NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Change of Use Project

To: California Office of Planning and Research
Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Federal Agencies
Other Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Public Review

Project: Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Change of Use Project

Lead Agency: City of Beaumont

Date: November 25, 2026

Notice of Preparation:
This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the City of Beaumont (City) as the Lead Agency has determined that there are potentially significant impacts associated with implementation projects identified in the proposed Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Change of Use Project, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. The City of Beaumont owns and operates the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant, which discharges treated wastewater to Cooper's Creek. To promote sustainability and consistent with the State policy promoting the use of recycled water, the City is proposing to distribute a portion of its treated wastewater for use within the City and to recharge groundwater within the Beaumont Basin, instead of discharging it to Cooper's Creek. The City has prepared this Notice of Preparation in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15082).

The following issues have been identified to be addressed in the scope of the Program EIR (PEIR): air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, greenhouse gas, hydrology and water quality, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. The City has not identified any other issues identified in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G that raise potentially significant environmental impacts. The issues the following were found to have a less than significant impact on the environment, with mitigation as indicated: agricultural and forestry resources (LTSM)[1], mineral resources (LTS)[2], population and housing (LTS), public services (LTSM), recreation (NI)[3], transportation (LTSM), and wildfire (LTSM).

The City of Beaumont is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies to assist in the further development of the scope and content of the environmental information to be studied in the PEIR. In accordance with CEQA, responsible and trustee agencies are requested to review the Project Description (attached) and provide comments on the scope and content of the environmental information related to the responsible or trustee agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR. The PEIR will be used by City and responsible agencies—Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and State Water Resources Control Board —when considering approval of the Project and related documents.

In accordance with CEQA, comments to the NOP must be received by City no later than 30 of days after publication of this notice. The review period for this NOP is from November 25, 2026 to December 24, 2026. We request that comments to this NOP be received no later than December 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

[1] LTSM: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
[2] LTS: Less Than Significant
[3] NI: No Impact

Please include a return address and contact name with your comments and send them via mail or email to the address shown below:

Thaxton Van Belle, Director of Water Reclamation
City of Beaumont
550 East Sixth Street
Beaumont, California 92223
Phone: (951) 769-8520 Email: TVanBelle@beaumontca.gov

Project Location:

The proposed Project occurs within the boundaries of the San Timoteo Watershed shown on **Figure 1**. This figure also shows the City boundary, local surface water steams and tributaries, WWTP discharge locations, and other jurisdictional and hydrological boundaries including the adjudicated Beaumont Basin, Beaumont groundwater management zone (GMZ), San Timoteo GMZ, and Yucaipa GMZ. This figure was prepared as part of the Cooper's Creek and San Timoteo Creek Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report prepared as part of the early coordination efforts in developing this Project. The Project area shown on **Figure 1** corresponds to that report.

The Beaumont WWTP, where the outfall (DP001) to Cooper's Creek is located, is at the following address: 715 West 4th Street, Beaumont, California 92223. The Beaumont WWTP is located within Section 9, Township 3 South, Range 1 West of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Beaumont, CA topographical quadrangle, with a latitude and longitude of 33.923476º, -116.991619º. Refer to **Figure 2,** which depicts an aerial image of the Beaumont WWTP site location.

Treated wastewater used as recycled water would be distributed by the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Pass Water District (BCVWD). To use the treated wastewater as recycled water distributed by BCVWD, the existing 24" diameter gravity pipeline from existing storage tanks at the Beaumont WWTP at 715 West 4th Street, Beaumont, California 92223 will be extended by approx. 100 feet to a new pumping station located at the adjacent property to the west at 713 W. 4th Street. The proposed point of connection (POC) to the BCVWD non-potable water distribution system is shown on **Figure 3** (note that **Figure 5** depicts the BCVWD non-potable water distribution system), and as part of the proposed Project, the existing 16" diameter pressure pipeline on the WWTP property (currently capped at both ends) will be extended approx. 100 feet to the new pumping station and also will be extended approx. 75 feet to the existing BCVWD line in 4th Street. This connection is located within Section 9, Township 3 South, Range 1 West of the USGS 7.5-Minute Beaumont, CA topographical quadrangle, with a latitude and longitude of 33.925852º, -116.991535º.

