

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: Jonnie Hanson Lan

Mailing Address: 1350 Broadway Avenue

Phone: (209) 357-6342

City: Atwater, CA

Zip: 95301

County: Merced County

Project Location: County: Merced

City/Nearest Community: Atwater

Cross Streets: South Bert Crane Road and Oak Avenue alignment

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, 056-200-011, 056-200-021, 056-200-024, 056-200-012, 056-200-00

Section: 02 Twp.: 8S Range: 12E Base: MDB

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 140

Waterways: Bear Creek, Black Rascal Creek, Deckert Lateral

Airports: NA

Railways: NA

Schools: NA

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:**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units

Acres

☐ Office: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Transportation: Type☐ Commercial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Mining: Mineral☐ Industrial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Power: Type

MW

☐ Educational:☒ Waste Treatment: Type Improvements

MGD

☐ Recreational:☐ Hazardous Waste: Type☐ Water Facilities: Type

MGD

☐ 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:**

vacant/A-1 General Agricultural/Agricultural

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 an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☐ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☐ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # _____	☐ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☒ Regional WQCB # <u>5</u>
☐ Caltrans Planning	☐ Resources Agency
☒ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☐ State Lands Commission
☐ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☒ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☒ Fish & Game Region # <u>4</u>	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☐ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☐ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	
☐ Health Services, Department of	Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	Other: _____
☒ Native American Heritage Commission	

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

Starting Date 9/4/2026 Ending Date 10/19/2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Precision Civil Engineering, Inc.</u>	Applicant: <u>City of Atwater</u>
Address: <u>1234 O Street</u>	Address: <u>1350 Broadway Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93721</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Atwater, CA 95301</u>
Contact: <u>Bonique Emerson</u>	Phone: <u>(209) 357-6342</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 449-4500</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 9/1/2026

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

Project Description

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 Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (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. All three (3) alternatives share 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.