



CITY OF REDDING

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLANNING DIVISION

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Boulder Creek Interceptor Sewer Project State Clearinghouse No. _____

SUBJECT

Boulder Creek Interceptor Sewer Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Boulder Creek Interceptor Sewer Project (Project) is located in the City of Redding in Shasta County, California (Attachment A). The existing interceptor sewer alignment runs generally parallel to Boulder Creek, beginning approximately 1,600 feet west of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), north of Lake Boulevard, and west of State Route 273 (SR-273) and ending approximately 800 feet east of Churn Creek Road near the Boulder Creek Elementary School. The entire route is approximately 3.75 miles long. The pipeline passes through a variety of land uses, including open space within residential communities; seasonal commercial facilities; a decommissioned wastewater treatment plant; a school; and the Mountain Shadows, Redwoods, and Premier mobile home communities. Although much of the existing alignment is parallel to Boulder Creek, it crosses Boulder Creek in nine locations.

The existing interceptor does not have sufficient capacity to convey the current peak wet-weather flows and cannot accommodate any additional flow from future construction in the drainage basin. The City of Redding proposes to increase the capacity of the existing pipeline to accommodate existing and planned flows by increasing pipe size from between 6 and 27 inches to between 8 and 28 inches in diameter.

Preferred Project Alignment

For the most part, the proposed project will follow the alignment of the existing pipeline. The proposed pipeline will follow a new alignment in the following locations:

- To the west of Mountain Shadows Mobile Estates.
- To the north of Redwoods Mobile Home Park.
- To the north and east of WaterWorks Park.
- To the north and east of Redding RV Park.
- To the north and east of the decommissioned Buckeye Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- On both sides of Churn Creek Road.

In order to minimize the potential for construction-related noise and traffic impacts in residential areas, all construction along the existing pipeline alignment in the Mountain Shadows, Redwoods, and Premier communities would use trenchless techniques. Similarly, potential impacts to biological resources and Waters of the United States would be minimized through the use of trenchless construction methods in some locations where the existing alignment crosses Boulder Creek, its tributaries, or other drainages. Of the total 18 crossings of water features, 10 are along the existing pipeline alignment. Of these 10, 9 would be built using trenchless methods. The one open-trench crossing is necessary because the amount of cover between the creek bottom and the pipe is insufficient to accommodate trenchless construction. Of the approximately 20,000 feet of pipe, approximately 40 percent would be built using trenchless techniques, 40 percent would be open cut (i.e., construction along a new alignment), and the remaining 20 percent would be built using either technique (refer to the Initial Study checklist contained in Attachment B for more details on construction techniques).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area has an elevation range of approximately 510 to 660 feet and is within the Redding and Enterprise U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles. Average annual precipitation is 33 inches, most of which falls in the form of winter rains. The topography is generally flat, with a series of broad channels and terraces through which Boulder Creek, an intermittent drainage, flows generally to the southeast. Several tributary intermittent drainages flow into Boulder Creek in the project vicinity. Habitats along the proposed alignment are similar throughout the entire site, with the exception of the eastern portion of the alignment in the vicinity of the closed wastewater treatment plant and east of Churn Creek Road. In this area, the riparian corridor along Boulder Creek is denser than in the upstream reaches of the creek.

The project area is predominantly characterized by blue oak-foothill pine woodland with occurrences of annual grassland, buckbrush chaparral, and mixed riparian forest along sections of Boulder Creek, as well as scattered small wetland features, such as ephemeral drainages, intermittent drainages, seasonal wetlands, and freshwater marshes. Where the alignment follows Boulder Creek, the vegetation is primarily blue oak-foothill pine woodland on the benches and terraces above the creek. As the riparian corridor widens in places and more moisture is supplied by intermittent and ephemeral drainages feeding Boulder Creek, the mixed riparian forest is more developed. Annual grassland and buckbrush chaparral occur along the alignment on the edges of developed areas where the woodland or riparian corridor has been cleared.

