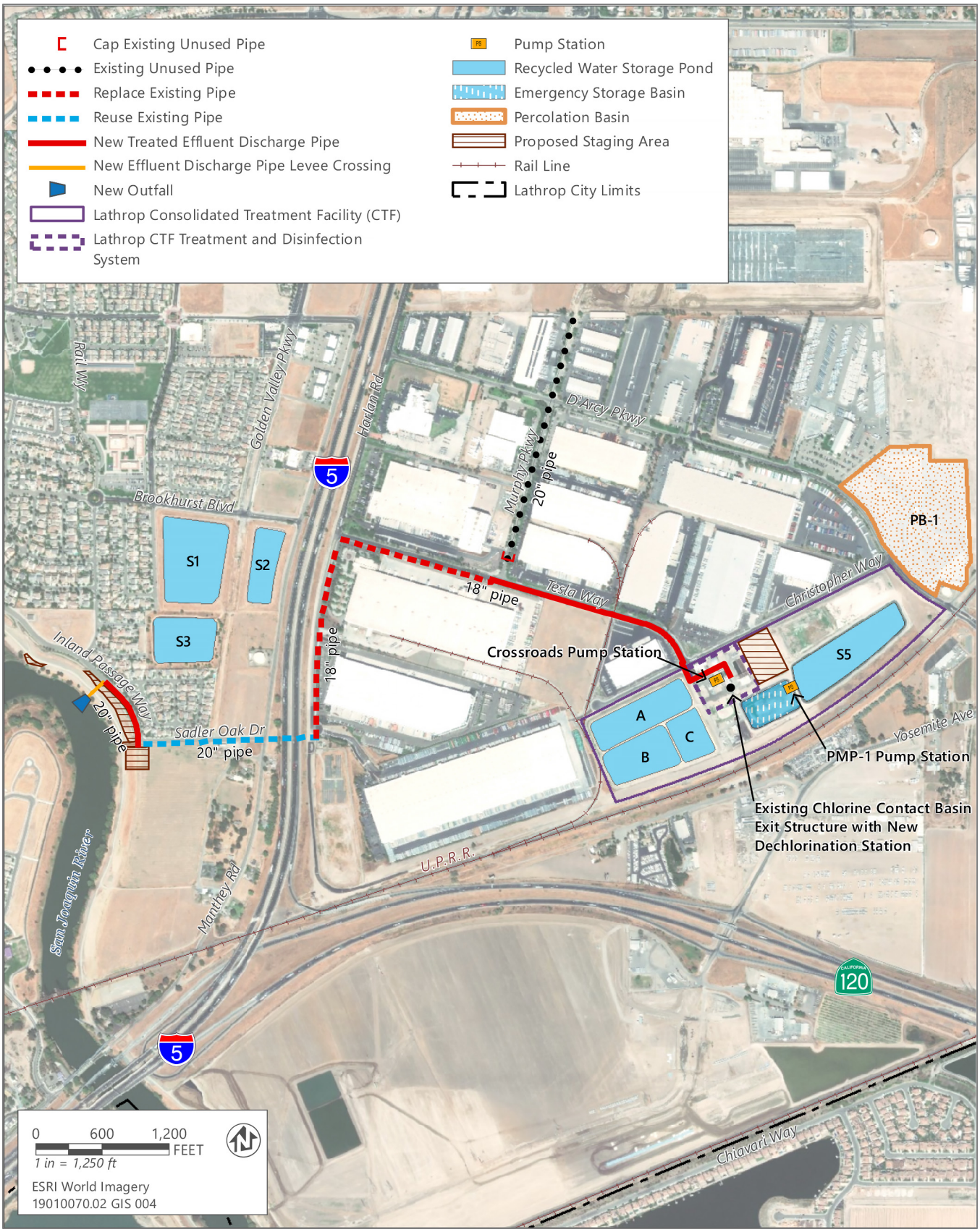
SEND COMMENTS TO:

Michael King, P.E., Director of Public Works
390 Towne Centre Drive
Lathrop, CA 95330
Email: mking@ci.lathrop.ca.us



Source: Prepared by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 1 **Project Location**



Source: Data received from EKI and adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2 **Project Site**