PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Tehachapi (City) as lead agency proposes to complete the Eastside Sewer Lift Station Project (Project). The Project is to be located at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Tehachapi Boulevard and Tehachapi Willow Springs Road, the City of Tehachapi, Kern County, California. The proposed pipeline connection is proposed to be located within public right-of-way along Tehachapi Willow Springs Road. The sewer lift station will be located on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 223-040-09, situated on the east side of Tehachapi Willow Spring Road. The Project is within Section 24, Township 32S, Range 33E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M), of the Tehachapi North and Tehachapi South U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Quad Map.

Surrounding land uses around the lift station facility include undeveloped land to the north and south, undeveloped land and commercial uses to the west, and undeveloped land and residential uses to the east. The pipeline will be developed within existing the public right-of-way along Tehachapi Boulevard.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project proposes to develop a sewer lift station on an approximately 0.25-acre portion of a 313.66-acre parcel. The sewer lift station consists of the development of concrete pads, installation of lift station equipment and underground pipeline, and construction of a spillway. Ground disturbance associated with the sewer lift station will occur through development of the lift station's wet well and spillway.

The proposed pipeline will be located at a minimum four feet in depth within existing public right-of-way along Tehachapi Boulevard and Tehachapi Willow Springs Road. The pipelines will consist of 6-inch force mains and 10-inch sewer lines that connect the proposed lift station to existing City infrastructure.

EXEMPTION

Section 15061(b)(3) *Common Sense Exemption:* This exemption determines that the proposed activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential to cause 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.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed lift station is located on undeveloped land and the pipeline is located on the existing roadway. The Project would result in the connection of a new public utility facility to existing City facilities. Pipeline installation and connection are anticipated to include construction of infrastructure, installation of equipment, minor trenching and backfilling.

A biological clearance survey was conducted as well as a desktop review of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) historic observations of wildlife species to determine the potential of special-status species or their habitat to occur within the Project site. Based on the Biological Resources Technical Memorandum (Appendix A), no special-status plant or wildlife species or their associated signs were present on the Project site during the survey. No sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources, or any other sensitive biological resource was identified on the

Project site. The site has a minimal potential to support special-status species due to the lack of suitable habitat, the disturbed condition of the site and its surrounding environment in addition to the absence of nearby source populations.

The City as part of cultural and tribal cultural resource outreach efforts, letters were sent to Native American Tribal Governments pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (Appendix B). No cultural or tribal cultural resource was identified on the Project site. However, the Tejon Indian Tribe responded to the AB 52 notification requesting that a tribal monitor be present during initial ground disturbing activities. Although the likelihood to uncover unknown cultural or tribal cultural resource is minimal, a qualified tribal monitor shall be present during initial ground disturbing activities per the Tribe's request. Additionally, in the unlikely event a special status wildlife4 species or cultural resources are encountered during construction, the Project will comply with all applicable local, State and federal regulations and codes related to the discovery of such resources during construction activities.

A review of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor database and the State Water Resources Control Board, Geotracker database indicates that the Project site does not contain a listed hazardous waste facility or known cleanup site. Additionally, there are no scenic highways or resources that would be impacted by the Project.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, 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. The Project would not result in a significant environmental impact and is consistent with the provisions of Section 15061(b)(3) as per Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code.

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Biological Resources Technical Memorandum
- Appendix B – Cultural and tribal resource outreach letter

APPENDIX A

MEMO

Date: December 16, 2025 **Project No.:** 250435

To: Corey Costelloe and Don Marsh, City of Tehachapi

From: Eric Madueno, and Dave Dayton

Subject: New Life Station Project - Biological Clearnce Survey

Introduction

The City of Tehachapi (City) proposes to install a new lift station (Project) on a parcel located at the corner of East Tehachapi Boulevard and Willow Springs Road (Project site; Figure 1). QK is contracted by the City to conduct a biological clearance survey of the Project site to confirm the presence or absence of suitable habitat for special-status (State or federally listed and sensitive) wildlife or plant species.

