

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Calaveras

From: (Public Agency): Calaveras County Water District
120 Toma Court

San Andreas, CA 95249

(Address)

Project Title: Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Calaveras County Water District

Project Location - Specific:

5130 Kiva Place Copperopolis, CA 95228 APN 550-51-008

Project Location - City: Copperopolis

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Electrical system upgrades/replacements, installation of a new Suspended Air Flotation Filter Pretreatment, new continuous backwash filter system, new wet well and submersible pump station, demolition of existing Absorption Clarifier/Mixed Media Filter, new chemical feed tanks and metering pumps, sludge handling facility improvement, and yard pipe modifications.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Calaveras County Water District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mark Rincon-Ibarra, District Engineer

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

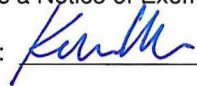
The project is improving the existing wastewater treatment plant to original facility design flow of 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd) of tertiary effluent.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kevin Williams Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-754-3184

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 11-4-2024 Title: Senior Civil Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION MEMORANDUM

PREPARED FOR: Calaveras County Water District

PREPARED BY: Dewberry Engineers Inc.

DATE: November 4, 2024

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act Categorical Exemption for Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Improvement Project

1. Introduction

The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) proposes to update the Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) tertiary facility (proposed project). The proposed project is needed for the Copper Cove WWTP tertiary facility to reliably produce tertiary treated effluent at the CCWD and California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) required water quality and flow rate to meet recycled water demands and to manage storage reservoir levels to maintain the required amount of freeboard. The objective of the proposed project is to replace an aging and poorly performing filter unit with a modernized system that effectively treats tertiary effluent to meet water quality and flow rate current standards.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the proposed project is considered exempt per CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Categorical Exemptions (CEs), Sections 15300 to 15333. The purpose of this memorandum is to document existing conditions and provide documentation to support the Notice of Exemption (NOE) under CEQA.

2. Project Location

The proposed project is in Calaveras County, within the community of Copperopolis (Attachment A: Figure 1), Specifically, the project site is located on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 550-51-008 (the CCWD property), west of Little John Road approximately 4.5 miles southeast of State Route 4 (SR-4), at 5130 Kiva Place (Attachment A: Figure 2).

3. Project Description

The proposed project would improve components of the Copper Cover WWTP tertiary facility. The project site, including construction staging areas, totals 2.8 acres; 2.1 acres are considered the area of direct impacts (ADI), which includes the improvement of several components of the existing CCWD property. Construction staging would occur

on the CCWD property on four potential areas that are undeveloped and covered by gravel. Figure 3 (Attachment A) depicts the following improvements:

- Upgrade and replace the existing electrical system.
- Install a new suspended air floatation (SAF) filter pretreatment system.
- Install new continuous backwash filter system.
- Install a buried wet well with submersible pumps and valve vault.
- Decommission and demolish existing adsorption clarifier/mixed media filter.
- Retain and repurpose the existing outdoor pad and canopy associated with the adsorption clarifier/mixed media filter.
- Install a new solids dewatering facility consisting of a curbed concrete pad with drains upon which portable solids dewatering bins would be placed, filled with sludge, and subsequently hauled after dewatering. Alternatively, a sludge dewatering unit (volute press, belt press, or similar) would be installed under the existing canopy on the existing pad and would discharge dewatered solids via a conveyor chute to a trash bin.
- Tie the new or rerouted piping into the existing piping (at depths of 3 to 10 feet) to maintain the existing connections.

Construction of the proposed project is estimated to begin in 2025 or 2026 and would last approximately 22 months.

4. Environmental Resource Discussion

4.1 Biological Resources

A *Biological Resources Evaluation* (BRE) was prepared for the proposed project. Biological Study Area (BSA) was established for the proposed project and is the same size as the ADI.

The BRE determined that 12 special-status wildlife species and 21 special-status plant species have the potential to occur in the BSA. No aquatic habitat is located on the project site. Blue Oak Woodland and Forest vegetation community is present on approximately 1.1 acres of the BSA. None of the 12 special-status wildlife species use this vegetation community for foraging or habitat. Special-status plant species including tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia, and/or veiny monardella have the potential to be located within the Blue Oak Woodland and Forest vegetation community. A general field survey was conducted within the BSA on April 25, 2024, and two focused plant surveys were conducted within the BSA in June and September 2024 and no special-status species were observed on the project site.

Implementation of the proposed project would require the removal of 26 blue oak trees resulting in the loss of 0.7-acre of Blue Oak Woodland and Forest vegetation community. Removal of the blue oak trees during construction has the potential to affect nesting birds protected under the United States Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The removal of Blue Oak Woodland and Forest could also potentially affect the three special-status plant species identified above, if they are found to be present prior to

construction. The proposed project would comply with the Standard Commitments listed below in Section 6. Overall, impacts to biological resources would be less than significant with implementation of the proposed project.

4.2 Historic/Cultural Resources

A Cultural Resources Identification and Evaluation Report (CRIER) was prepared for the proposed project. An Area of Potential Effects (APE) was delineated as part of the CRIER and consists of the project site (including construction staging areas), the neighboring pond dam, and effluent reservoir.

The CRIER determined that one cultural resource, Old O'Byrnes Ferry Road (P-05-002360), was located within 0.25-mile of the APE. The proposed project would not affect this resource. A field survey was conducted within the APE on March 24, 2024, where no pre-contact or historic-era cultural resources were identified within the APE. Construction activities associated would include earth disturbing activities (i.e., grading, trenching to depths of 10 feet) which could expose buried, subsurface previously undiscovered cultural resources. The proposed project would comply with Standard Commitments (Section 6 below) which address unanticipated historic/cultural resource discoveries during construction. Overall, implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on known historic/cultural resources.

