

Notice of Exemption

TO: ☒ Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 ☒ Plumas County Clerk-Recorder 520 Main Street #102 Quincy, CA 95971	FROM: Chester Public Utility District P.O. Box 503 Chester, CA 96020
Project Title: Chester Public Utility District Wastewater Collection System Project	
Project Location: As shown in Figure 1 , the proposed project is located within the unincorporated community of Chester in Plumas County, in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, Township 28 North, Range 7 East, of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Chester 7.5-minute quadrangle. The project includes improvements to the District's existing wastewater collection system located primarily within the public road rights-of-way (ROWs) and public utility easements; improvements to the District's four existing lift stations located on Settlers Road, Feather River Drive, 2 nd Street, and Purdy Road would occur within public utility easements (see Figure 2). The proposed new lift station would be located on Melissa Avenue (Plumas County Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 100-071-007) (see Figure 2).	
City: Chester (unincorporated)	County: Plumas
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Chester Public Utility District (CPUD or District) provides drinking water service and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to the unincorporated community of Chester in Plumas County, California. The District currently serves approximately 2,187 residents with 1,255 wastewater connections. The District treats the community's collected wastewater at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, a facultative lagoon facility constructed in 1981. The purpose of the project is to replace aging and undersized sewer lines and reduce infiltration and inflow into the collection system. The project includes replacing and upsizing existing sewer mains and laterals. If possible, the District will install cured-in-place (CIPP) liners to rehabilitate the existing sewer mains. In addition, improvements to each of the four lift stations will be made. Existing pumps, motors, and electrical components would be replaced, and new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system equipment and a new emergency backup generator would be installed adjacent to each lift station. The District is also considering abandoning the existing siphon that runs under the North Fork of the Feather River and constructing a new lift station and force main to convey the sewage from the siphon; the new force main would be attached to the 1st Avenue bridge over the river and tie into an existing force main on 1st Avenue. Therefore, no in-water work would be required. Improvements associated with the new lift station include construction of a small structure to house pumps, motors, and electrical and SCADA system equipment, and installation of a new emergency backup generator adjacent to the structure. An antenna for the SCADA system would be mounted on the new lift station structure. Additionally, subsurface electrical conduit would be extended to the new lift station from an existing line in Melissa Avenue. Alternatively, a CIPP liner would be installed in the existing siphon in lieu of constructing a new lift station and force main.	
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Chester Public Utility District	
Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: Chester Public Utility District	
Local Agency Contact Person: Bonnie Mullaney, General Manager 707.932.0800 bmullaney@chesterpud.org	

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):

Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities)

Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)

Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

Class 1 covers the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing publicly owned utilities used to provide public utility services involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Class 2 covers the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Class 3 covers the construction of new, small facilities or structures and the installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures.

The project is consistent with the exemptions noted above because work would consist of replacement and rehabilitation of existing sewer lines, mains, and laterals; improvements to the existing lift stations, and construction of a new lift station. =No mature trees would be removed, and no expansion of the District's sewer system would occur.

As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a scenic highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature: _____