Methodology

State and federal database sources were reviewed to obtain available information on sensitive biological resources in the Project vicinity. On December 16, 2025, QK Environmental Scientists Eric Madueno and Dylan Burkey conducted a biological clearance survey of the Project site (Figure 1). The survey consisted of meandering pedestrian transects spaced 50 feet apart throughout the Project site to achieve 100 percent coverage. Tasks completed during the survey included developing an inventory of plant and wildlife species observed, characterizing vegetation associations and habitat conditions, assessing the potential for federally and State-listed and special-status plant and wildlife species to occur, assessing the potential for bat usage habitat, and assessing the potential for migratory bird and raptor nesting on or near the Project site. All spatial data were recorded using ESRI Collector for ArcGIS software installed on an iPad, and site conditions were documented with representative photographs (Attachment B).

Survey Results

The Project is located in the Tehachapi Mountain region at an elevation of approximately 4,020 feet above mean sea level. Land use surrounding the Project site consisted of urban development, agriculture and undeveloped land. The Project site is on an undeveloped lot bordered by East Tehachapi Boulevard to the north, Tehachapi Willow Springs Road to the west, and undeveloped land to the east and south. Man-made disturbance on the Project site included vehicle use, trash, and potential discing in the past.

Habitat on the Project site consisted of non-native annual grassland dominated by *Bromus* species. No native habitat is present on the Project site. Other plants occurring on the Project site included red stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*), mustard (*Brassica* sp.), Mojave rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa* var. *mohavensis*) and yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). A tree line of a non-native ornamental tree (*Robinia* sp.) was present along

the western boundary of the Project site. No special-status plants were present on the Project site during the survey.

Wildlife species observed on the Project site during the survey are common in disturbed areas with non-native habitat. Wildlife observed included three bird species and three mammal species or associated sign (i.e. burrows). Bird species included white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys),* house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) and common raven (*Corvus corax*). Mammal species included desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus adudbonii*) and burrows associated with California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*). No special-status wildlife species or associated sign (burrows, dens, scat, tracks, i.e.) or avian nests were present during the survey. No sensitive biological resources or habitats (i.e. wetlands, sensitive plant communities) were present on the Project site.

Conclusion

No special-status species or associated sign (tracks, scat, prey remains, etc.) or nests were present during the survey. No sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources or any other sensitive biological resources were identified on the Project site. The Project site has minimal potential to support special-status species due to the lack of suitable habitat, disturbed condition of both the Project site and its surrounding environment, as well as the absence of nearby source populations.

Please feel free to give us a call at (661) 616-2600 if you have any questions or would like to discuss our findings.

