

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

State Clearinghouse No. _____

SUBJECT

North Market Lift Station Upgrade and Force Main Replacement Project, by the City of Redding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Redding is proposing to upgrade the North Market sewage lift station and replace the aerial force main sewer pipeline crossing over the Sacramento River. The 2003 City of Redding Wastewater Utility Master Plan identified the North Market Lift Station as undersized and requiring expansion or replacement and the force main as being in need of replacement. The lift station is located next to the Sacramento River Trail on the north side of the river, downstream of the Market Street Bridge in central Redding. The sewer line is a suspended aerial crossing over the river, beginning at the lift station and extending over the river to the south bank where it goes underground.

The North Market Lift Station delivers flows collected at the Lake Redding Interceptor on the north side of the Sacramento River, across the river to a gravity sewer system for eventual treatment at the Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lift station is undersized for the current collection system which could result in surcharging upstream of the lift station during 10-year-storm events and some wet weather conditions. Surcharging of the lift station occurs because the lift station is not able to convey peak flows when necessary. In addition, flows are expected to increase over time, placing further demand on the facility. The force main sewer pipeline is approaching the end of its normal service life. Inspections of the force main pipeline indicate that there is some potential for failure. Replacing the pipeline will eliminate an overhead structure and any potential for sewage spills into the river. The lift station and associated force main pipeline were constructed about 50 years ago and significant improvements were completed in the 1980s.

The North Market Lift Station Upgrade and Force Main Replacement Project can be categorized into two different types of activities: (1) lift station upgrade and (2) force main replacement.

The existing lift-station building will either be demolished and a new building constructed or modified as necessary to accommodate the equipment upgrades. With either approach, construction will be contained within the existing lift station and storage/detention pond area. Various types of pumps, wet wells, valves, motors, piping, and other mechanical equipment will be replaced and/or upgraded as part of the project. The detention pond will be recontoured upon completion of the work. The existing paved maintenance road to the facility will be used for access. A staging and equipment

storage area may be needed within and adjacent to the parking lot next to the facility, but most of the construction area will be maintained within the fenced detention pond area.

Two new pipes will be installed to replace the existing 12-inch aerial sewer pipeline. The two new pipes, a 12-inch and a 14-inch pipeline, will be placed 20 feet apart below the riverbed using directional drilling techniques. The drill entry site will be located in a paved lot at the rodeo grounds on the south side of the river. The receiving pit will be located within the lift station detention pond on the north side of the river. Two 30- to 36-inch steel conductor casings will be pile-driven at an angle into the ground on the south side of the river. A drill rig will drill a pilot hole through the steel casing to the other side of the river, daylighting in the receiving pit. The new 1,100-foot-long sewer pipes will be assembled concurrently along Traveled Way and then pulled back through their respective drilled holes to the south side of the river. The new sewer pipes will be placed approximately 65 to 95 feet below the riverbed. Alluvial soils are thought to be approximately 25 to 35 feet deep below the riverbed. Beneath the alluvium is Chico Formation material, consisting of a shallow clay layer on top of shale and claystone. Approximately 50 feet south of the receiving pit, two 6-inch vertical holes will be drilled to a depth just above the horizontally drilled hole. The holes will serve as pressure-relief vents for the drilling fluids as the horizontal hole is brought to the surface through the shallow, unconsolidated alluvial soil layers. The drilling fluids will be contained and removed from the site in trucks.

The Sacramento River Trail is located in the immediate area and will be kept open during most of the construction time period. It may be closed for 1 or 2 days during installation of the pipelines under the river. A temporary detour may be established depending on time of day and duration of the closure. If a trail detour is needed, the trail will be relocated to an area outside the vegetated riparian corridor along the river that does not support sensitive environmental resources and in such a manner that has the least amount of adverse effects on the environment.

CONSERVATION MEASURES

The following conservation measures will be implemented as part of the construction phase to address potential environmental concerns.

Conservation Measure 1 – Special-Status Fish Species

The City shall implement the following conservation measures to protect sensitive fish species in the Sacramento River during construction:

- BMPs will be utilized to prevent erosion and sediment loss within the work area. BMPs such as silt fence, straw bales, and straw wattles will be placed where needed to prevent sediment loss to adjacent Jurisdictional Waters of the United States.
- Hazardous materials, including fuels, oils, cement, and solvents, will be placed or contained in an area protected from direct runoff. Areas for fuel storage and servicing will be located away from the river where spills will not enter the water.