Bonnie Mullaney, General Manager
Chester Public Utility District

Date: _____

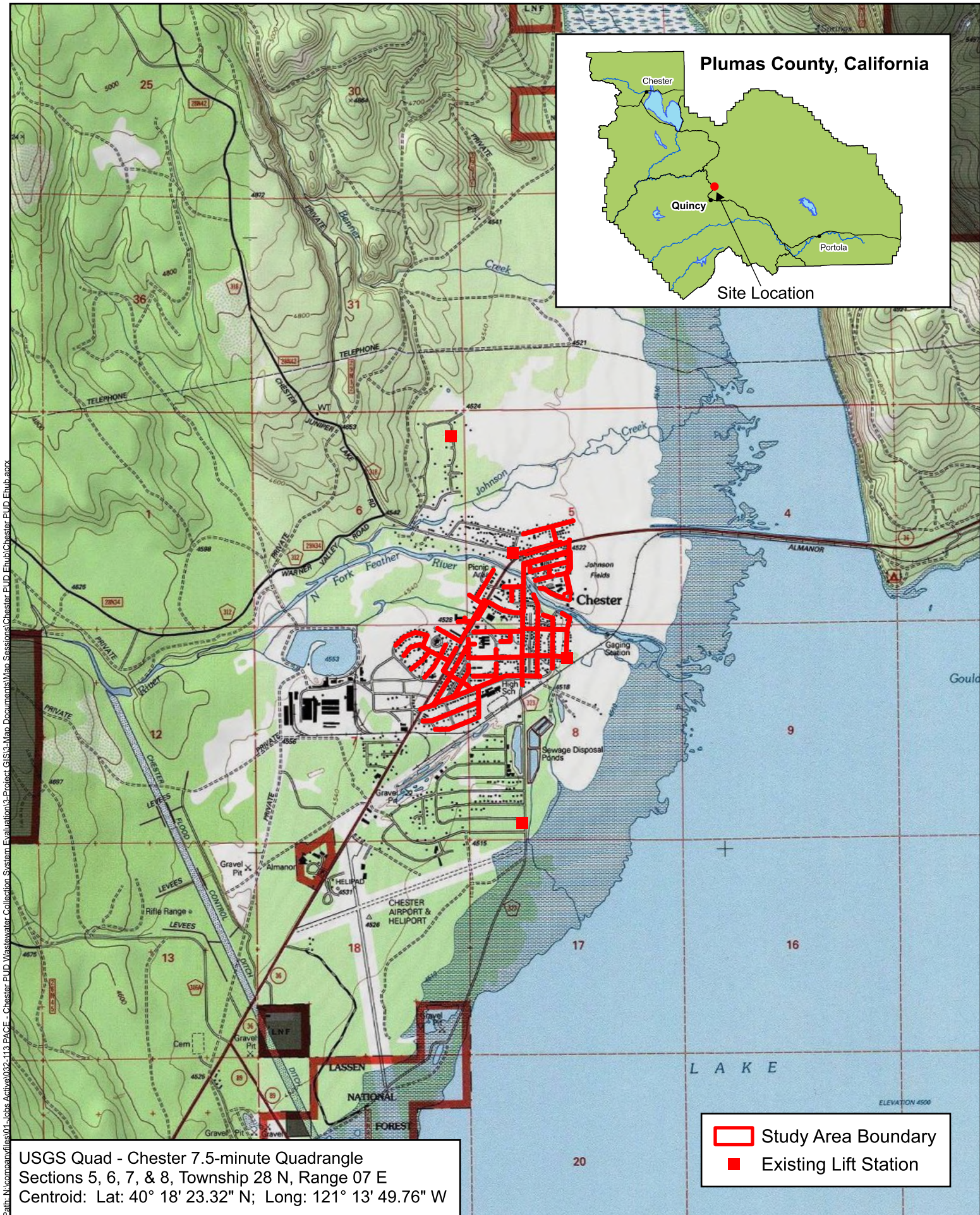
9-25-2026

Attachments:

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2: Study Area Boundary

Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption



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USGS Quad - Chester 7.5-minute Quadrangle
Sections 5, 6, 7, & 8, Township 28 N, Range 07 E
Centroid: Lat: 40° 18' 23.32" N; Long: 121° 13' 49.76" W