Attachment A – Site Figure
Attachment B - Representative Photographs

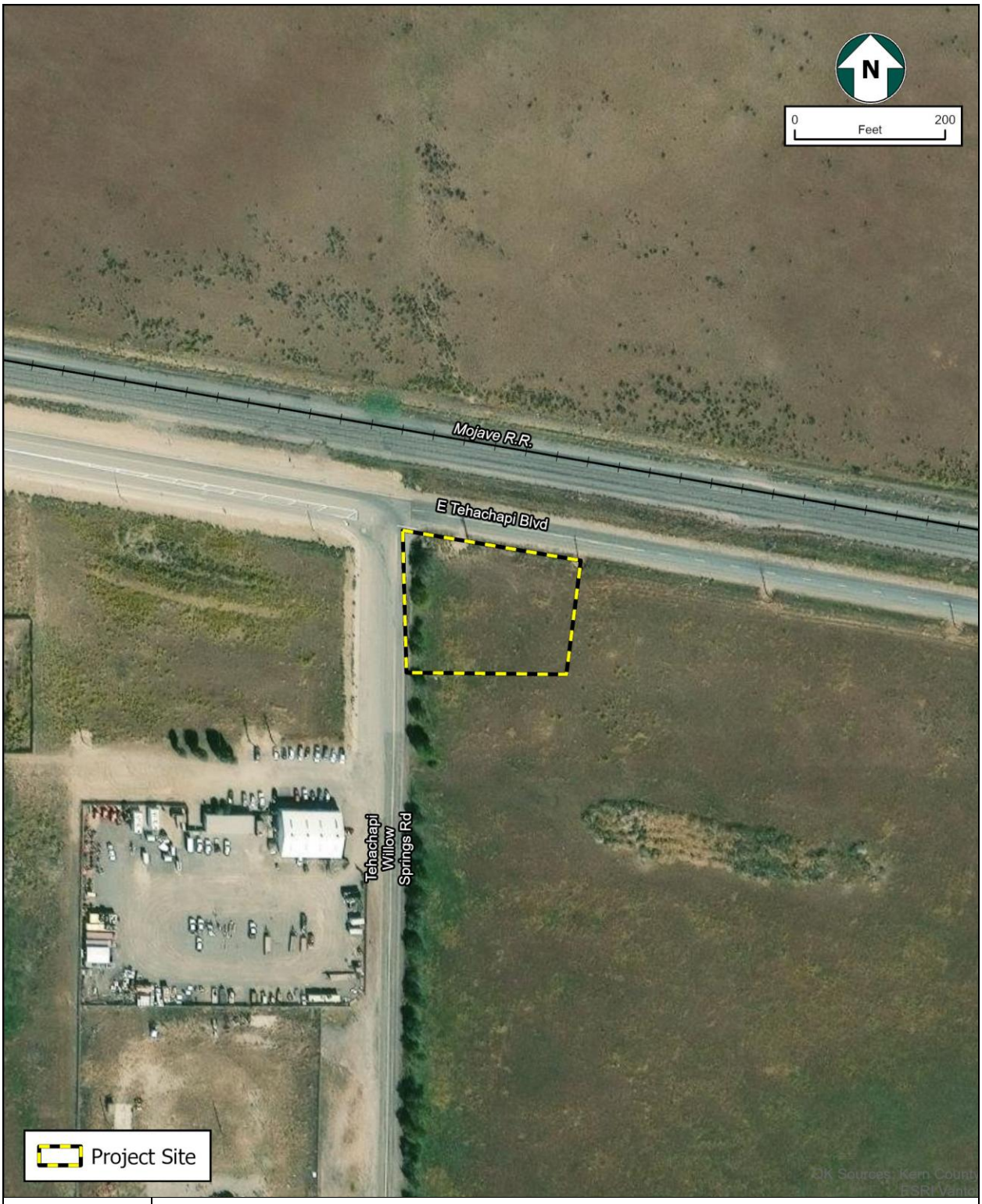


Figure 1
Project Site
New Lift Station Project, Tehachapi, Kern County, California

Photo 1. View of Project site from northwest corner.
GPS coordinates: 35.125088, -118.396366, facing southeast.
Taken by Eric Madueno on December 16, 2025.

Photo 2. View of Project site from southeast corner.
GPS coordinates: 35.124568, -118.395750, facing northwest.
Taken by Eric Madueno on December 16, 2025.

Photo 3. View of Project site from northeast corner.
GPS coordinates: 35.124967, -118.395669, facing southwest.
Taken by Eric Madueno on December 16, 2025.

Photo 4. View of Project site from southwest corner.
GPS coordinates: 35.124596, -118.396392, facing northeast.
Taken by Dylan Burkey on December 16, 2025.

Photo 5. View of California ground squirrel burrow.
GPS coordinates: 35.124660, -118.395798.
Taken by Eric Madueno on December 16, 2025.

APPENDIX B

TEHACHAPI
CALIFORNIA
Live Up.

October 21, 2025

Curtis Alcantar, Cultural and Natural Resource Manager
Tejon Indian Tribe
4941 David Road
Bakersfield, CA 93307

RE: East Tehachapi Lift Station (APN: 223-040-09), Tehachapi, California

Dear Cultural and Natural Resource Manager Alcantar:

The northeast portion of the City of Tehachapi, to better facilitate future development, necessitates the construction of a sewer lift station at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Tehachapi Boulevard and Tehachapi Willow Springs Road. A sewer lift station is a vital part of a wastewater collection system used to move wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher one. At full build out the lift station will serve 41.7 acres of industrial and commercial properties. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project will require a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