4.3 Hazardous Materials

The handling of hazardous materials during construction activities would occur in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local law requirements. Compliance with standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), vehicle manufacturer's specifications, and applicable regulations (identified below in Section 6) would address methods for containing accidental spills of toxic materials.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is typically found in ultramafic rock which occurs within the western portion of Calaveras County and generally extends north to southwest following the Bear Mountain and Melones Fault Zones. The project site is not in an area known for ultramafic rock containing NOA. The closest NOA area is 4.5 miles northeast of the project site (CGS, 2011). The CCWD property was originally constructed in 1999; as such, structures would not contain lead-based paint (LBP) nor would there be aerially deposited lead (ADL) within the project site.

A review of the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) database, EnviroStor, which lists hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5; GeoTracker, which provides information on Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) and other cleanup sites; and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Toxic Release Inventory (EPCRA TRI) databases identified no hazardous materials sites directly associated with the project area. The closest site to the project area includes a State Response Cleanup Site that was associated with Copper Cove Village Subdivision, located on Quail Hill Road, approximately 1.14 miles north/northeast of the of the project site. As of 1989, the cleanup status is that no further

action is required. No impacts associated with known hazardous material sites are anticipated for the proposed project.

5. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis

CEs under CEQA represent activities that generally do not result in significant environmental impacts. The Secretary of the Resource Agency has established a list of classes of projects, which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA, provided several exception criteria are met (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300-15332). The proposed project would be eligible as a CE under Class 1 (Section 15301(b)), Existing Facilities, repair/maintenance/minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. Table 1 discusses and provides justification for CEQA compliance with exception criteria listed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.

TABLE 1: Exemption Discussion	
Exemption	Discussion
(a) 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 all instances, except where the project may impact on 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 would not fall under exempt classes 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11.
(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.	The proposed project is planned for by CCWD. The proposed project is deemed necessary. Improvements would be site specific, would not induce growth in the local area, and would not combine with nearby projects to generate a cumulative impact on the environment.
(c) 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.	There are no unusual circumstances of concern involved with the proposed project. The proposed project is located in a built and disturbed environment for the existing Copper Cove WWTP. Significant effects would not occur to biological resources or historical/cultural resources. Impacts associated with hazardous materials and noise would not occur with project implementation.
(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not	The proposed project would not damage scenic resources within a designated scenic highway. The project site is not on a designated scenic highway,

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limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.	nor is it visible from a designated scenic highway (Caltrans, 2024).
(e) 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 Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.	As discussed above in Section 4.3, the proposed project is not located on a listed hazardous materials site.
(f) 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 resources.	The CRIER concluded no known historic or cultural resources are located within the APE (refer to Section 4.2, above). The proposed project would comply with standard commitments to protection unknown cultural resources if they are discovered during construction activities.

6. Standard Commitments

- Prior to the construction commencement, the construction contractor will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general construction permit obtained from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The SWPPP will identify BMPs to be implemented to reduce potential surface water pollution and prevent any discharge of stormwater into waterways. The BMPs will include, but not be limited to a spill prevention plan detailing the construction activities to take place, placement of straw bales/wattles, erosion blankets, silt fencing, silt curtains, mulching and revegetation (as applicable), and temporary covers. The BMPs will be maintained and implemented through the duration of construction activities and the construction contractor will perform periodic inspections (particularly after rain events) to ensure that the BMPs are still in place and functioning properly.
- As applicable, any revegetation work will be done by the construction contractor in a timely manner to avoid and control site erosion.
- The construction contractor will prepare a fuels spill management plan that will be implemented throughout the duration of construction.
- Construction equipment will be fueled and maintained only within the construction staging areas and the construction staging areas will be designed to capture potential spills from construction equipment. Construction equipment/vehicles will be inspected frequently and maintained in accordance with manufacturer requirements by the construction contractor to prevent oil, fuel and other liquids are not leaking.

- Any spills of hazardous materials or fuels will be reported to and cleaned up immediately by the construction contractor.
- Ground disturbing construction activities will be scheduled to occur during the non-wet seasons.
- Prior to commencing construction, all contractors will attend preconstruction training with CCWD staff to review project design conditions.
- Grid power will be used (as opposed to diesel generators) for job site power needs where feasible during construction.
- Wheel washers are required where project vehicles and/or equipment enter and/or exit onto paved streets from unpaved roads.
- All self-propelled off-road diesel-powered equipment and vehicles greater than 25 brake horsepower (bhp) will be equipped with an engine meeting at least Tier 1 emission standards (typically manufactured 1996 or later).
- A dust control plan will be prepared by the contractor in accordance with the CCAPCD. The dust control plan will use reasonable precautions to prevent dust emissions, which may include cessation of operations at times, cleanup, sweeping, sprinkling, compacting, enclosure, chemical or asphalt sealing, or other recommended actions by the CCAPCD.
- Grading plans will show the duration of construction. Ozone precursor emissions from construction equipment vehicles will be controlled by maintaining equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune per manufacture's specifications.
- Water all exposed surfaces two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks traveling on roadways will be covered.
- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible track out mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeper is prohibited.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- Provide current certificate (s) of compliance for CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets Regulation [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449 and 2449.1].
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition before it is operated.
- Removal of the 26 blue oak trees from the project site will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio in accordance with the County General Plan Measure COS-4D Oak Woodlands. Oak tree replacement will occur at an appropriate location on the CCWD property, under the supervision of a qualified biologist.
- The following measures will be implemented to reduce potential effects to nesting birds protected by the MBTA if present when construction activities commence:

