

23-052

Date Received For Filing

Notice of Exemption

TO: ☐ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of Kings
Kings County Government Center
Hanford, California 93230

FROM: City of Lemoore
711 W. Cinnamon Drive
Lemoore, CA 93245

PROJECT TITLE: Lemoore Sewer Improvement Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Lemoore

PROJECT LOCATION – City: Lemoore **County:** Kings

PROJECT LOCATION – Specific: See attached Project Description.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project will install new and upgrade existing sewer infrastructure to service new residential development planned within the City of Lemoore. See full project description attached.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: City of Lemoore

NAME, ADDRESS, & PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:
City of Lemoore, 711 W. Cinnamon Drive, Lemoore CA 93245, (559) 924-6744

EXEMPT STATUS: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15061(b)(3) and 15301(d)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

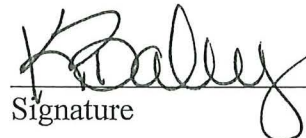
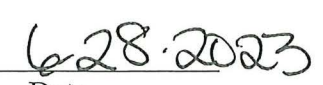
REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Section 15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption: The activity is covered by the commonsense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

Class 3 15303(d) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures: Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:

Kristie Baley, Management Analyst
(559) 924-6744

 
Signature Date

**ORIGINAL
FILED**

JUN 29 2023

**KRISTINE LEE
KINGS COUNTY CLERK**

Kristine Lee

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that on the date below I posted a copy of this notice in the office of the County Clerk that said notice remained posted for 30 days

Date 6/29/2023

KRISTINE LEE, County Clerk Recorder

By *Kristine Lee* Deputy

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Project Description

The City of Lemoore North Sewer Infrastructure project consists of sanitary sewer trunkline upgrades to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of the Naval Air Station Lemoore (NASL), and new residential development north of the city. The entire project is approximately 2.0 miles long and consists of gravity and force mains, and a new lift station. A map of the project area, beginning at the intersection of W Glendale Avenue and Lemoore Avenue and continues west and south to the intersection of Cinnamon Drive and North 19th Avenue is illustrated in Figure 1, below. The new sewer infrastructure includes a new dedicated trunkline running parallel to the existing sewer main. This approach is the most feasible as it maintains the existing infrastructure and serves the community by limiting service outages and delays, as well as relieving standing bypass requirements often seen with projects of this nature.

The basis of the planned improvements is outlined in The City of Lemoore's February 2020, Wastewater Treatment and Collection System Master Plan (Master Plan); however, an amendment to the Master Plan is being developed.

Sanitary Sewer Trunkline

The following improvements will be incorporated into the improvement plans for the design of the sanitary sewer trunkline:

The *North Lemoore Sewer Project* includes the following:

1. Approximately 4,000 feet of new trunkline in the Glendale Avenue alignment from Liberty Drive to Lemoore Avenue (18th ¾ Avenue);
2. A new lift station in the vicinity of the Glendale Avenue/Liberty Drive intersection, approximately 2,500 feet of outfall sewer line from the lift station to the connection at Hanford-Armona Road and Liberty Drive; and
3. The replacement of approximately 4,200 feet of existing 12" and 18" sewer trunkline located in Liberty Drive from Hanford-Armona Road to Cinnamon Drive, and in Cinnamon Drive from Liberty Drive to 19th Avenue.

Glendale Avenue Alignment

The Glendale Avenue alignment represents the northeast extent of the project, providing a new sewer main specifically designed to accommodate planned and future development to North Lemoore. When constructed, the new trunkline will consist of about 4,000 linear feet of 15-inch gravity sewer main running east to west - from North Lemoore Avenue, where the line will provide a direct tie-in to Liberty Drive and the new lift station proposed as part of this project.

Project Description Continued

Liberty Avenue Alignment

The Liberty Avenue alignment extends south from the new lift station and Glendale Avenue alignment. It includes about 2,500 linear feet of new six-inch force main, terminating near Hanford-Armona Road followed by new 15-inch gravity sewer main, which continues about 3,000 linear feet south to Cinnamon Drive. These new lines will provide new and dedicated piping necessary to both convey new development flows and to address the existing Liberty Drive deficiencies described in the City's Master Plan.

Cinnamon Drive Alignment

When constructed, the new gravity sewer main turns from Liberty Drive and continues west, along Cinnamon Drive. The Cinnamon Drive alignment consists of about 1,400 feet of new gravity sewer main, terminating at a new manhole which will tie into an existing sewer main on 19th Avenue, which completes the project.

Easements and Right-of-Way

The above sewer alignments are all located within existing City of Lemoore street right of way limits, with exception of the extension of future Glendale Avenue that requires rights to construct and maintain approximately 1,310 linear feet of sewer and new lift station along the northern property line of APN 021-550-001 (see Figure 1).