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The City of Redding conducted an Initial Study (attached), which determined that the proposed project could have significant environmental effects. Subsequent revisions in the project proposal create the specific mitigation measures identified below. The project, as revised and as agreed to by the applicant, avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects identified, and the preparation of an environmental impact report will not be required. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the City, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. If there are substantial changes that alter the character or impacts of the proposed project, another environmental impact determination will be necessary.

The project includes measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts to population and housing, hydrology and water quality, air quality, biological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, and utilities and service systems to a less than significant level.

Prior to approval of the project, the lead agency may conclude, at a public hearing, that certain mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are infeasible or undesirable. In accordance with CEQA Section 15074.1, the lead agency may delete those mitigation measures and substitute other measures which it determines are equivalent or more effective. The lead agency would adopt written findings that the new measure is equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it, in itself, would not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

1. Based on the whole record (including the Initial Study and any supporting documentation) and the mitigation measures incorporated into the project, the City of Redding has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, with its supporting documentation, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, which is the City of Redding.

DOCUMENTATION

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above determination. A Mitigation and Monitoring Program has been developed (Attachment C) that summarizes the mitigation measures to be implemented and that ensure the effects from the project are reduced to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURES

II. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Mitigation Measure 1—General Plan Implementation

- A. Mitigation measures outlined in the General Plan EIR are being implemented by the City of Redding. Implementation of the General Plan Policies and Programs will ensure impacts are maintained at a level considered less than significant.

IV. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Mitigation Measure 1—Best Management Practices and Permit Compliance

- A. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented in accordance with the City's Grading Ordinance and the Erosion and Sediment Control Standards Design Manual (Redding Municipal Code Section 16.12.060, Subsections C, D, E). In practice, specific erosion-control measures are determined upon review of the final subdivision grading plan and are tailored to project-specific grading impacts.

- B. Prior to construction, the City will comply with the NPDES General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit. This will include preparation and submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Control Board in order to receive a Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) and the preparation of a project Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP will be prepared by the project contractor, who will incorporate sediment and erosion controls, such as silt fences and erosion-control blankets. Following the completion of construction activities, disturbed areas will be stabilized. With implementation of these standard measures for erosion control, the impact would be less than significant.
- C. All conditions outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit will be implemented. This permit provides measures to minimize impacts to riparian habitat and Waters of the United States, including implementation of a restoration plan to return all affected channels to preconstruction contour and conditions, including vegetative and soil characteristics, in accordance with USACE regulations.
- D. All conditions outlined in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401, *Water Quality Certification*, will be implemented. This permit will require that water quality is not degraded and that appropriate BMPs are used to prevent erosion and sedimentation.
- E. All conditions outlined in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be implemented. This notification is required for any work within a streambed. This permit will regulate activities potentially resulting in alteration of streambeds and banks or diversion of a stream's natural flow.

V. AIR QUALITY

Mitigation Measure 1—Fugitive Dust and PM₁₀ Emissions (Construction Phase)

- A. Nontoxic soil stabilizers shall be applied according to manufacturer's specification to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more).
- B. All grading operations shall be suspended when winds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 20 miles per hour.
- C. Temporary traffic control shall be provided as appropriate during all phases of construction to improve traffic flow (e.g., flag person).
- D. Construction activities that could affect traffic flow shall be scheduled in off-peak hours.
- E. Active construction areas, haul roads, etc., shall be watered at least twice daily or more as needed to limit dust.
- F. Exposed stockpiles of soil and other backfill material shall either be covered, watered, or have soil binders added to inhibit dust and wind erosion.

- G. All trucks hauling soil and other loose material shall be covered or should maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard (i.e., minimum vertical distance between top of the load and the trailer) in accordance with the requirements of CVC Section 23114.
- H. All public roadways used by the project contractor shall be maintained free from dust, dirt, and debris caused by construction activities. Streets shall be swept at the end of the day if visible soil materials are carried onto adjacent public paved roads.
- I. Alternatives to open burning of cleared vegetative material on the project site shall be used unless otherwise deemed infeasible by the City Engineer. Suitable alternatives include, but are not limited to, on-site chipping and mulching and/or hauling to a biomass fuel site.

VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure 1—Nesting Habitat for Special Status Bird Species and Common Raptors

- A. Conduct preconstruction surveys within 2 weeks of commencing construction that would occur during the nesting season (March—August) to determine the presence of nesting birds in the vicinity of project construction.
- B. If active nests are present, construction activity within 500 feet of the nest will cease and no project activity could occur within the buffer until a qualified biologist determines the activity would not result in nest failure. Additionally, if trees slated for removal are determined by a qualified biologist to be potential nesting trees, those trees may be removed during the non-nesting season, August 15 to March 1, or upon approval by a qualified biologist.

Mitigation Measure 2—Northwestern Pond Turtle

- A. If pond turtles are found at anytime during construction, they shall be relocated by a qualified biologist to upstream or adjacent aquatic habitat that would not be disturbed by construction activity.
- B. Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented for water quality during construction and site restoration plans following construction.

Mitigation Measure 3—Special Status Plant Species

- A. Focused botanical surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year when the target species would be in flower and therefore easiest to identify. For silky cryptantha and dubious pea, the best time of year would be April; for fox sedge, May and June; and for four-angled spikerush, the survey period would be May through September. If no special-status plants are found, no further mitigation shall be necessary.
- B. If special-status plants are documented and would be affected by project implementation, a mitigation plan will be prepared to ensure avoidance or treatment to reduce the project-related impact to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure 4—Riparian Habitat

- A. Due to the excavation activities that will occur in the bed and bank of Boulder Creek and several of its tributaries during construction of the proposed project, a Streambed Alteration Agreement shall be obtained from CDFG, a 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a 401 Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All measures to minimize impacts to riparian habitat as required by the permits shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure 5—Federally Protected Wetlands

- A. The project may result in impacts up to a total of 1.4047 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. within the 60-foot-wide construction corridor and areas required for access to the construction corridor. Of this total, it is anticipated that less than 0.02 acre would be permanently impacted. Prior to project implementation, the preliminary wetland delineation shall be submitted to the USACE for verification. Based on the verified delineation, the City of Redding shall determine the exact acreage of jurisdictional wetlands to be affected by project construction and implement the following measures to mitigate for the loss of jurisdictional wetlands:
 - I. Obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE prior to project implementation.
 - II. Obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to project implementation.
 - III. Develop and implement a restoration plan to return all affected channels to preconstruction contour and conditions, including vegetative and soil characteristics, in accordance with USACE regulations.

Mitigation Measure 6—Native Resident or Migratory Fish

- A. Implement Mitigation Measures 4 and 5 listed above and Mitigation Measure 1 (Best Management Practices and Permit Compliance) as described in Item IV, Hydrology and Water Quality. In addition, the proposed project will comply with all conditions identified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service in subsequent informal consultation with the USACE regarding the Section 404 Permit.

Mitigation Measure 7—Protected Trees

- A. The proposed project would minimize impacts on trees to the extent feasible. Prior to construction, all trees greater than 6 inches dbh to be removed will be marked and delineated on maps. The provisions of the City's Tree Ordinance will be adhered to as applicable. The contractor shall implement appropriate measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to protected trees.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Mitigation Measure 1—Asbestos Cement Pipe Demolition and Removal

- A. Removal of asbestos cement pipe shall comply with all applicable state and federal regulations, including those described in 29 CFR 1926 (OSHA Construction Standards) and California Regulation Title 8 Section 5208 (California Occupational Safety and Health Act). Bursting or reaming of asbestos cement pipe shall comply with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants), including, as applicable, Sections 61.145 (Removal of AC Pipe Fragments), 61.150 (Transport of Regulated ACM), 61.151 (Inactive Waste Disposal Sites), and 61.154 (Active Waste Disposal Sites).

