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2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
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RECEIPT NUMBER:
 47-09/10/2025-046
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY CITY OF MT SHASTA	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 09/10/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SISKIYOU COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2025-47-046	

PROJECT TITLE

 CITY OF MT. SHASTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME CITY OF MT. SHASTA	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 305 N MT. SHASTA BLVD.	CITY MT. SHASTA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 96067

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency School District Other Special District State Agency Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,123.50 \$ _____
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,968.75 \$ _____
- Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,401.75 \$ _____
- Exempt from fee
 - Notice of Exemption (attach)
 - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
- County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____ 50.00
- Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash Credit Check Other **TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ 50.00**

SIGNATURE X ENDORSED-W. WINNINGHAM	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Wendy Winningham Deputy Clerk
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Revised Notice of Exemption

<p>TO:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Siskiyou County Clerk 311 Fourth St., Room 201 Yreka, CA 96097</p>	<p>FROM:</p> <p>City of Mt. Shasta 305 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd. Mt. Shasta, CA 96067</p>
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Project Title: City of Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019058145

Project Location: The majority of the proposed improvements are located within the City of Mt. Shasta City limits in Sections 15, 16, and 21 of Township 40 North, Range 4 West of the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle. Tank 2 and the Cold Spring Supply Line are located just outside of the City limits to east in Section 15 of Township 40 North, Range 4 West of the USGS City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle. As shown in **Figure 1**, project elements would be completed in several general areas of the City’s existing water system. All work would occur within public road rights-of-way (ROWs), public utility easements, and/or City-owned property.

City: Mt. Shasta	County: Siskiyou
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Project Description, Purpose, and Beneficiaries:

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging infrastructure, improve fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable potable water supply for customers in the City’s water service area. The original improvements include the following (see **Figures 2** through **4**):

Orem Street Area

An inoperable Pressure Regulating Valve (PRV) station on North Washington Street would be removed. A new ~36-square-foot PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault adjacent to North B Street. The depth of the vault would be ~4.5 feet. The water main within the public road ROW of North B Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated plumbing within the vault. Curb, gutter, and sidewalk will be installed between the road ROW and the PRV station.

Approximately 7,000 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized within the public road ROWs of North A Street, North B Street, North C Street, North Washington Drive, South Washington Drive, Russell Street, Orem Street, McCloud Avenue, and Ackley Avenue. About 130 water services would be replaced. About 14 new fire hydrants would be installed. Old steel water mains would be abandoned in place. All improvements would occur in previously disturbed areas within public road ROWs and/or public utility easements. The pipelines would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet.

Pine Street Area

A duplex PRV station on West Lake Street, just east of Pine Street, would be abandoned in place. A ~36-square-foot replacement PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault adjacent to the existing PRV station on City-owned property. The depth of the vault would be ~4 feet. The top of the vault would be ~6 inches above grade. The water main within the public road ROW of West Lake Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated plumbing within the vault. An additional PRV station would be installed in a subsurface concrete vault within the public road ROW of West Alma Street, just south of the railroad. Although the new PRV station has not yet been designed, it is not expected to be larger than 53 square feet; the depth of the subsurface concrete vault would be ~4.5 feet. The top of the vault would be flush with the sidewalk. The water main within the public road ROW of West Alma Street would be extended to the vault using open-cut trenching and would connect to pressure-reducing valves and associated

plumbing within the vault.

Approximately 11,000 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized within the public road ROWs of North Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Pine Street, Cedar Street, Spring Street, West Alma Street, West Jessie Street, West Ivy Street, West Field Street, and West Lake Street. About 100 water services would be replaced. About 19 new fire hydrants would be installed. Dead-end lines would be looped by installing short segments of new water main at two locations: the intersection of West Lake Street and Morgan Way, and on West Castle Street southwest of North Mt. Shasta Boulevard. All work would occur in previously disturbed areas within public road ROWs and/or public utility easements. The majority of the pipeline would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet. At locations where open-cut trenching is not feasible (e.g., at the railroad, culverts, and storm drains), the new pipe would be installed using a trenchless technique such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or bore and jack.

Oak Street Area

Approximately 2,000 feet of water main would be replaced/upsized within the public road ROWs of Holly Street, South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Oak Street, Court Street, and in an alley southwest of South Mt. Shasta Boulevard between Old McCloud Road and a point ~160 feet southeast of Holly Street. About 20 water services would be replaced. About 14 water services would be rerouted on private property. About 3 new fire hydrants would be installed. Old steel water mains would be abandoned in place. The pipelines would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet. One exception is a water service on South Mt. Shasta Boulevard that would be extended on private property. In order to avoid damage to an existing rock wall and mature trees along the road frontage, the line would be installed between the existing water service at the rear corner of the property and the sidewalk on South Mt. Shasta Boulevard using a trenchless method.