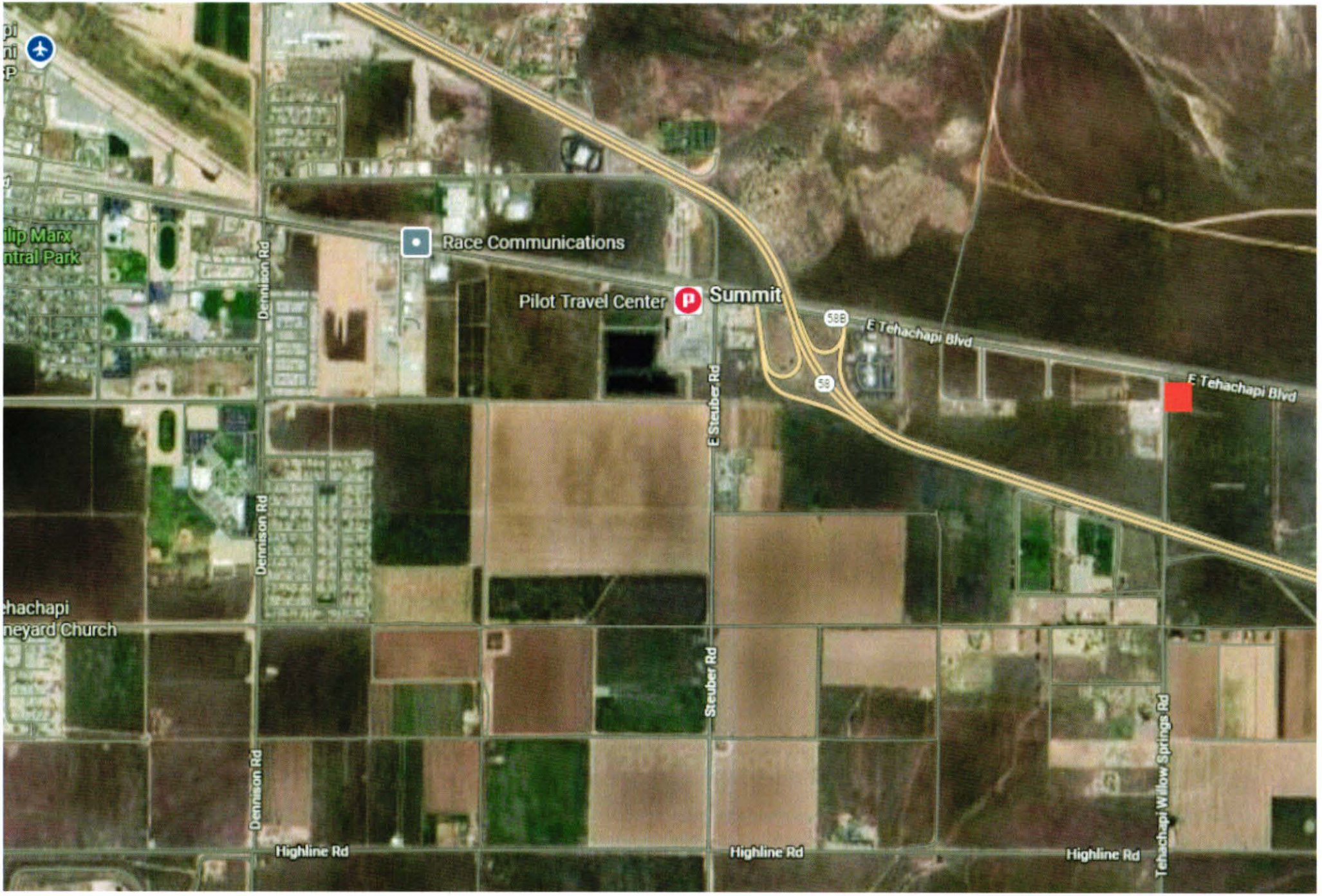
As part of the cultural resource and tribal cultural resource identification effort, pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), the City of Tehachapi is requesting any information you may have regarding properties, features, or materials within the project site or the immediate vicinity that may be of concern to local Native Americans. Attached to this request is a map depicting the project area. Any comments you may have regarding cultural resources in this area would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at (661) 822-2200 ext. 131, or email at ccostelloe@tehachapicityhall.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Corey Costelloe
Assistant City Manager/Planning Director

Attachment: Project Area Map


Race Communications
Pilot Travel Center
Summit
E Tehachapi Blvd
E Tehachapi Blvd
Dennison Rd
Dennison Rd
Dennison Rd
E Steuber Rd
Steuber Rd
Tehachapi Willow Springs Rd
Highline Rd
Highline Rd
Highline Rd
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58