- If possible, complete vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31).
- If vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance is scheduled during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a preconstruction survey for nesting birds will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days from the start of construction activities.
- If the preconstruction survey does not identify any active nests, work may proceed.
- If the preconstruction survey identifies any active nests, an appropriate no-work buffer will be established by a qualified biologist. The size of the buffer will be determined based on the proximity of the active nest to work activities, ambient noise levels, and other factors determined relevant by the qualified biologist (e.g., line of sight). The no-work buffer zones will be delineated by highly visible temporary construction fencing, which will remain in place and maintained in good condition until the nest is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist.
- The following measures will be implemented to reduce potential effects from invasive species:
 - All equipment and vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned to remove dirt and weed seeds prior to being transported or driven to or from the proposed action area.
 - Any borrow site or stockpile will be inspected for the presence of noxious weeds or invasive plants.
 - If noxious weeds or invasive plants are present, the contractor will remove approximately five inches of the surface of the material from the site before transporting to the proposed action area.
 - Before removal, this material will be chemically or mechanically treated to kill the existing noxious weeds and invasive plants, and will not be used for the proposed action area without approval.
 - Once construction is complete, temporarily disturbed areas will be hydroseeded with a native seed mix for erosion protection and to prevent colonization of exotic vegetation. The construction contractor will coordinate with a qualified biologist or botanist to determine the appropriate native seed mix that will be appropriate for the action site and surrounding area.
- If tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia, veiny mondardella are identified in the impact area during pre-construction surveys, the following will be complied with:
 - A qualified biologist or botanist will conduct focused surveys for tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia and veiny mondardella during the normal blooming period for these species. The surveys will be conducted within the construction area and prior to any ground disturbing activities. The results of the survey will be documented in a concise memorandum. If the survey results are negative, work can proceed without implementation of additional measures.

- If tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia and veiny monardella, or other special-status plant species are identified within the construction area, a qualified biologist will prepare a salvage and relocation plan to avoid and minimize direct impacts to special-status plants. The plan will identify the methods of salvage (e.g., seed collection, individual transplants) and the relocation area(s), with onsite relocation areas being preferable and at a minimum 1:1 compensation-to-impact ratio. The plan will also include provisions for long-term protections, monitoring, and management requirements for a minimum of 5 years.
- If a cultural resource is discovered during construction activities, the construction contractor will comply with the following provisions:
 - The person discovering the cultural resource will notify the Calaveras County or the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional by telephone within four hours of the discovery or the next working day if the department is closed.
 - When the cultural resource is located outside the area of disturbance, the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource and construction activities may continue during this process.
 - When the cultural resource is located within the area of disturbance, all activities that may impact the resource shall cease immediately upon discovery of the resource. All activity that does not affect the cultural resource as determined by site's designated qualified cultural resource professional may continue. The project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to conduct an evaluative survey to evaluate the significance of the cultural resource, which evaluation shall be complete within 2 weeks of the discovery unless extraordinary circumstances require additional time.
 - When the cultural resource is determined to be not significant, the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource. Construction activities may resume after authorization from the project's designated qualified professional.
 - When a resource is determined to be significant, the resource shall be avoided with said resource having boundaries established around its perimeter by the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional or a cultural resource management plan shall be prepared by the project's designated qualified professional to establish measures formulated and implemented in accordance with Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of CEQA to address the effects of construction on the resource. The project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource. Construction activities may resume after authorization from the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional. All further activity authorized by this permit shall comply with the cultural resources management plan, if necessary.

- If human remains are encountered during action implementation, the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) requires that excavation be halted in the immediate area, and that the county coroner be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine the remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of the discovery on private or state lands (HSC §7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, they must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (HSC §7050.5[c]).

The responsibilities of the NAHC for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified within the California Public Resources Code (PRC §5097.9). The NAHC is responsible for immediately notifying the person it believes is the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) of the Native American remains. With permission of the legal landowner(s), the MLD may visit the site and make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of the human remains and any associated grave goods. This visit should be conducted within 24 hours of their notification by the NAHC (PRC §5097.98[a]). If an agreement for treatment of the remains cannot be resolved satisfactorily, any of the parties may request mediation by the NAHC (PRC §5097.94[k]). Should mediation fail, the landowner or the landowner's representative must re-enter the remains and associated items with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance (PRC §5097.98[b]).

7. Determination

In accordance with CEQA, each public agency shall, in the course of establishing its own procedures, list those specific activities which fall within each of the exempt classes, subject to the qualification that these lists must be consistent with both the letter and the intent expressed in the classes.

Based on a review of the project site, CEQA Guidelines, and the analysis above, the proposed project would meet the requirements of a CE under CEQA. Based on the preceding, the following pre-construction and construction BMPs shall be included in bid packages and construction notices for implementing during construction.

