

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Bert Crane Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Improvements Project

Lead Agency: City of Atwater

Contact Person: Justin Vinson

Mailing Address: 1350 Broadway

Phone: (209) 777-0273

City: Atwater

Zip: 95301

County: Merced

Project Location: County: Merced

City/Nearest Community: Atwater

Cross Streets: Applegate Road/South Bert Crane Road

Zip Code: 95301

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 16 ' 40.8 " N / 120 ° 37 ' 27.5 " W Total Acres: 7.67

Assessor's Parcel No.: 056-200-026, -011, -021, -002, -024, 065-020-012

Section: 35 Twp.: 7S Range: 12E Base: MDB

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: none

Waterways: Deckert Lateral, Bear Creek, Black Rascal Creek, Hinds Lateral, South Slough

Airports: none

Railways: none

Schools: none

Document Type:CEQA: ☒ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other:☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other:

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☒ Other: contract for design and construction**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Educational: _____☐ Recreational: _____☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____☐ Transportation: Type _____☐ Mining: Mineral _____☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____☒ Waste Treatment: Type pipeline, outfall, pump MGD NA☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____☐ Other: _____**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☒ Recreation/Parks☒ Vegetation☒ Agricultural Land☒ Flood Plain/Flooding☒ Schools/Universities☒ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Archeological/Historical☒ Geologic/Seismic☒ Sewer Capacity☒ Wetland/Riparian☒ Biological Resources☒ Minerals☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☒ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☒ Noise☒ Solid Waste☒ Land Use☒ Drainage/Absorption☒ Population/Housing Balance☒ Toxic/Hazardous☒ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☒ Public Services/Facilities☒ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other: _____**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Agricultural, dirt road / A-1 General Agricultural / unclassified (city), Agricultural (county)

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

see attached

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☐ Air Resources Board
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of
☐ California Emergency Management Agency
☐ California Highway Patrol
☐ Caltrans District # _____
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
☐ Caltrans Planning
☒ Central Valley Flood Protection Board
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Coastal Commission
☐ Colorado River Board
☐ Conservation, Department of
☐ Corrections, Department of
☐ Delta Protection Commission
☐ Education, Department of
☐ Energy Commission
☒ Fish & Game Region # _____
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of
☐ Health Services, Department of
☐ Housing & Community Development
☐ Native American Heritage Commission

☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Public Utilities Commission
☒ Regional WQCB # _____
☐ Resources Agency
☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☒ State Lands Commission
☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☒ SWRCB: Water Quality
☒ SWRCB: Water Rights
☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☒ Water Resources, Department of

☐ Other: _____
☐ Other: _____

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 1/9/2026

Ending Date 2/8/2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Precision Civil Engineering, Inc.
Address: 1234 O Street
City/State/Zip: Fresno, CA 93721
Contact: Bonique Emerson
Phone: (559) 449-4500

Applicant: City of Atwater
Address: 1350 Broadway
City/State/Zip: Atwater, CA 95301
Phone: (209) 777-0273

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 1/6/26

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

The City of Atwater owns and operates the Bert Crane Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located on the southeast corner of South Bert Crane Road and Oak Avenue Alignment (APN 056-200-026), which provides tertiary-level treatment for wastewater. Treated effluent from the WWTP is currently released via an effluent pump station and a 42-inch force main into the Atwater/Peck Drain, which flows through Joseph Gallo Farms (Gallo Ranch), where a significant portion is diverted for agricultural and wetland use.

In order to meet Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) groundwater recharge requirements, the City of Atwater intends to construct improvements to discharge its treated effluent to the Merced Irrigation District (MID) via Black Rascal Creek or Bear Creek. These improvements would connect into the existing force main with a tee fitting and automatic actuated butterfly valves integrated into the City's SCADA system. The improvements would allow the City to redirect effluent flows to the Gallo Ranch, the creeks, or both.

A Discharge Study was prepared to evaluate three (3) alternatives for future improvements for discharge into either Black Rascal Creek or Bear Creek: Alternative 1 – Bert Crane Road Alignment, Alternative 2 – South WWTP Alignment, and Alternative 3 – Deckert Lateral Alignment (Figure 2-5).

All three (3) alternatives shared common infrastructure improvement recommendations, such as connecting to the existing force main from the WWTP, construction of a new pump station, and construction of an outfall structure. The following summarizes the recommended improvements that are applicable to each alternative:

- Installation of a 42-inch x 42-inch x 18-inch tee
- Installation of a 42-inch automatic actuated butterfly valve
- Installation of an 18-inch automatic actuated butterfly valve
- Installation of an air relief valve
- Installation of an 18-inch magnetic flow meter
- Construction of a pump station
- Installation of power source and connection to City SCADA system
- Construction of an outfall structure equipped with a flap valve.

The alternative specific improvements are as follows:

- Alternative 1 would include construction of 4,400 linear feet of 18-inch pipeline, traffic control, and flow diversion and dewatering. A new outfall structure into Bear Creek would be constructed.
- Alternative 2 would include construction of 4,300 linear feet of 18-inch pipeline and flow diversion and dewatering. A new outfall structure into Black Rascal Creek would be constructed
- Alternative 3 would include connection to the existing Deckert Lateral culvert, construction of 5,400 linear feet of 18-inch pipeline, increases to MID's Deckert Lateral capacity, replacing the existing MID outfall structure to Black Rascal Creek, and traffic control.

The environmental review evaluates the potential environmental impacts of all three (3) proposed alternatives—Alternative 1 (Bert Crane Road Alignment), Alternative 2 (South WWTP Alignment), and Alternative 3 (Deckert Lateral Alignment).