Sheldon Avenue Area

Approximately 1,000 feet of water main would be replaced within a public utility easement (alleyway) between Sheldon Avenue and Old McCloud Road, east of South Mt. Shasta Boulevard and west of South Washington Drive. The alleyway consists of pavement and compacted gravel, and no trees or other vegetation would be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements. The pipeline in the Sheldon Avenue area would be installed using open-cut trenching, with a maximum excavation depth of 4 feet; trench width would be a maximum of 3 feet.

The following improvements are proposed in addition to the original proposed improvements as part of this project (see **Figure 5** and **6** [Revised 2025 Improvements Site Plan]):

McCloud Avenue Area

About 26 water services would be replaced between the existing water meters and existing 12-inch water main within the public road ROW of McCloud Avenue, between North Adams Drive and Jefferson Drive, east of Washington Drive.

Cold Spring Supply Line

As shown in **Figure 6**, approximately ~1,150 feet of existing water supply line along the existing access road east of Tank 2 would be replaced. Approximately ~1,950 feet of new water supply line would be installed within an existing access road from McCloud Avenue south to connect to the newly replaced water supply line. The remainder of the existing water supply line would be abandoned in place.

Water Tank Replacement

The existing 505,000-gallon water storage tank (Tank 2) located generally east of Old McCloud Road and south of McCloud Avenue would be demolished and would be replaced in place with a new tank of the same size and capacity as the existing tank. Lead abatement would be performed to ensure elimination of lead-based paint hazards. The existing underground piping would also be replaced.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Mt. Shasta

Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: City of Mt. Shasta

Local Agency Contact Person: Todd Juhasz, City Manager
530.926.7526
tjuhasz@mtshastaca.gov

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):

Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities)

Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)


Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)

Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

The Class 1 exemption covers the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Class 2 exemption covers replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The Class 4 exemption covers minor trenching and backfilling on land with a slope of less than ten percent where the surface is restored.

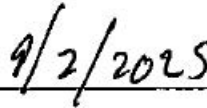
The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of repair, maintenance, and minor alterations to existing facilities; negligible expansion of capacity or use would occur; the majority of improvements would be replaced in previously disturbed areas within the public road ROW and in public utility easements; the water tank would be replaced in the existing location on City-owned property; and the ground surface would be restored following construction. As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature:



Todd Juhasz
City Manager, City of Mt. Shasta

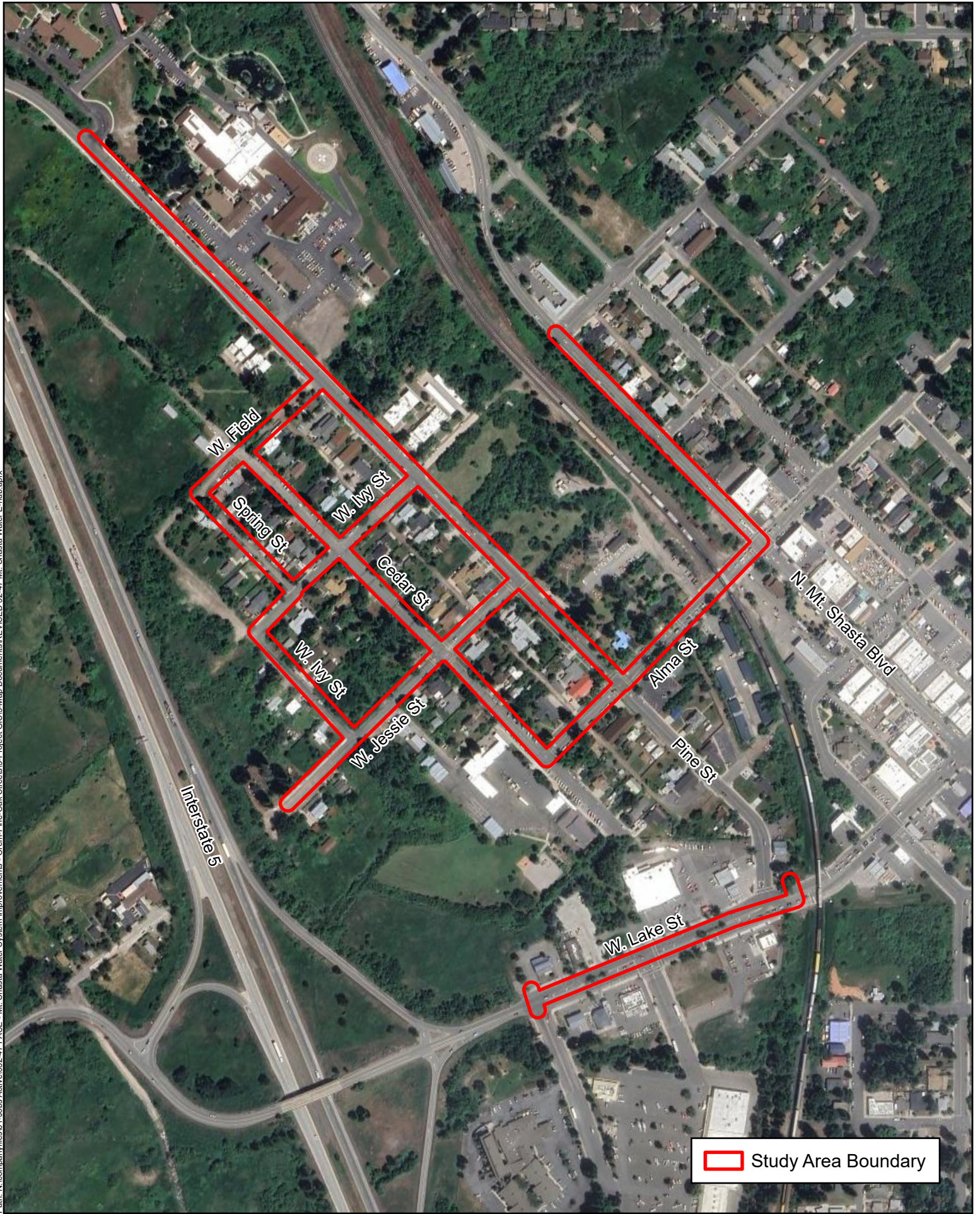
Date:



9/2/2025

Attachments:

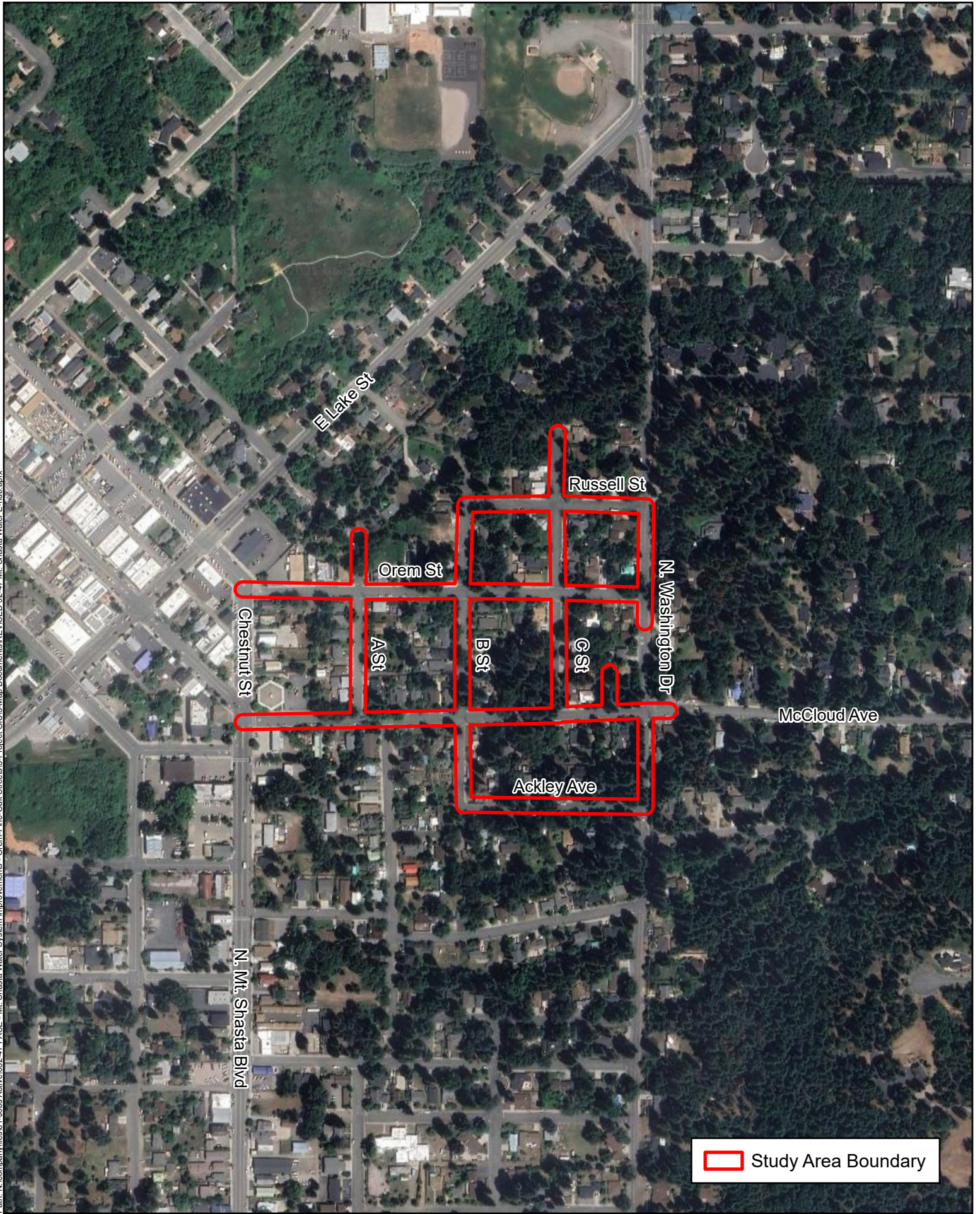
- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity
- Figure 2: Pine Street Area
- Figure 3: Orem Street Area
- Figure 4: Sheldon Avenue, Oak Street, & Staging Areas
- Figure 5: McCloud Avenue, Cold Spring Supply Line, & Tank 2 Areas
- Figure 6: Revised 2025 Improvements Site Plan
- Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption



All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 08.27.25



Figure 2
Pine Street Area



All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 08.21.25



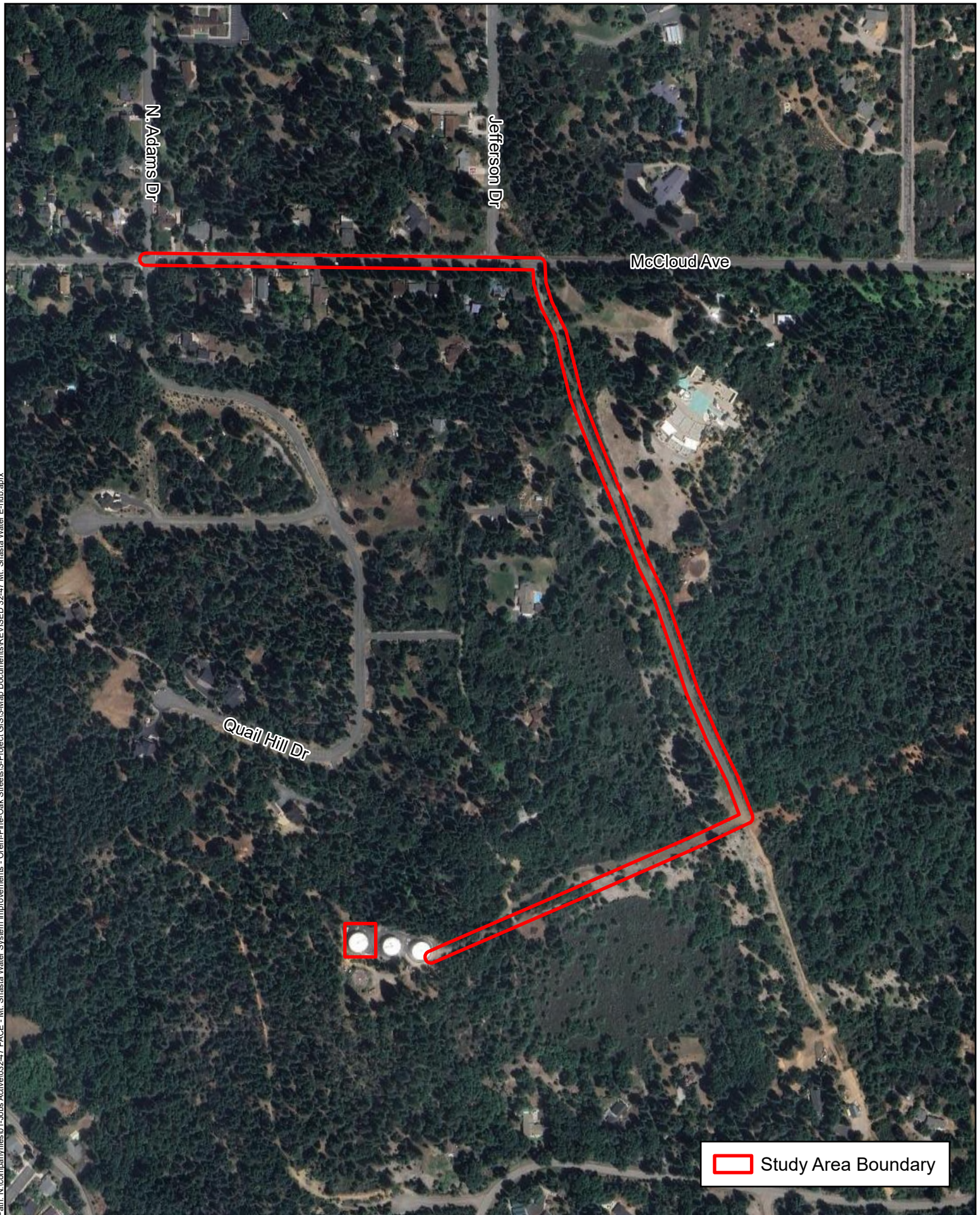
Figure 3
Orem Street Area



Figure 4

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 08.21.25

Path: N:\companyfiles\01_Jobs\Active\032-47_PACE - Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements - Orem-Pine-Oak Streets\3-Map Documents\REVISED 32-47 Mt. Shasta Water E-hub.aprx