8. References

California Geological Survey (CGS). 2011. Reported Historic Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Other Natural Occurrences of Asbestos in California. Available Online: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/mineral-hazards/asbestos#:~:text=Chrysotile%20and%20amphibole%20asbestos%20%28such%20as%20tremolite%2C%20above%29,association%20with%20ultramafic%20rocks%20and%20along%20associated%20faults>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2024. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Available Online:

<https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC). 2024. EnviroStor. Available Online: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

9. Attachments

Attachment A: Figures

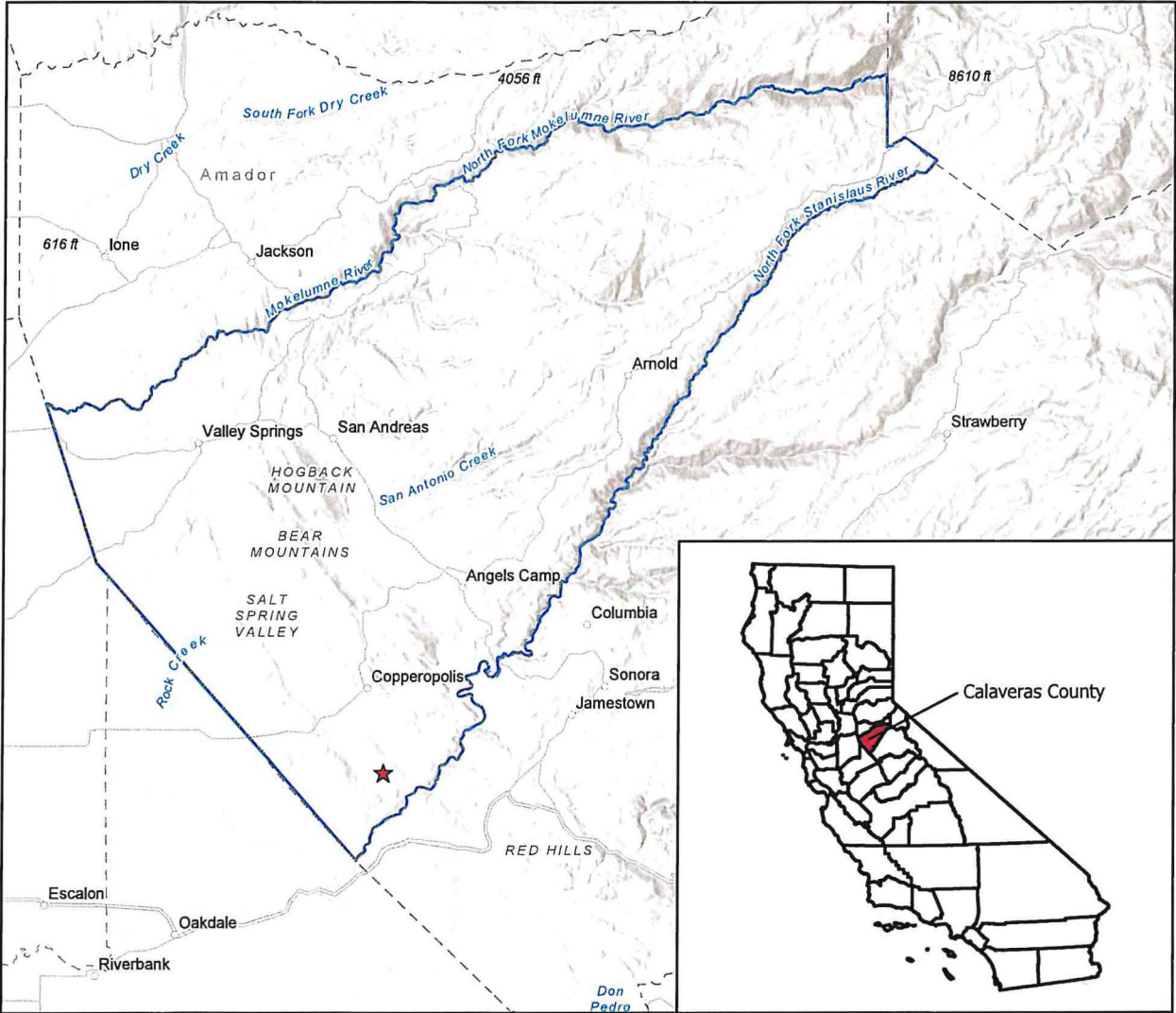
ATTACHMENT A

FIGURE 1-REGIONAL LOCATION

FIGURE 2- PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE 3- PROJECT SITE PLAN