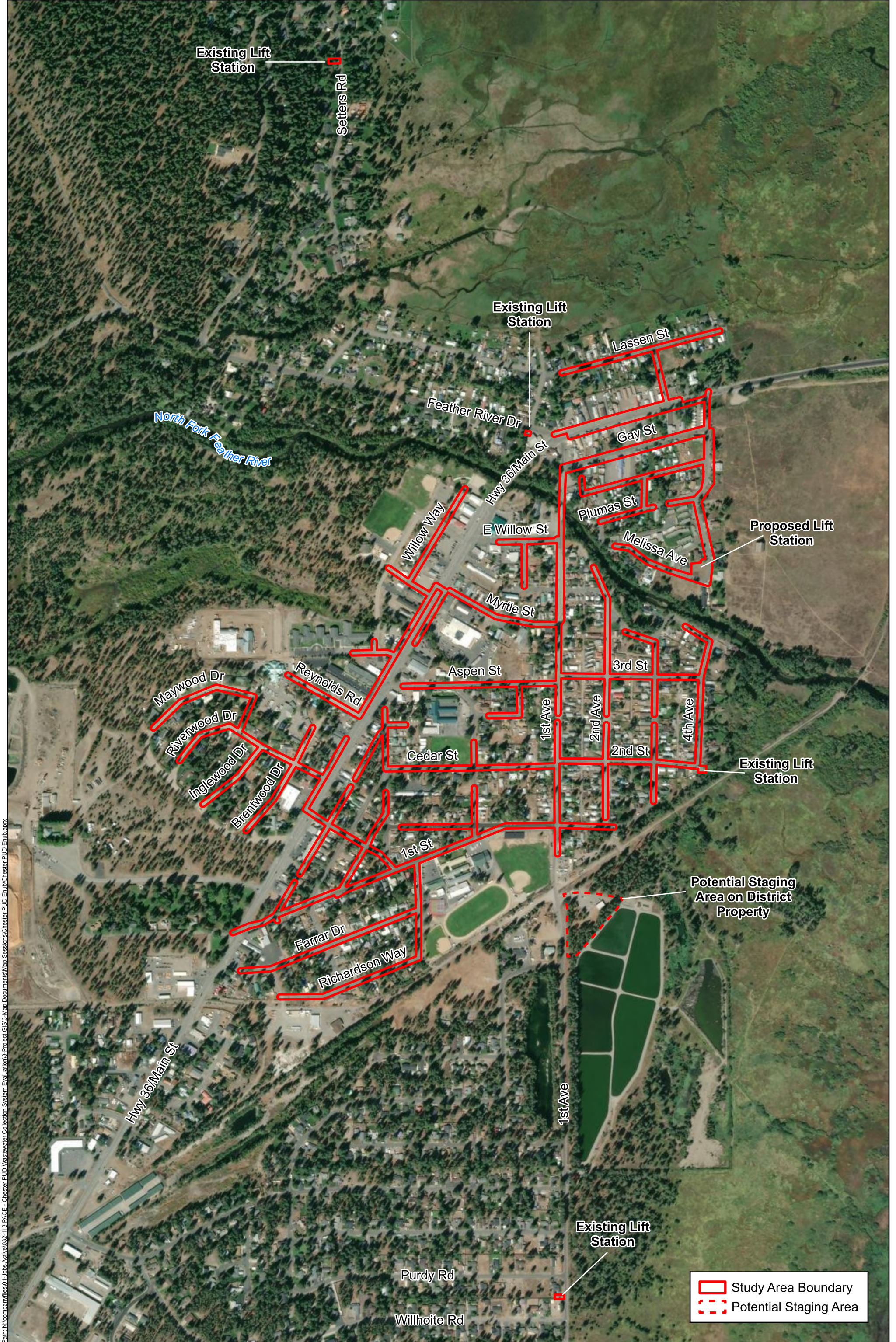
- Study Area Boundary
- Existing Lift Station

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product.

03.16.26



Figure 1
Project Location and Vicinity



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Figure 2
Study Area Boundary

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 08.11.26

ATTACHMENT A

Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

Chester PUD Wastewater Collection System Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), §15302 (Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction) and Class 3, §15303 (Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- 1. 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 in 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 is supported by a Class 3 exemption. As documented below, no evidence has been found to suggest that the project location is particularly sensitive. Likewise, the project is not expected to affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Class 3 exemption is applicable to the proposed project.

- 2. Cumulative Impact.** *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves improvements to the District's existing wastewater collection system infrastructure that are necessary to repair aging and undersized sewer lines and reduce infiltration and inflow into the collection system. No successive improvements to these systems are currently proposed. Impacts associated with construction are temporary and would cease upon completion of the project. Therefore, the impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

- 3. 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.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

The majority of the proposed improvements would be subsurface and would have no impact. The majority of the improvements at the existing lift stations would be installed inside the existing structures. Although the new emergency backup generators would be installed outside of the existing structures, they would be visually consistent with the existing utility and residential structures in the area and would not conflict with the existing visual character of the area.

The new lift station, emergency backup generator, and antenna on Melissa Avenue would be visually consistent with the existing residential features and would not conflict with the existing visual character of the area. Minimal vegetation may be necessary to accommodate the proposed improvements; however, this would not result in a significant visual change in the area. Paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved at completion of the improvements, and other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored as necessary.

Additionally, the project site is not in an area of unique scenic vistas and temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease upon the completion of the improvements; no unusual circumstances apply and no significant impacts would occur.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the project area was not surveyed for inclusion in the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) (DOC, 2020). Improvements would occur in urban areas within public road ROWs and in public utility easements. The surrounding properties are zoned as Single-Family Residential (2-R, 3-R, 7-R), Multiple-Family Residential (M-R), Periphery Commercial (C-2), and Recreation Open-Space (Rec-OS) and designated as Commercial, Single-Family Residential, and Multiple-Family Residential in the Plumas County General Plan (Plumas County, 2025, 2011). The project area does not include any agricultural zoning or designations. Further, no mature trees would be removed. Therefore, there would be no impact on agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions/Energy:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, other regulated pollutants, and GHG emissions during construction. ROG, NO_x, and GHG emissions are associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ and GHG emissions would be generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a significant long-term increase in emissions.