 Study Area Boundary

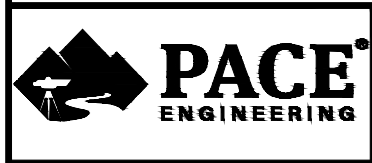
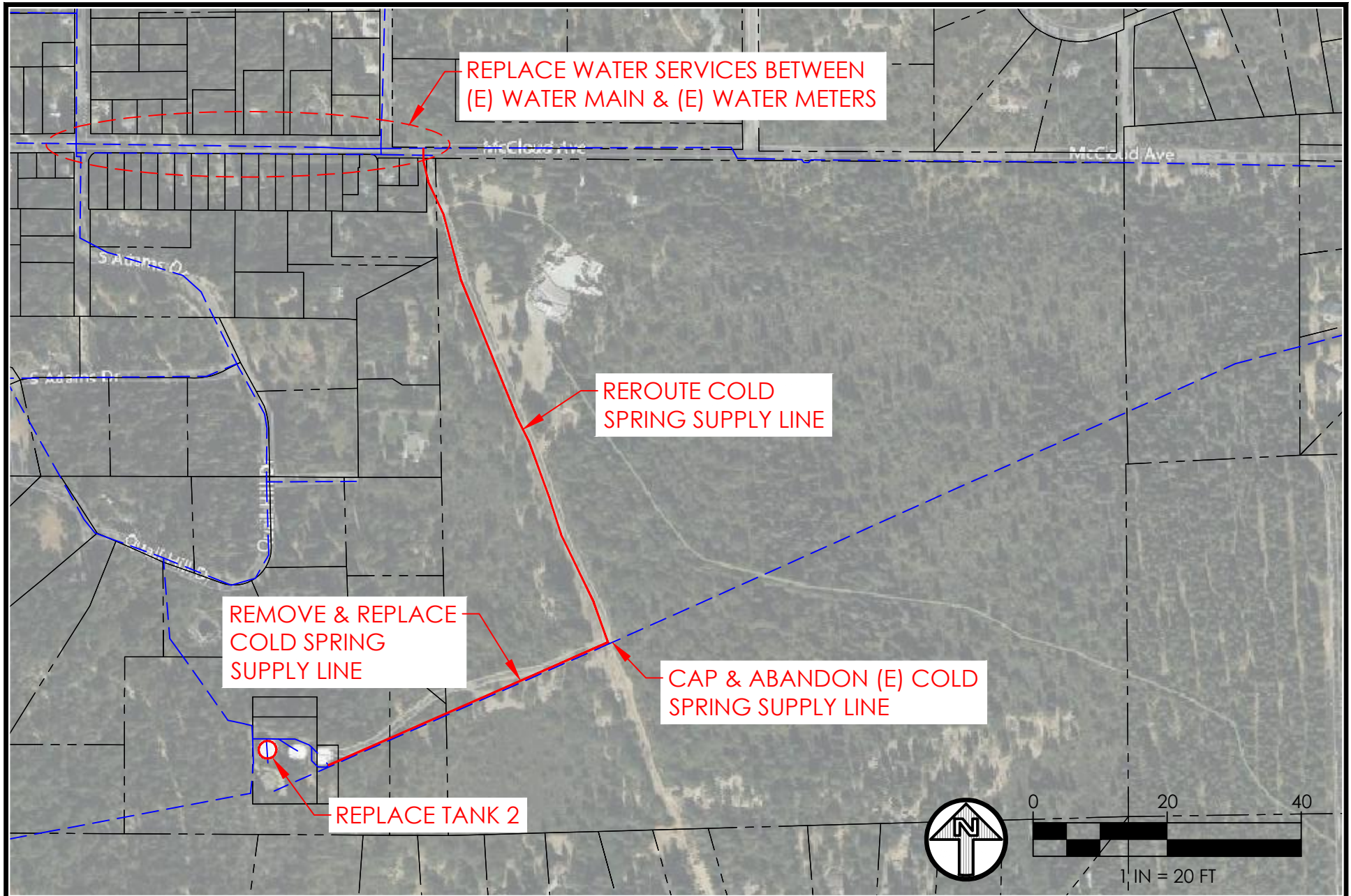
All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 08.21.25



Figure 5

McCloud Avenue, Cold Spring Supply Line, & Tank 2 Areas





CITY OF MT SHASTA
 WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
 REVISED 2025 IMPROVEMENTS SITE PLAN

FIGURE 6
 DATE: 8/25
 JOB #111.102

ATTACHMENT A
Documentation for Categorical Exemption
Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1-Existing Facilities); §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction); and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Location. *Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The proposed project is supported in part by a Class 4 exemption. As documented below, no evidence has been found to suggest that the project location is particularly sensitive. Likewise, the project is not expected to affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Class 4 exemption is applicable to the proposed project.

2. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves improvements to the City's water system that are required in order to replace aging infrastructure, improve fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the community. Although the City is also completing a project for sewer collection system improvements, water system improvements, and stormwater improvements in some of the same areas as the water system improvements, impacts for both projects would be temporary and cease at completion of the project. In addition, the project represents a negligible increase in capacity. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

3. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

The proposed water lines and subsurface PRV stations do not include construction of any above-ground structures. Although the new PRV station vault on West Lake Street would be ~6 inches above grade, this would not be a noticeable feature. The water meters would be replaced in place for existing customers. The proposed water tank would be replaced in the same location and would be the same size as the existing tank. Although vegetation clearing may occur to accommodate the proposed improvements, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed, and the ground surface would be restored following installation of the improvements.

Additionally, the project site is not in an area of unique scenic vistas, and temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements. No unusual circumstances apply, and no significant impacts would occur.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the majority of proposed improvements are not within areas designated as prime, unique, or important farmland. A portion of the existing and proposed new

route of the Cold Spring supply line is designated as farmland of local importance; however, the property is not used for agricultural use, and the water line would be subsurface within an existing access road (DOC, 2020). Improvements within City limits would occur in an urban area within the public road ROW and in public utility easements. Although the tank site is zoned as Rural Residential Agricultural, there are no forest resources or properties in agricultural use in or adjacent to the water tank site. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions/Energy:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants, and GHG emissions during construction. ROG, NO_x, and GHG emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ and GHG emissions would be generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. Due to the limited scope of the project and temporary nature of the work, impacts during construction would be minimal.

The project does not include any components that would be considered a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality, GHG emissions, or energy that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Special-Status Species:

The evaluation of potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats was based on a records search and field observations.

Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) records for special-status species and natural communities; California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records for special-status plants in the USGS City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and candidate special-status species, and designated critical habitat for special-status species under jurisdiction of the USFWS; USFWS records for Birds of Conservation Concern; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) records for federally listed fish species, critical habitat, and essential fish habitat (EFH) under the jurisdiction of NMFS; and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps. The CNDDDB records search covered an approximate five-mile radius around the study area.

Special-Status Plants

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area did not identify any federally listed plant species as potentially occurring in the project vicinity. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species (USFWS, 2025).

Review of CNDDDB records showed that seven special-status plant species have been broadly mapped within the project area: broad-nerved hump moss (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 2B.2), marsh skullcap (CRPR 2B.2), northern adder's tongue (CRPR 2B.2), Siskiyou clover (CRPR 1B.1), subalpine aster (CRPR 2B.3), woodnymph (CRPR 2B.2), and woolly balsamroot (CRPR 1B.2). The following special-status plant species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: Aleppo avens (CRPR 2B.2), Gasquet rose (CRPR 1B.3), Klamath fawn lily (CRPR 2B.2), Oregon fireweed (CRPR 1B.2), pallid bird's-beak (CRPR 1B.2), rattlesnake fern (CRPR 1B.2), rosy orthocarpus (CRPR 2B.1), Shasta chaenactis (CRPR 1B.3), Waldo daisy (CRPR 2B.3), and Wilkin's harebell (CRPR 1B.2). Four non-status plant species were reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: Baker's globe mallow (CRPR 4.2), Pacific fuzzwort (CRPR 4.3), thread-leaved beardtongue (CRPR 4.2), and three-ranked hump moss (CRPR 4.2) (CDFW, 2025).

CNPS records did not identify additional special-status plant species reported in the USGS City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle. Six additional non-status plant species were reported in the USGS City of

Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle: California lady's slipper (CRPR 4.2), California pitcherplant (CRPR 4.2), clustered lady's slipper (CRPR 4.2), marsh claytonia (CRPR 4.3), rough harebell (CRPR 4.3), and slender cottongrass (CRPR 4.3) (CNPS, 2025).

Special-Status Wildlife

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified the following federally listed wildlife species as potentially being affected by the proposed project: California condor (Experimental Population; Non-Essential [EPNE], Federally Endangered [FE], State Endangered [SE]), conservancy fairy shrimp (FE), Franklin's bumble bee (FE, State Candidate Endangered [SCE]), gray wolf (FE, SE), monarch butterfly (Federally Proposed Threatened [FPT]), north American wolverine (Federally Threatened [FT], State Threatened [ST]), northern spotted owl (FT, ST), northwestern pond turtle (FPT), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (Federally Proposed Endangered [FPE], SCE) vernal pool fairy shrimp (FT), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (FE), and yellow-billed cuckoo (FT, SE). The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study areas for any federally listed wildlife species (USFWS, 2025).

CNDDDB records showed that six special-status wildlife species have been broadly mapped as potentially occurring within the study area: Cascades frog (SCE, State Species of Special Concern [SSSC]), fisher (SSSC), spotted bat (SSSC), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (FPE, SCE), western bumble bee (SCE), and western yellow-billed cuckoo (FT, SE). The following special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: American goshawk (SSSC), bald eagle (Federally Delisted, SE, State Fully Protected [SFP]), bank swallow (ST), black swift (SSSC), foothill yellow-legged frog (SSSC), Franklin's bumble bee (FE, SCE), Sierra Nevada red fox (ST), western mastiff bat (SSSC), and yellow rail (SSSC). The following non-status wildlife species also have been mapped within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: American peregrine falcon (Federally Delisted, State Delisted), great blue heron, long-eared myotis, Natural Bridge megomphix, North American porcupine, obscure bumble bee, osprey (State Watch List), Pacific marten, and silver-haired bat (CDFW, 2025).