Regional Location



Copper Cove WWTTP
Tertiary Improvement
Project

Figure 1

Legend

- ★ Project Location
- Calaveras County

0 8 Miles

Author: A. Der-Gevorgian
Last updated on Monday, October 14, 2024





Action Vicinity



Copper Cove WWTP
Tertiary Improvement
Project

Figure 2

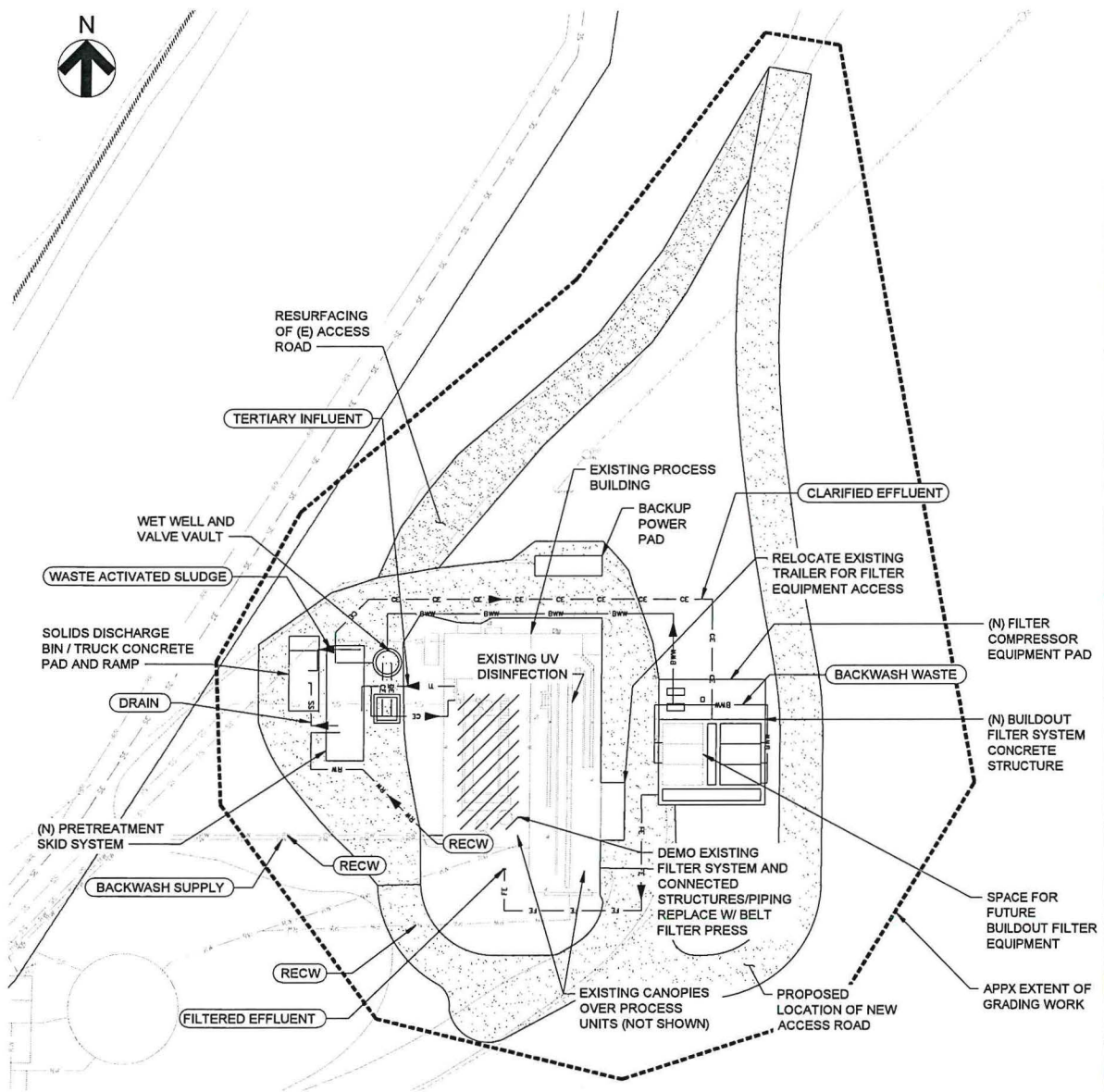
Legend

-  Project Area
-  Staging Area



Author: A. Der-Georgian
Last updated on Friday, August 30,
2024





TERTIARY FACILITY SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 16'-0"

LEGEND

- BURIED PIPE
- /// DEMO
- FLOW



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PREPARED BY: Dewberry Engineers Inc.

DATE: November 4, 2024

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action is required. No impacts associated with known hazardous material sites are anticipated for the proposed project.

5. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis

CEs under CEQA represent activities that generally do not result in significant environmental impacts. The Secretary of the Resource Agency has established a list of classes of projects, which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA, provided several exception criteria are met (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300-15332). The proposed project would be eligible as a CE under Class 1 (Section 15301(b)), Existing Facilities, repair/maintenance/minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services. Table 1 discusses and provides justification for CEQA compliance with exception criteria listed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.

TABLE 1: Exemption Discussion	
Exemption	Discussion
(a) 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 all instances, except where the project may impact on 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 would not fall under exempt classes 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11.
(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.	The proposed project is planned for by CCWD. The proposed project is deemed necessary. Improvements would be site specific, would not induce growth in the local area, and would not combine with nearby projects to generate a cumulative impact on the environment.
(c) 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.	There are no unusual circumstances of concern involved with the proposed project. The proposed project is located in a built and disturbed environment for the existing Copper Cove WWTP. Significant effects would not occur to biological resources or historical/cultural resources. Impacts associated with hazardous materials and noise would not occur with project implementation.
(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not	The proposed project would not damage scenic resources within a designated scenic highway. The project site is not on a designated scenic highway,

TABLE 1: Exemption Discussion	
Exemption	Discussion
limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.	nor is it visible from a designated scenic highway (Caltrans, 2024).
(e) 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 Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.	As discussed above in Section 4.3, the proposed project is not located on a listed hazardous materials site.
(f) 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 resources.	The CRIER concluded no known historic or cultural resources are located within the APE (refer to Section 4.2, above). The proposed project would comply with standard commitments to protection unknown cultural resources if they are discovered during construction activities.

6. Standard Commitments

- Prior to the construction commencement, the construction contractor will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general construction permit obtained from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The SWPPP will identify BMPs to be implemented to reduce potential surface water pollution and prevent any discharge of stormwater into waterways. The BMPs will include, but not be limited to a spill prevention plan detailing the construction activities to take place, placement of straw bales/wattles, erosion blankets, silt fencing, silt curtains, mulching and revegetation (as applicable), and temporary covers. The BMPs will be maintained and implemented through the duration of construction activities and the construction contractor will perform periodic inspections (particularly after rain events) to ensure that the BMPs are still in place and functioning properly.
- As applicable, any revegetation work will be done by the construction contractor in a timely manner to avoid and control site erosion.
- The construction contractor will prepare a fuels spill management plan that will be implemented throughout the duration of construction.
- Construction equipment will be fueled and maintained only within the construction staging areas and the construction staging areas will be designed to capture potential spills from construction equipment. Construction equipment/vehicles will be inspected frequently and maintained in accordance with manufacturer requirements by the construction contractor to prevent oil, fuel and other liquids are not leaking.