There would be a minor increase in indirect operational emissions due to the use of electricity to operate the pumps, motors, electrical components, SCADA system equipment, and emergency backup generator at the new lift station. Old inefficient pumps, motors, and electrical equipment at the four existing lift stations would be replaced with newer, energy-efficient equipment, resulting in a corresponding decrease in energy use. The new emergency backup generators would be used only in the event of an emergency and for limited times during monthly testing. These improvements would not be considered a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality, GHG emissions, or energy that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Special-Status Species

The evaluation of potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats was based on a records search and field observations. Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records for special-status species and natural communities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW], 2026); California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records for special-status plants in the USGS Chester 7.5-minute quadrangle (CNPS, 2026); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and candidate plant and wildlife species under jurisdiction of the USFWS (USFWS, 2026); and USFWS records for Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS, 2026).

Field surveys were completed by a Catalyst biologist on December 10, 2025, and July 13, 2026. Some of the special-status wildlife species potentially occurring in the study area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted. However, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics.

Special-Status Plants

Review of the USFWS species list for the project site did not identify any federally listed plant species, as potentially occurring in the project area. The project site does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species (USFWS, 2026).

A review of CNDDDB records showed that three special-status plant species have been broadly mapped in the project area: Lassen paintbrush (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1B.3), rosy orthocarpus (CRPR 2B.1), and white-stemmed pondweed (CRPR 2B.3). The exact locations of the three species are not known. Lassen paintbrush was broadly mapped throughout the community of Chester based on an 1882 Cleveland collection. Rosy orthocarpus was broadly mapped around Lake Almanor based on an 1880 Austin collection. White-stemmed pondweed was broadly mapped around Lake Almanor based on an 1879 Austin collection (CDFW, 2026).

The following eight special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: dwarf resin birch (CRPR 2B.2), flat-leaved bladderwort (CRPR 2B.2), long-leaved starwort (CRPR 2B.2), marsh skullcap (CRPR 2B.2), Plumas rayless daisy (CRPR 1B.3), slender Orcutt grass (CRPR 1B.1, Federally Threatened [FT], State Endangered [SE]), Suksdorf's milk-vetch (CRPR 1B.2), watershield (CRPR 2B.3), and western goblin (CRPR 2B.1). Two non-status plant species, Egg Lake monkeyflower (CRPR 4.2) and Mingan moonwort (CRPR 4.2), were reported within the search radius (CDFW, 2026).

CNPS records did not identify any additional special-status plant species in the USGS Chester 7.5-minute quadrangle. Six additional non-status plant species were reported in the USGS Chester 7.5-minute quadrangle: California lady's-slipper (CRPR 4.2), Coleman's rein orchid (CRPR 4.3), hot rock daisy (CRPR 4.3), lesser bladderwort (CRPR 4.2), obtuse starwort (CRPR 4.3), and slender cottongrass (CRPR 4.3) (CNPS, 2026).

No special-status plant species were observed in the project area during the field surveys and based on observed habitat characteristics, none are expected to be present.

Special-Status Wildlife

Review of the USFWS species list identified six federally listed wildlife species as potentially being present in the project area: California condor (Experimental Population; Non-Essential [EPNE], SE, State Fully Protected [SFP]), California spotted owl (Federally Proposed Threatened [FPT]), foothill yellow-legged frog (FT, State Threatened [ST]), gray wolf (Federally Endangered [FE], SE), monarch butterfly (FPT), and northwestern pond turtle (FPT, State Species of Special Concern [SSSC]). The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed wildlife species (CDFW, 2026; USFWS, 2026).

A review of CNNDDB records showed that two special-status wildlife species have been broadly mapped in the project area: Cascades frog (State Candidate Endangered [SCE], SSSC) and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (FE, ST, State Watch List [WL]). The Cascades frog was reported once in 1934 and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was reported once in 1975 both in the general vicinity of Chester (CDFW, 2026).

The following additional special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: American goshawk (SSSC), bald eagle (Federally Delisted [FD], SE, SFP), greater sandhill crane (ST, SFP), Sierra Nevada red fox – southern Cascades DPS (ST), southern long-toed salamander (SSSC), and western bumble bee (SCE). Two non-status wildlife species, obscure bumble bee and osprey, have also been mapped within the search radius (CDFW, 2026).