Field evaluations of the Pine Street, Orem Street, Sheldon Avenue, Oak Street, and staging areas were completed by an ENPLAN biologist on October 7 and 25, 2018. A field evaluation of the McCloud Avenue area was completed on March 28, 2017, in conjunction with another project. A field evaluation of the new Cold Spring Supply Line route and Tank 2 site was completed on July 12, 2017, in conjunction with another project. Some of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted, determination of their potential presence was readily determined on the basis of observed habitat characteristics. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed during the surveys or are expected to be present.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being affected by the proposed project: California gull, Cassin's finch, chestnut-backed chickadee, Clark's grebe, evening grosbeak, oak titmouse, olive-sided flycatcher, rufous hummingbird, western grebe, western screech-owl, and wren. The bald eagle and golden eagle are not listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, but the USFWS noted that they are birds that warrant attention because they are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (USFWS, 2025). Construction activities are not expected to directly affect nesting migratory birds because nearly all work would be completed in surfaced roadways and no trees would be removed. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels, are likewise not expected given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances.

Natural Communities

The project area has been heavily disturbed in the past and is currently developed with roads, residential properties, and related infrastructure. Vegetation in and near the project area consists primarily of planted horticultural species, lawn/turf, and introduced weeds. A portion of water main will be installed within an undeveloped public utility easement; however, this area has been previously disturbed and no tree removal would occur.

CNDDDB records identified one sensitive natural community, a fen, on the west side of Interstate 5, approximately ~0.1 miles from the nearest project improvements (CDFW, 2025). Due to the distance and intervening roads and infrastructure, there would be no impact to the fen. No wetlands, streams, other waters of the State or U.S., or sensitive natural communities are present on or adjacent to the project site. There are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, natural communities, wetlands, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone to the project site is the Cedar Mountain Fault Zone, approximately 24 miles to the northeast (DOC, n.d.). The California Geological Survey identifies two potentially active unnamed faults northeast of the project area. One is a north-south trending fault running through the top of Mount Shasta; the other is an east-west trending fault that runs from the top of Mount Shasta to a point north of Black Butte (DOC, 2022). However, this is not unique to the proposed project.

Soils on the project sites are mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service as Asta gravelly sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes; Deetz gravelly loamy sand, 5 to 15 percent slopes; Diyoun loam, peat substratum; and Ponto-Neer complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes (USDA, n.d.). These soil types are found throughout the Mt. Shasta area and are not unique to the project sites. There are no unusual circumstances related to geology and soils that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects in the area.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to streams, watercourses, and aquatic habitats.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06093C3025D, effective January 19, 2011), the proposed improvements are not located within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain (FEMA, n.d.). The project does not include any components that would impede or redirect flood flows or otherwise adversely affect the natural value and functions of the floodplain.

Land Use and Planning:

The proposed project would not conflict with the City's General Plan, applicable Municipal Code regulations, or the City's standard construction measures and does not include any components that would physically divide an established community.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the project sites (DOC, n.d.). In addition, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned for mining activities.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area; however, this is a temporary impact that would cease at completion of the project. There is no operational noise that would be associated with the project. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the project is to replace aging infrastructure, improve fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the community. Because the project would not significantly increase capacity in the City's water distribution system, the project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan. There are no unusual circumstances associated with population or housing that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Public Services/Recreation:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services.

Transportation/Traffic:

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic or vehicle miles traveled. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Further, this is a temporary impact and would cease upon completion of the improvements. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the transportation system due to unusual circumstances.

Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan, the project would not generate unanticipated demand for power, natural gas, telecommunications facilities, stormwater drainage, wastewater treatment, or other utilities and services. There are no unusual circumstances associated with utilities or service systems that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Wildfire:

The majority of proposed improvements would occur in surfaced roadways in urbanized areas. The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

4. Scenic Highways. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area; therefore, there would be no impact (Caltrans, 2023).

5. Hazardous Waste Sites. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- SWRCB GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The records search revealed that project improvements are not located on hazardous waste sites (CalEPA, 2025). The GeoTracker database identified one open but inactive clean-up site adjacent to proposed improvements on North Mt. Shasta Boulevard:

Red-Dye Fuel Release of Unknown Origin

The "Red-Dye Fuel Release of Unknown Origin" clean-up site is located immediately northeast of proposed water main improvements within North Mt. Shasta Boulevard. According to Central Valley Regional Water Quality

Control Board (CVRWQCB) records, on September 25, 2018, City Public Works staff discovered dyed red fuel in groundwater while replacing a water meter in the City ROW located in the alley east of North Mt. Shasta Boulevard.