- Any spills of hazardous materials or fuels will be reported to and cleaned up immediately by the construction contractor.
- Ground disturbing construction activities will be scheduled to occur during the non-wet seasons.
- Prior to commencing construction, all contractors will attend preconstruction training with CCWD staff to review project design conditions.
- Grid power will be used (as opposed to diesel generators) for job site power needs where feasible during construction.
- Wheel washers are required where project vehicles and/or equipment enter and/or exit onto paved streets from unpaved roads.
- All self-propelled off-road diesel-powered equipment and vehicles greater than 25 brake horsepower (bhp) will be equipped with an engine meeting at least Tier 1 emission standards (typically manufactured 1996 or later).
- A dust control plan will be prepared by the contractor in accordance with the CCAPCD. The dust control plan will use reasonable precautions to prevent dust emissions, which may include cessation of operations at times, cleanup, sweeping, sprinkling, compacting, enclosure, chemical or asphalt sealing, or other recommended actions by the CCAPCD.
- Grading plans will show the duration of construction. Ozone precursor emissions from construction equipment vehicles will be controlled by maintaining equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune per manufacture's specifications.
- Water all exposed surfaces two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.
- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks traveling on roadways will be covered.
- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible track out mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeper is prohibited.
- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- Provide current certificate (s) of compliance for CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets Regulation [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449 and 2449.1].
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition before it is operated.
- Removal of the 26 blue oak trees from the project site will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio in accordance with the County General Plan Measure COS-4D Oak Woodlands. Oak tree replacement will occur at an appropriate location on the CCWD property, under the supervision of a qualified biologist.
- The following measures will be implemented to reduce potential effects to nesting birds protected by the MBTA if present when construction activities commence:

- If possible, complete vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31).
- If vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance is scheduled during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a preconstruction survey for nesting birds will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days from the start of construction activities.
- If the preconstruction survey does not identify any active nests, work may proceed.
- If the preconstruction survey identifies any active nests, an appropriate no-work buffer will be established by a qualified biologist. The size of the buffer will be determined based on the proximity of the active nest to work activities, ambient noise levels, and other factors determined relevant by the qualified biologist (e.g., line of sight). The no-work buffer zones will be delineated by highly visible temporary construction fencing, which will remain in place and maintained in good condition until the nest is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist.
- The following measures will be implemented to reduce potential effects from invasive species:
 - All equipment and vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned to remove dirt and weed seeds prior to being transported or driven to or from the proposed action area.
 - Any borrow site or stockpile will be inspected for the presence of noxious weeds or invasive plants.
 - If noxious weeds or invasive plants are present, the contractor will remove approximately five inches of the surface of the material from the site before transporting to the proposed action area.
 - Before removal, this material will be chemically or mechanically treated to kill the existing noxious weeds and invasive plants, and will not be used for the proposed action area without approval.
 - Once construction is complete, temporarily disturbed areas will be hydroseeded with a native seed mix for erosion protection and to prevent colonization of exotic vegetation. The construction contractor will coordinate with a qualified biologist or botanist to determine the appropriate native seed mix that will be appropriate for the action site and surrounding area.
- If tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia, veiny mondardella are identified in the impact area during pre-construction surveys, the following will be complied with:
 - A qualified biologist or botanist will conduct focused surveys for tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia and veiny mondardella during the normal blooming period for these species. The surveys will be conducted within the construction area and prior to any ground disturbing activities. The results of the survey will be documented in a concise memorandum. If the survey results are negative, work can proceed without implementation of additional measures.

- If tripod buckwheat, foothill jepsonia and veiny mondardella, or other special-status plant species are identified within the construction area, a qualified biologist will prepare a salvage and relocation plan to avoid and minimize direct impacts to special-status plants. The plan will identify the methods of salvage (e.g., seed collection, individual transplants) and the relocation area(s), with onsite relocation areas being preferable and at a minimum 1:1 compensation-to-impact ratio. The plan will also include provisions for long-term protections, monitoring, and management requirements for a minimum of 5 years.
- If a cultural resource is discovered during construction activities, the construction contractor will comply with the following provisions:
 - The person discovering the cultural resource will notify the Calaveras County or the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional by telephone within four hours of the discovery or the next working day if the department is closed.
 - When the cultural resource is located outside the area of disturbance, the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource and construction activities may continue during this process.
 - When the cultural resource is located within the area of disturbance, all activities that may impact the resource shall cease immediately upon discovery of the resource. All activity that does not affect the cultural resource as determined by site's designated qualified cultural resource professional may continue. The project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to conduct an evaluative survey to evaluate the significance of the cultural resource, which evaluation shall be complete within 2 weeks of the discovery unless extraordinary circumstances require additional time.
 - When the cultural resource is determined to be not significant, the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource. Construction activities may resume after authorization from the project's designated qualified professional.
 - When a resource is determined to be significant, the resource shall be avoided with said resource having boundaries established around its perimeter by the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional or a cultural resource management plan shall be prepared by the project's designated qualified professional to establish measures formulated and implemented in accordance with Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of CEQA to address the effects of construction on the resource. The project's designated qualified cultural resource professional shall be allowed to photo document and record the resource. Construction activities may resume after authorization from the project's designated qualified cultural resource professional. All further activity authorized by this permit shall comply with the cultural resources management plan, if necessary.

- If human remains are encountered during action implementation, the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) requires that excavation be halted in the immediate area, and that the county coroner be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine the remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of the discovery on private or state lands (HSC §7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, they must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (HSC §7050.5[c]).