This property was part of a recent annexation and has an active tentative subdivision map on the property. The City is currently in the process of acquiring the necessary easement for the new sewer trunkline along the future Glendale Avenue right of way.

New Sanitary Sewer Lift Station

The existing hydraulic model was reviewed to determine the ability of the existing sewers to convey the existing and future flows in the 15-inch pipeline. The previous Wastewater Master Plan (WMP) provided general assumptions for growth on the North side of the City. However, these assumptions have been updated based on the tentative maps provided by the developer for the Lacey Ranch.

Existing Utility Information

Existing utilities along the alignment were collected to ensure that mitigation measures could be developed or the alignment could be adjusted to increase constructability and maintain access and separation standards as required by each utility company and the City of Lemoore Standard Specifications. Table 1 lists the existing utility companies and their utilities within the project area. No existing utilities such as telecom, gas, water or electric will be impacted or relocated due to the project.

The proposed Project lies within portions of Section 3, Township 19 South, Ranger 20 East, and Section 34, Township 18 South, Ranger 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in the City of Lemoore, Kings County.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The Project consists of sanitary sewer trunkline upgrades to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of Naval Air Station Lemoore (NASL) and new residential development north of the city. The basis of the planned improvements is outlined in the City of Lemoore's February 2020, Wastewater Treatment and Collection System Master Plan (Master Plan) and would service development consistent with the Lemoore General Plan.

Cultural/Historical Resources

A Cultural Resource Assessment has been prepared to provide record of a cultural resources record search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) and cultural resource survey of the Project site. The records search covered an area within one-half mile of the project alignment and included a review of the *National Register of Historic Places*, *California Points of Historical Interest*, *California Registry of Historic Resources*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California State Historic Resources Inventory*, and a review of cultural resource reports on file.

One historic and two prehistoric cultural resources have been recorded within one half mile of the project. The historic resource is the route of the Southern Pacific Railroad, now the active right-of-way of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (Primary No. P-16-000122). The prehistoric sites include one described in a 1939 site record as a "large burial and habitation site" (P-16-000013) located by a farm residence amidst vineyards and an apple orchard. The second prehistoric site (P-16-000449), discovered in 2017, consisted of a human burial associated with a few fish bones and charcoal fragments. Following recordation, the remains were repatriated to the Tachi Yokuts Tribe. The project will not impact these areas and will be conducted predominantly along existing roadways.

No cultural resources, either prehistoric or historical, were identified within the project area as a result of the records search and field survey. No cultural resources are expected to be impacted by the proposed project.

Biological

A biological resources survey was conducted by QK biologists. The project site does not contain suitable habitat that could support State-listed or protected wildlife or plant species within the project area. Although suitable habitat exists in the project vicinity to support the western burrowing owl and Swainson's hawk. The survey of the project site provided evidence that the project lacks suitable nesting sites and foraging habitat for either species due to the project site is subject to land disturbance from existing urban and agricultural uses. A preconstruction biological resource clearance survey of the project site would be conducted prior to ground disturbance, as is a standard requirement of the City.

Per the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) the project site does not contain any natural water features. A canal ditch located along West Cinnamon Drive is a man-made feature and would not be impacted by project development.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT Cont.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases (AQ/GHG)

Project construction is anticipated to take up to 12 months. However, construction activities will occur intermittently throughout the construction period. Construction activities will be temporary in nature, and emissions generated through construction activities would stop once completed. The project will have a relatively small footprint and is not anticipated to exceed San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) criteria pollutant air emissions or generate a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Hazardous Waste

A review of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) online Envirostor database indicate that the project site does not contain a known hazardous materials facility or reported cleanup site (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2023). Properties adjacent to the project site include school site investigations that were either inactive or did not require further action. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to impact permitted hazardous waste facilities or listed cleanup sites.

The California Department of Conservation, Well Finder map indicated that the project site does not contain any known well and is not located within a designated oil and gas field (California Department of Conservation, 2023). Further, the California State Water Resources Control Board, Geotracker found that the site does not contain and would not impact any permitted underground storage tank (State Water Resources Control Board, 2023).