On November 19, 2018, the CVRWQCB sent a letter to the City and nearby property owner requesting completion of a work plan for a preliminary site investigation that would assess the soil and groundwater in the vicinity of the encountered diesel release. No work plans were submitted; however, in November 2019, the City removed obviously contaminated soil, removed remaining water from the excavation, collected a grab groundwater sample, placed hydrocarbon-absorbing material into the excavation, and filled the excavation with clean fill. The groundwater sample had small blebs of fuel, and the City's contractor found that highly contaminated groundwater remained on-site.

In January 2020, CVRWQCB staff observed groundwater flowing along the southern margin of the structure at 622 N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard, entering a drainage inlet, and discharging to the ditch/stream adjacent to the railroad tracks. The volume of water suggests that it may be discharging from the alley drain line, which intercepts groundwater migrating from upgradient areas to the east. Further investigation by the CVRWQCB to determine the source of contamination and to determine the potentially responsible parties will take place. No further action has been posted on the GeoTracker database since January 2020, and the site has been marked as "open – inactive" on the GeoTracker database since November 30, 2020 (SWRCB, n.d.).

As noted above, it appears the source of the contamination may be from a drain line in the alley between N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard and Chestnut Street, and groundwater appears to be flowing south/southeast to a drainage inlet and discharging to the ditch/stream adjacent to the railroad tracks. No work is proposed in these areas, and it is not expected that contamination from this clean-up site will be encountered during installation of the proposed improvements. In the event that contaminated soil or groundwater are encountered, the City would be responsible for the proper handling and disposal of the contaminated material in accordance with State and local requirements.

6. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

A Cultural Resources Inventory Report (CRI) was completed by ENPLAN in April of 2019 and included only the original project areas within the City limits. The McCloud Avenue area improvements were evaluated in a previous CRI completed by ENPLAN in March of 2018 for the Mt. Shasta Downtown Collection System Improvements Project. The Cold Spring supply line area and Tank 2 site were evaluated in a previous CRI completed by ENPLAN in July of 2018 for the City of Mt. Shasta Tank 1 and Roseburg Water System Improvements Project.

The studies included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation for each project. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, and California Points of Historic Interest, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the directory of properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Siskiyou County, and the Siskiyou County Museum/Historical Society.

CRI for the City of Mt. Shasta Water System Improvements

A records search was conducted at the NEIC/CHRIS on April 26, 2018, and covered a half-mile radius around the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). No previously recorded sites are within the project's APE. Archaeological fieldwork took place on July 18, 2017, and June 7, 2018, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. Several historic-era residences, a historic-era school, Union Pacific Railroad, the City's existing water distribution system, and a historic district were identified in the project vicinity.

The NAHC conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File that did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. No tribes indicated any concerns with the proposed project.

Although several historic-era resources were noted within the project vicinity during the evaluation, the CRI concludes that the improvements would have no effect on a historical resource.

CRI for the Mt. Shasta Downtown Collection System Improvements Project

A records search was conducted at the NEIC/CHRIS on March 22, 2017, and covered a half-mile radius around the project's APE. One previously recorded site is located within the current project's APE. Archaeological fieldwork took place on July 18, 2017, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. Five historic-era residences, a historic-era school, a historic district, and the City's existing sewer system were identified in the project vicinity. A good faith effort was made to locate the previously recorded site identified during the records search; however, due to the level of development in the area, the site was unable to be located.

The NAHC conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File that did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. No tribes indicated any concerns with the proposed project.

Although several historic-era resources were noted within the project vicinity during the evaluation, the CRI concludes that the improvements would have no effect on a historical resource.

CRI for the City of Mt. Shasta Tank 1 and Roseburg Water System Improvements

A records search was conducted at the NEIC/CHRIS on June 12, 2017, and covered a half-mile radius around the project's APE. Two previously recorded sites are located within the current project's APE. Archaeological fieldwork took place on July 12 and 18, 2017, and June 7, 2018, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. Five historic structures, one of which was Tank 2, and one of the previously recorded sites were identified in the project vicinity. A good faith effort was made to locate one of previously recorded sites identified during the records search; however, due to the level of development in the area, the site was unable to be located.

The NAHC conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File that did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. No tribes indicated any concerns with the proposed project.

The CRI concluded that Tank 2 was not eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR. Although several other historic structures were noted within the project vicinity during the evaluation, the CRI concludes that the improvements would not have an adverse effect on a historical resource.

The cultural resources studies concluded that the project would have no effect on historical or prehistoric cultural resources. However, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during excavation activities. Therefore, the following standard construction measures would be included in bid/construction contract documents to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the City shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the City shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

3. In the event that project plans change to include areas not surveyed, additional archaeological reconnaissance may be required. If cultural resources are encountered, the archaeologist shall recommend/implement additional mitigation measures as necessary, which may include subsequent monitoring by an archaeologist or Native American representative.

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