Mitigation Measure 2—Fire Prevention

- A. The City’s Project Manager will consult with the Fire Marshal about the potential fire hazard associated with construction activities scheduled for that day prior to authorizing or suspending construction activities on Red Flag Warning days.
- B. Appropriate state and local laws shall be followed during project implementation. This shall include provisions for fire-suppression equipment (water tender and pump with hose lines) to be available at the job site when construction occurs during the fire season.
- C. All waste vegetation shall either be chipped and spread on-site for erosion control or hauled away for lawful disposal off-site. No piles of slash vegetation shall be kept during the fire season or remain following the completion of the proposed project.

X. NOISE

Mitigation Measure 1—Noise

- A. All construction activities shall comply with the City of Redding’s Noise Ordinance.

Mitigation Measure 2—Vibration

- A. The general contractor shall address the potential for vibration impacts to residences during construction activities by preparing a detailed monitoring and notification plan, subject to review and approval by the City Engineer. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following items:
 - I. **Public Notification.** The general contractor shall notify property owners and residents located within 100 feet of pipe-bursting and pile-installation activities at least 1 week prior to construction.
 - II. **Vibration Monitoring.** The general contractor shall perform vibration monitoring to establish the level produced by high-impact activities during construction. Monitoring should be conducted whenever a vibratory hammer is to be used within 50 feet of any building or whenever pipe bursting is done within 25 feet of any

building. Monitoring shall be conducted using a portable vibration monitoring instrument that provides a calibrated record of local ground movement/accelerations. If construction vibration exceeds 2.0 in./sec. during vibration monitoring, vibratory construction activities shall immediately stop and alternative work methods (such as reduced bursting pressure, use of a static bursting head, special shoring designs or relief trench, open trench construction, etc.) shall be used, if construction vibration cannot be maintained below 2.0 in./sec. The vibration monitors shall be set at specified locations prior to construction to establish baseline vibration levels. The monitoring protocol and all monitoring results shall be submitted to the City Building Official for review and approval.

- III. Prior to construction, the general contractor shall inspect and record by videotape all properties within 50 feet of vibratory-hammer or pipe-bursting activities to document the existing conditions. The inspection shall be done inside and outside of buildings, provided the necessary access is provided by building owners in a timely fashion. All existing cracks in walls, floors, driveways, and so forth shall be documented in sufficient detail so that a postconstruction comparison and determination of damage can be made.

XII. Utilities and Service Systems

Mitigation Measure 1—General Plan Implementation

- A. Mitigation measures outlined in the General Plan EIR are being implemented by the City of Redding. Implementation of the General Plan Policies and Programs will ensure that impacts are maintained at a level considered less than significant.

PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

Draft copies or notice of this Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

- State Clearinghouse
- California Native Plant Society
- Defenders of Wildlife
- California Public Utilities Commission
- Department of Fish and Game
- Caltrans
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Shasta County Sheriff's Office
- Shasta County Department of Resource Management
- Shasta County Public Works
- Shasta County Air Quality Management District
- Shasta County Historical Society
- Shasta County Public Health Department
- Shasta County Library
- Shasta County Clerk

- Butte Environmental Council
- City of Redding Fire Department
- City of Redding Police Department
- All property owners within 300 feet of the property boundary

PUBLIC MEETING

An open house public meeting will be held on September 5, 2007, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Community Room, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, California.

PUBLIC REVIEW

- (✓) Draft document referred for comments August 27, 2007.
- () No comments were received during the public review period.
- () Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration findings or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.
- () Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public review period. The letters and responses follow (see Response to Comments, attached).