No special-status wildlife species were observed in the project area during the field surveys and based on observed habitat characteristics, none are expected to be present.

Natural Communities

CNDDDB records do not identify any sensitive natural communities in the project area (CDFW, 2026). The field evaluation confirmed that the study area has been disturbed in the past and is currently developed with roads, residences, and related infrastructure. Field review found that the principal natural community within the study area is urban. An urbanized plant community exists on the residential and commercial properties in the study area. The plant community is characterized by native trees and shrubs and a variety of introduced ornamental species. Urban communities are not considered sensitive by CDFW.

Two constructed ditches and two intermittent streams are present in the study area within the urban habitat. These ditches and streams do not have a relatively permanent flow and lack a continuous surface connection with waters of the U.S.; therefore, it is not anticipated that the ditches and streams are subject to federal jurisdiction. However, the constructed ditches and intermittent streams fall under State jurisdiction as Waters of the State. Current project plans are designed to avoid impacts to these features, and no permits are needed at this time. However, if plans change and impacts to the ditches and streams are unavoidable, a waste discharge permit (or waiver) would need to be obtained from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW may be required.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being present in the project area: American dipper, black-throated gray warbler, California gull, California spotted owl, Calliope hummingbird, Cassin's finch, Clark's grebe, evening grosbeak, hermit warbler, Lawrence's goldfinch, Lewis's woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, western grebe, willet, and wrentit. The bald eagle and golden eagle are not listed as Birds of Conservation Concern, but the USFWS noted that they are birds that warrant attention because they are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (USFWS, 2026).

Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels are not expected given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances. At this time, no trees within the project area are slated to be removed. However, if plans change, construction activities that involve the removal of trees and other vegetation have the potential to directly impact nesting birds, if present. The potential for adversely affecting nesting birds will be minimized by conducting construction activities between September 1 and January 31 when birds are not nesting, or conducting pre-construction nesting surveys in accordance with existing standard construction measures if work is conducted during the nesting season. There are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, natural communities, wetlands, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone to the project site is the Hat Creek Fault Zone; faults affiliated with this Zone are located over ~22 miles north of the project site (DOC, n.d.a, n.d.b). The California Geological Survey also identifies several potentially active faults surrounding Chester; however, they are all over one mile from the project site (DOC, 2022). The project does not include any components that would increase the likelihood of a seismic event or increase the exposure of people or structures to risks associated with a seismic event.

Soils on the project site are mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service as Forgay very gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Forgay extremely gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; and Mountmed clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (USDA, n.d.). These soil types are found throughout the project area and are not unique to the project site. There are no unique circumstances related to geology and soils that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects in the area.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion/sediment control would be implemented in accordance with standard construction practices, which would prevent damage to surface and groundwater quality.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06063C0175E, effective March 2, 2005), the majority of the project site is not located within a designated flood hazard zone. Minimal portions of the sewer collection line improvements are located within the 100-year flood hazard zone of the North Fork Feather River (FEMA, n.d.). However, improvements in the

floodplain would be subsurface, and no structures that could impede flood flows or otherwise adversely affect the natural value and functions of the floodplain are proposed. The project does not include any components that would impede or redirect flood flows or otherwise adversely affect the natural value and functions of the floodplain.

Land Use and Planning:

The project would not physically divide an established community or cause an environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has identified two active mines near the project site. The Chester Pit 1 is located north of Highway 36, approximately one mile west of the nearest improvements. The Chester Pit #2/South is located immediately south of the Chester Airport, ~0.5 miles southwest of the existing lift station off 1st Avenue (DOC, n.d.c). Due to the distance from the project area, the project would have no impact on existing mining operations. In addition, the Plumas County Zoning Code allows mineral resource extraction and production in the Mining (M) zone district (Plumas County, 2025). According to the County's Zoning Map, there are no lands in the project vicinity that are zoned M. Further, the project site is in an urbanized area that is not conducive to mining operations.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area; however, this is a temporary impact that would cease at completion of the project. The project includes the installation of a new emergency backup generator at each of the existing four lift stations and the new lift station. However, the generator would be used only in the event of an emergency and for limited times during monthly testing. Therefore, an increase in ambient noise due to use of the generators would be less than significant. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the project is to replace aging and undersized sewer lines and reduce infiltration and inflow into the collection system. Although some of the collection lines would be upsized for compliance with current State regulations for sewer systems, this would not reflect an increase in capacity that could result in growth-inducing impacts. This would allow population and housing growth to resume in accordance with General Plan and zoning criteria; the project would not induce unplanned population growth in the area. There are no unusual circumstances associated with population or housing that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Public Services/Recreation:

Because the project would not induce unplanned population growth, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services.