The responsibilities of the NAHC for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified within the California Public Resources Code (PRC §5097.9). The NAHC is responsible for immediately notifying the person it believes is the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) of the Native American remains. With permission of the legal landowner(s), the MLD may visit the site and make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of the human remains and any associated grave goods. This visit should be conducted within 24 hours of their notification by the NAHC (PRC §5097.98[a]). If an agreement for treatment of the remains cannot be resolved satisfactorily, any of the parties may request mediation by the NAHC (PRC §5097.94[k]). Should mediation fail, the landowner or the landowner's representative must re-inter the remains and associated items with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance (PRC §5097.98[b]).

7. Determination

In accordance with CEQA, each public agency shall, in the course of establishing its own procedures, list those specific activities which fall within each of the exempt classes, subject to the qualification that these lists must be consistent with both the letter and the intent expressed in the classes.

Based on a review of the project site, CEQA Guidelines, and the analysis above, the proposed project would meet the requirements of a CE under CEQA. Based on the preceding, the following pre-construction and construction BMPs shall be included in bid packages and construction notices for implementing during construction.

8. References

California Geological Survey (CGS). 2011. Reported Historic Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Other Natural Occurrences of Asbestos in California. Available Online: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/mineral-hazards/asbestos#:~:text=Chrysotile%20and%20amphibole%20asbestos%20%28such%20as%20tremolite%2C%20above%29,association%20with%20ultramafic%20rocks%20and%20along%20associated%20faults>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2024. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Available Online:

<https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC). 2024. EnviroStor. Available Online: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/>. Date Accessed: March 21, 2024.

9. Attachments

Attachment A: Figures

ATTACHMENT A

FIGURE 1-REGIONAL LOCATION

FIGURE 2- PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE 3- PROJECT SITE PLAN

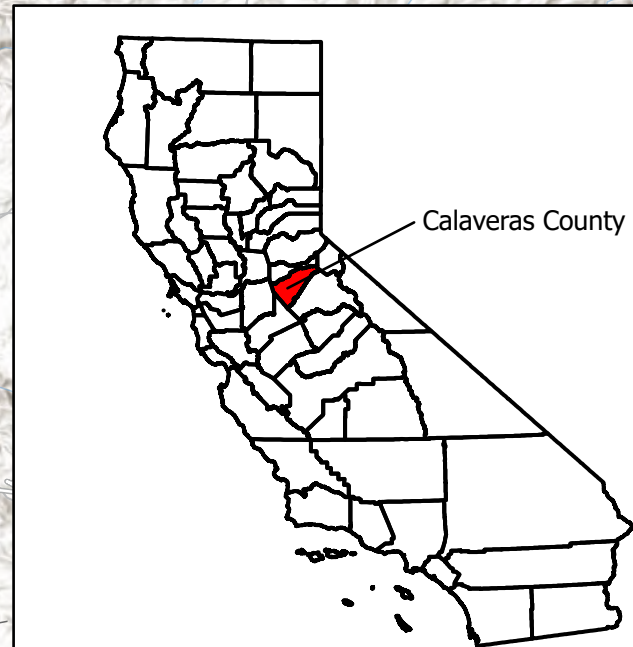
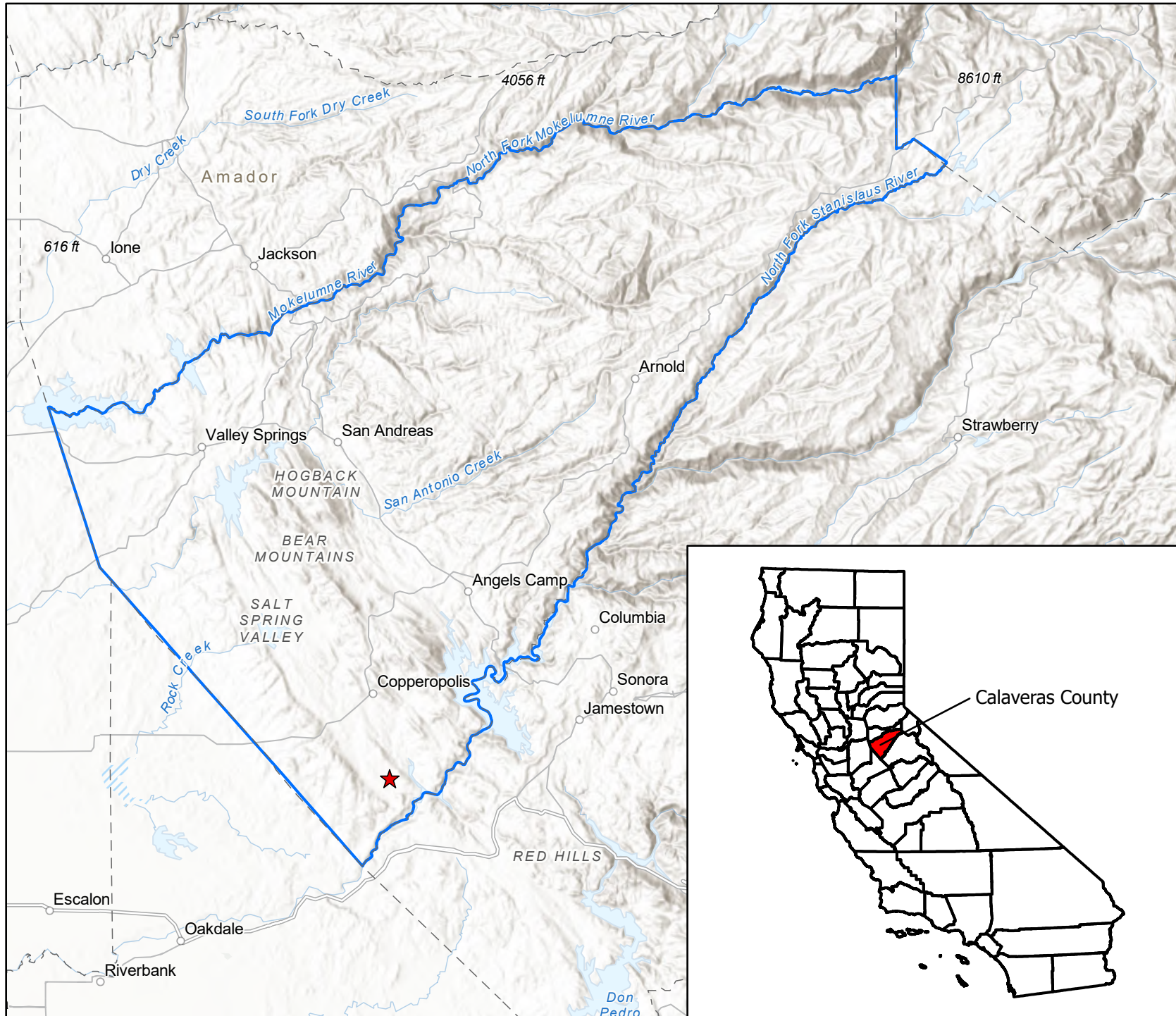
Regional Location