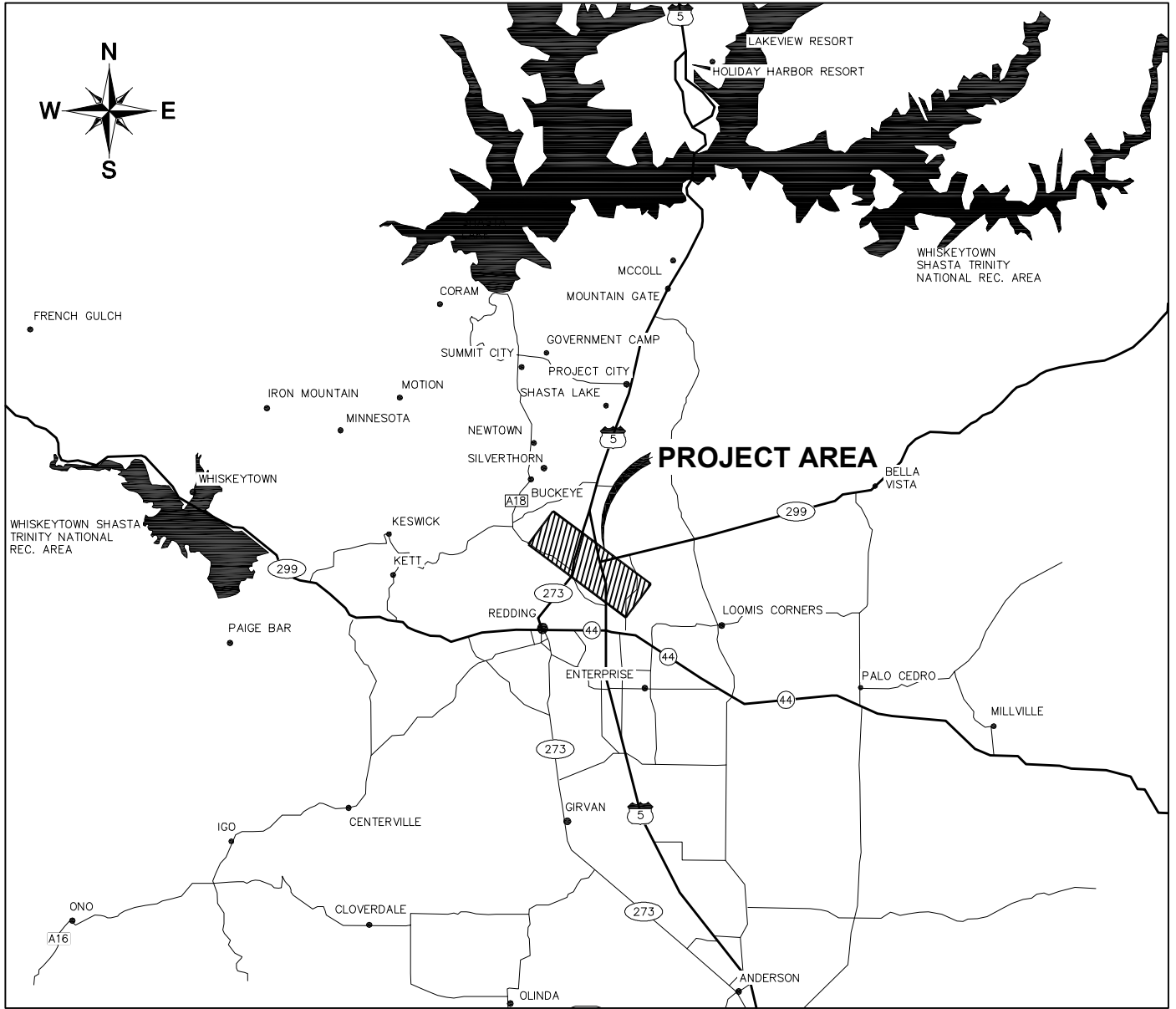
Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, documentation materials, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program may be obtained from the Transportation and Engineering Department, City of Redding, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. Contact Jonathan Oldham at 530-225-4046.

8/22/07
Date of Draft Report


Jonathan Oldham
Environmental Compliance Manager

Date of Final Report

- JO:amf
Attachments:
- A. Location map
 - B. Initial Study
 - C. Mitigation Monitoring Program
 - D. Comments and Response to Comments (if any)



**BOULDER CREEK
INTERCEPTOR SEWER
PROJECT AREA**

FIGURE 1

REGIONAL VICINITY MAP