

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Bert Crane Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Improvements Project

Lead Agency: City of Atwater

Contact Name: Jonnie Hanson Lan

Email: jlan@atwater.org Phone Number: (209) 357-6342

Project Location: Atwater, Merced

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

see attached.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Biological Resources

BIO-1, potential impacts on nesting raptors and other migratory birds

BIO-2, potential impacts on burrowing owl and American badger

BIO-3, potential impacts on Sanford's arrowhead

BIO-4, potential impacts on northwest pond turtle and tricolored blackbird

BIO-5, potential impacts on special-status bats, including western red bat

BIO-6, potential impacts on California tiger salamander

BIO-7, potential impacts on Crotch's bumble bee

BIO-8, Worker Environmental Awareness Program implementation

BIO-9, formal notification to the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Cultural Resources

CUL-1, conduct a pedestrian survey and subsurface testing program

CUL-2, potential discovery of human remains

Geology and Soils

GEO-1, field survey and literature search for unique paleontological/geological resources

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

None

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Implementation of the project would require permits from:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
Merced County;
Merced Irrigation District (MID);
Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB);
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) / Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB);
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

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.