- Construction equipment will be inspected daily for leaks. Leaking fluids will be contained upon detection and equipment repairs made as soon as practicable or moved off-site.
- Secondary containment, such as a drain pan or dropcloth, shall be used to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- Absorbent materials shall be used on small spills, rather than hosing down or burying the spill. The absorbent material shall be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
- A Surface Spill and Frac-out Contingency Plan will be developed prior to construction and will be implemented immediately upon discovery of a frac-out. This plan will include, but not be limited to, the following measures: cessation of drilling operations upon discovery of a frac-out; implementation of measures to relieve pressure on the bore stem; close monitoring of drilling operations and vertical pressure-relief vents; containment and clean up of releases when and where feasible upon detection; and storage of containment materials and equipment on-site at all times.
- All conditions as required by permitting agencies and the National Marine Fisheries Service will be implemented.
- Disturbed soil areas outside the detention basin will be hydroseeded/mulched to stabilize soils upon completion of construction. Seed mixes used will contain native species and other non-invasive species designed to stabilize soils as well as allow native species to establish as desired.

Conservation Measure 2 – Prevention of Accidental Spills

Construction specifications shall include the following measures to reduce potential adverse effects associated with accidental spills of pollutants (i.e., fuel, oil, grease, etc.) in vegetation and aquatic habitat resources within the project study area:

- A spill-prevention plan shall be implemented for potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall include the proper handling and storage of all potentially hazardous materials, as well as the proper procedures for cleaning up and reporting of any spills. If necessary, containment berms shall be constructed to prevent spilled materials from reaching surface water features.
- Equipment and materials shall be stored away from surface water features.

Vehicles and equipment used during construction shall receive proper and timely maintenance to reduce the potential for mechanical breakdowns leading to a spill of materials into a surface water feature. Maintenance and fueling shall be conducted in an area at least 150 feet away from the Sacramento River.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The aerial sewer line is located downstream of the Market Street Bridge, adjacent to the rodeo grounds boat ramp, while the lift station is located next to the Sacramento River Trail on the north side of the river directly north of the boat ramp, all in the City of Redding, Shasta County, California. Adjacent uses include the Redding Memorial Park Cemetery on the bluff above the southern bank, the Redding Rodeo Grounds, the Turtle Bay Arboretum and Museum, River Park Trail with associated restroom facility and parking lot, and the Riverside Mobile Park. The project is located in Section 25, Township 32 North, Range 5 West, Redding USGS 7 ½ quadrangle topographic map.

The project site is located on the upper Sacramento River, which drains 6,500 square miles. The Sacramento River is the only jurisdictional feature within the project site. Shasta and Keswick Dams control the river's hydrology at this location, with 100-year-flood releases around 79,000 cubic feet per second. The river is about 390 feet wide at the project site.

Tributaries located upstream of the project include Rock Creek, Middle Creek, and Jenny Creek, although none of these tributaries contribute enough flow to significantly affect the project. The Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) diversion dam is located upstream and influences water surface elevations in the river depending on the time of year.

There are four vegetation types in the project area and include valley foothill riparian, annual grassland, riverine, and urban/landscaped.

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The City of Redding conducted an Initial Study (attached), which determined that the proposed project would not have any significant environmental effects. The project addresses potential less-than-significant environmental effects to biological resources and from hazards and hazardous materials through the incorporation of conservation measures. 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 may have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, no project-specific mitigation is required. If there are substantial changes that alter the character of the proposed project, another environmental impact determination will be necessary.

Based on the whole record (including the Initial Study and any supporting documentation) the City of Redding has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

The 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.

PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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

- State Clearinghouse
- California Native Plant Society
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Department of Fish and Game
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Shasta County Department of Resource Management
- Shasta County Air Quality Management District
- Shasta County Historical Society
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Shasta County Clerk
- Butte Environmental Council
- City of Redding Fire Department
- All property owners within 300 feet of the property boundary
- State Lands Commission
- Bureau of Reclamation
- State Reclamation Board
- State Boating and Waterways

PUBLIC MEETING

The City will not be conducting a public meeting for this project. The decision to adopt the Negative Declaration will occur at a City Council meeting on June 20, 2006.

PUBLIC REVIEW

- (●) Draft document referred for comments May 12, 2006.
- () No comments were received during the public review period.
- () Comments were received but did not address the draft 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 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 Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, and supporting technical studies and