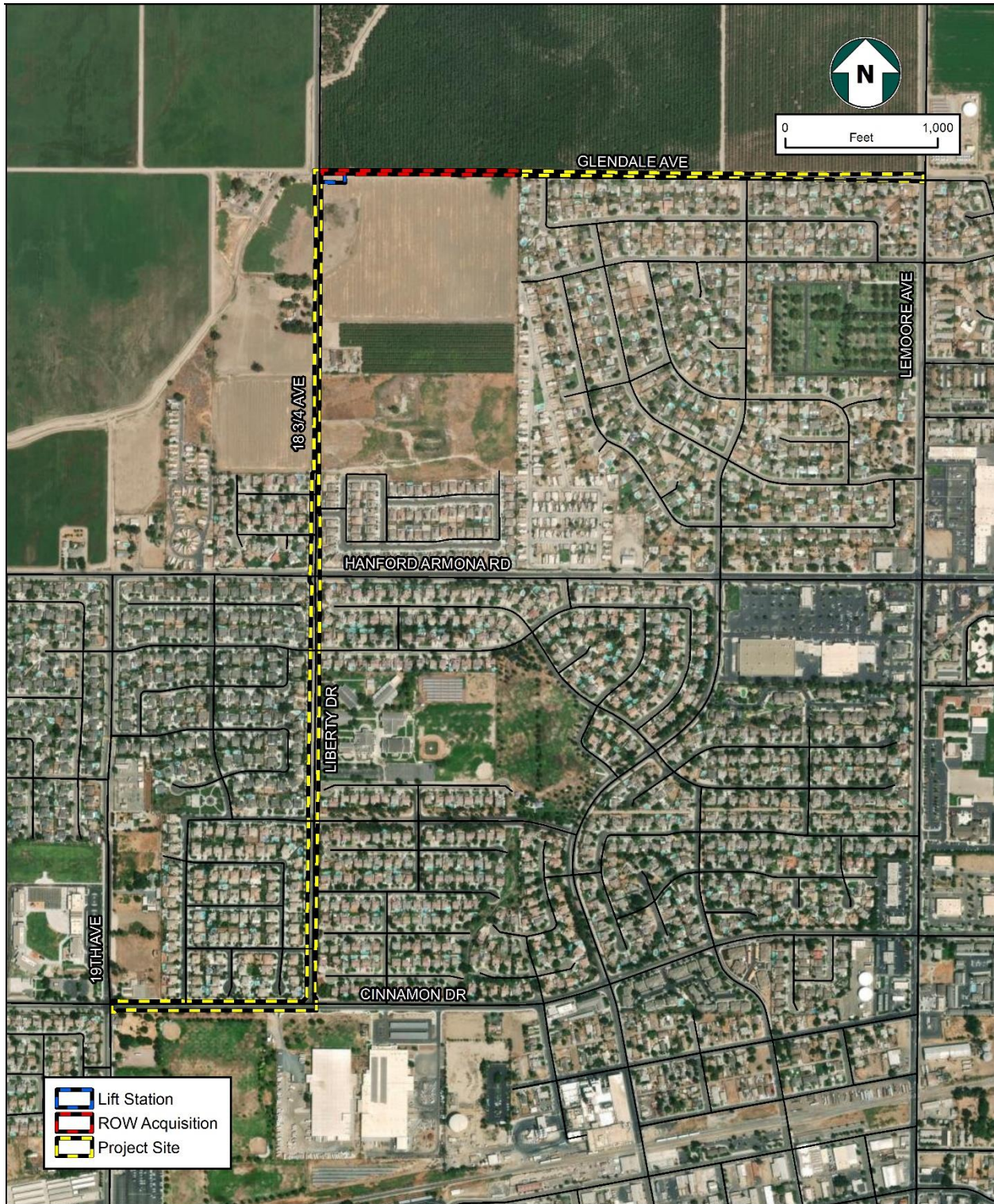
Flood Zone

Per FEMA FIRM Panels 06031C0170D and 060310C0160D, the project site is not located within a designated flood hazard area.

Conclusions

Based on the analysis presented herein, the project is consistent with the City's General Plan, and these planned improvements are also outlined in The City's Wastewater Treatment and Collection System Master Plan. Additionally, the project would benefit the City and the region by providing upgraded sewer capacity to the communities being served, while encouraging planned growth away from NASL. The result is to reduce conflicts between planned residential development and critical military operations.

Figure 1
Project Area



GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTIONS 6103 and 27383

6103 Neither the state nor any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, nor any public officer or body, acting in his or her official capacity on behalf of the state, or any county, city, district, or other political subdivision, shall pay or deposit any fee for the filing of any document or paper, for the performance of any official service, or for the filing of any stipulation or agreement that may constitute an appearance in any court by any other party to the stipulation or agreement. This section does not apply to civil jury fees or civil jury deposits. This section does not apply to the State Compensation Insurance Fund or where a public officer is acting with reference to private assets or obligations that have come under that officer's jurisdiction by virtue of his or her office, or where it is specifically provided otherwise. No fee shall be charged for the filing of a confession of judgment in favor of any of the public agencies named in this section.

No fee shall be charged any of the public agencies named in this section to defray the costs of reporting services by court reporters. Such fees shall be recoverable as costs as provided in Section 6103.5. *(Amended by Stats. 2008, Ch. 218, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2009.)*

27383 No fee shall be charged by the recorder for services rendered to the State, to any municipality, county in the State or other political subdivision thereof, except for making a copy of a paper or record. *(Added by Stats. 1955, Ch. 488.)*