Copper Cove WWTP Tertiary Improvement Project

Figure 1

Legend

- ★ Project Location
- Calaveras County



0 8 Miles



Author: A. Der-Gevorgian
Last updated on Monday, October 14, 2024





Action Vicinity

Copper Cove WWTP Tertiary Improvement Project

Figure 2

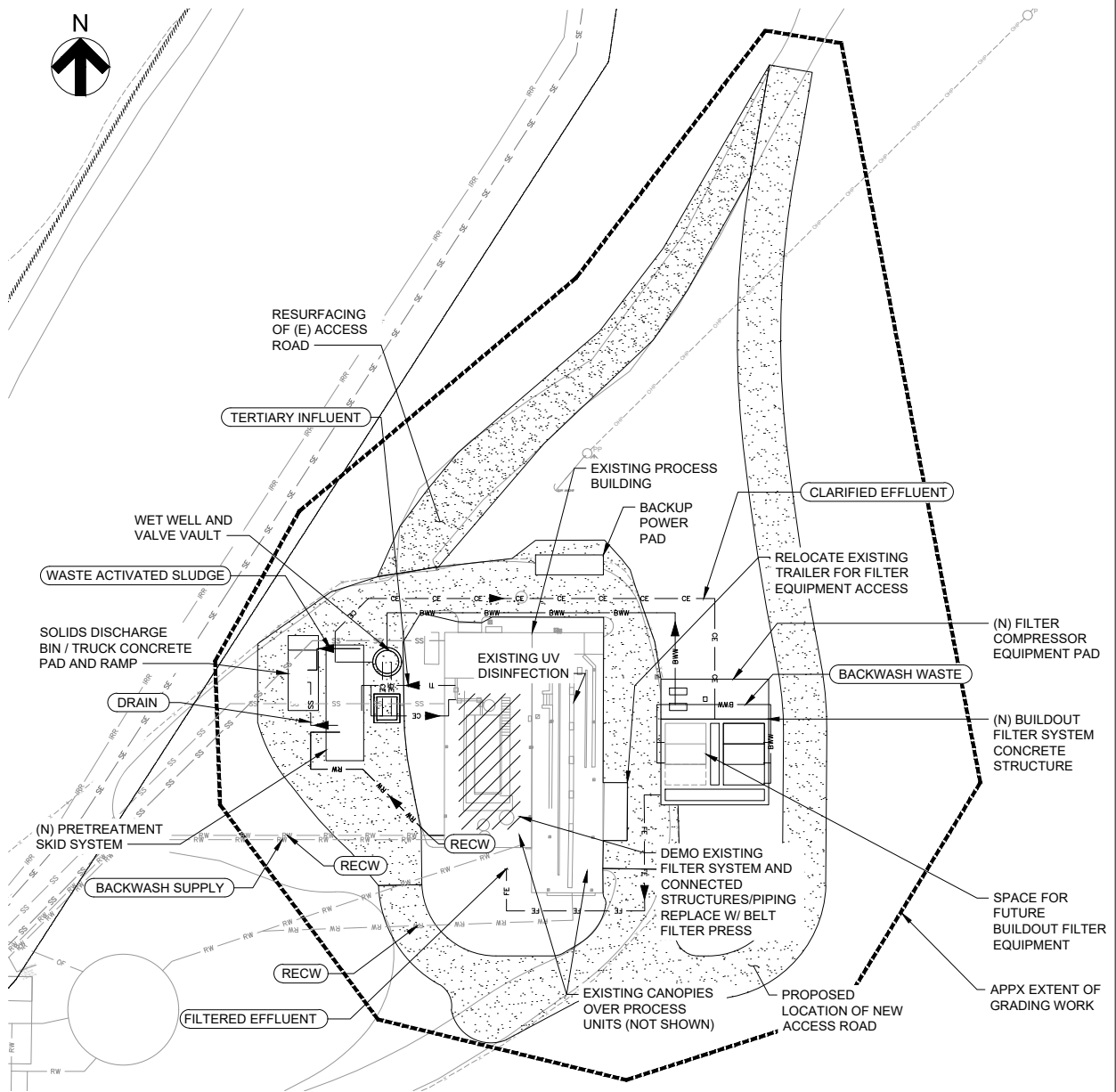
Legend

-  Project Area
-  Staging Area



Author: A. Der-Gevorgian
Last updated on Friday, August 30,
2024





TERTIARY FACILITY SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 16'-0"

LEGEND

- BURIED PIPE
- /// DEMO
- FLOW