Transportation/Traffic:

Because the project would not induce unplanned population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in an unexpected permanent increase in traffic or vehicle miles traveled. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Further, this is a temporary impact and would cease upon completion of the improvements. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the transportation system due to unusual circumstances.

Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the project would not induce unplanned population growth in the area, the project would not generate unanticipated demand for power, natural gas, telecommunications facilities, stormwater drainage, wastewater treatment, or other utilities and services. There are no unusual circumstances associated with

utilities or service systems that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

4. Scenic Highways. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area; therefore, there would be no impact (Caltrans, 2023).

5. 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 §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The records search identified one active clean-up site in the project area (California Environmental Protection Agency, 2026).

Corner Store (Case T10000024252)

The Corner Store is located at 189 Main Street, immediately south of proposed improvements along Main Street and north of proposed improvements along Gay Street. According to the SWRCB, unauthorized discharge from two leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) occurred; however, it is unknown when the leak originally began. The two 10,000-gallon gasoline steel underground storage tanks and all ancillary equipment were removed in October 2025 as permitted by the Plumas County Environmental Health. During removal, groundwater and soil samples were collected and analyzed for petroleum constituents. On January 6, 2025, the SWRCB informed the property owner that based on preliminary review, an unauthorized release of diesel and gasoline has occurred on the property during tank removal and may have impacted underlying groundwater and surface soils. The letter included a request for a Site Investigation Work Plan submittal pursuant to applicable regulations. According to Geotracker records, the property owner has applied for funding assistance to complete the required site investigation tasks and is waiting for the application process to conclude before submitting the Work Plan to the SWRCB (SWRCB, n.d.).

Minimal work is proposed adjacent to the clean-up site area, and it is not expected that contamination from this clean-up site will be encountered during installation of the proposed improvements. In the event that contaminated soil or groundwater are encountered, the District would be responsible for the proper handling and disposal of the contaminated material in accordance with State and local requirements.

6. 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 resource.*

A cultural resources study was completed for the proposed project by Catalyst Environmental Solutions. The

study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search was conducted by the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS) on January 4, 2026, and covered a 1/4-mile radius around the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE includes all areas in which improvements would occur, and areas for staging and temporary construction access, as well as sufficient area for construction.

The records search revealed that 21 archaeological surveys have been conducted within a 1/4-mile radius of the APE, five of which encompass portions of the APE. The records search also revealed that six archaeological sites have been recorded within a 1/4-mile radius of the APE, one of which is located within the APE.

On November 21, 2025, the NAHC conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File; the search did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted on December 12, 2025, with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. The Mooretown Rancheria responded on January 6, 2026, stating that the Tribe was not aware of any cultural resources in the APE, and requested to be contacted if any resources are identified. No responses were received from any other tribe.

Archaeological fieldwork took place on November 23, 2025, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. One historic-era structure was identified in the study area: the 1st Avenue Bridge (Caltrans Bridge No. 06-09C0137). Built in 1947, the bridge is a concrete slab structure, a common and durable bridge design of the mid-20th century well suited to shorter river crossings. As part of Caltrans' Statewide Historic Bridge Inventory Update, the bridge was reviewed for historic significance and placed in Category 5, meaning it was determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the bridge's Category 5 designation in the Caltrans Statewide Historic Bridge Inventory, it is the Catalyst's recommendation that the 1st Avenue Bridge be treated as **not eligible** for listing in the NRHP or in the CRHR.

No other cultural resources were identified within the APE.

The cultural resources study concluded that the project would have no effect on historical or prehistoric cultural resources. However, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during excavation activities. Therefore, the following standard construction measures would be included in bid/construction contract documents to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the Chester Public Utility District (CPUD) shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archaeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the CPUD prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, CPUD shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION

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<https://cadoc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=510bf02ccc9543f99b625551a3e7c7d0>. Accessed March 2026.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2026. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data>. Accessed March 2026.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2023. California Road System – Functional Classification. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=026e830c914c495797c969a3e5668538>. Accessed March 2026.

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