To use the treated wastewater to recharge the groundwater, one or more recharge basins would be developed on one or more sites within the Beaumont Basin. The City is currently considering the following Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 400010001, 400010005, 400010006, 400010007, 400020030, 400250001, 400250012, 404140007, 407180003, 407190008, 407230010, 407230020, 407230027, 407230034, 414070001, 414070002, and 414070007. The specific site–or sites–for the recharge basin location within the context of the above APNs has not yet been identified. This area, within which up to 40 acres of recharge basin(s) will be developed, is shown on **Figure 4**. Parcel specific locational details are as follows (contiguous parcels are presented together):

- 400010001 is located in the City of Calimesa. The parcel is located south of Desert Lawn Drive, just south of its intersection with Brookside Avenue.
- 400010005 and 407230010: The address for these parcels is: 11058 and 11010 Desert Lawn Dr, Calimesa, CA 92320. These parcels are north of the intersection of Desert Lawn Drive and Brookside Avenue, and are south of Interstate 10 (I-10).
- 400010006 and 400010007: The address for these parcels is: 11106 and 11154 Desert Lawn Dr, Calimesa, CA 92320. These parcels are east of the intersection of Desert Lawn Drive and Brookside Avenue, and are south of I-10.

- 400020030 and 400250001. These parcels are part of the Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon within the City of Beaumont. The only areas considered for the Recharge Basin(s) within these parcels are the existing resort ponds.
- 400250012 is located in the City of Beaumont south of Brookside Avenue and east of Oak View Drive. The parcel is both south and east of Brookside Elementary School.
- 404140007 is located in the City of Beaumont south of Cougar Way and west of Beaumont Avenue. The parcel is south of Mountain View Middle School.
- 407230020, 407230027, and 407230034 are located in the City of Beaumont north of Brookside Avenue and east of I-10.
- 407190008, 407180003 are located within Unincorporated Riverside County north of Brookside Avenue and west of Hannon Road.
- 414070001, 414070002 and 414070007 are located in the City of Beaumont south of Oak Valley Parkway between Oak View Drive to the west and Noble Creek Regional Park to the north and east.

These parcels are generally located within:

- Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Sections 29 , 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, and
- Township 2 South, Range 2 West Section 36, and
- Township 3 South ,Range 1 West Section 4

The Recharge Basin(s) fall within two USGS 7.5-Minute topographical quadrangles, El Casco, CA and Beaumont, CA, with a central latitude and longitude of 33.952574°, -117.0142546°. This area falls within the Cities of Beaumont and Calimesa, as well as in Unincorporated Riverside County.

Project Description:

The City of Beaumont seeks to increase the beneficial use of its treated wastewater that is currently being discharged to Cooper's Creek. To support this effort, the City prepared the Cooper's Creek and San Timoteo Creek (CCSTC) Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report. The purpose of the report was to inform strategies for reducing recycled water discharges and to prepare an Adaptive Management and Mitigation Plan (AMMP) for riparian habitat along Cooper's Creek and San Timoteo Creek that could be impacted by reduced flows.

The key takeaways of the CCSTC Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report were that:

a) The total annual discharge increased monotonically year-to-year from 1989 to 2003 and during this time riparian habitat health showed stable conditions.
b) Discharge in 2003 averaged 1.7 million gallons per day (MGD) or 1,900 AF per year, which represents the maximum discharge between 1984 and 2003.
c) From 2004 to 2023 discharge increased year to year. This correlated with noticeable increase in riparian habitat health.
d) Groundwater levels remained stable while surface water increased.

Based on the above takeaways, the City determined that a reduction in discharge to Cooper's Creek Discharge Point (DP) DP001 from the City's WWTP to 1.7 MGD would likely sustain groundwater levels and riparian health. As such, this PEIR analyzes the impacts related to reducing the Beaumont WWTP discharge to 1.7 MGD.

The CCSTC Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report identified that the reduction in discharge to Coopers Creek to 1.7 MGD—i.e. the reduction requested as part of the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) 1211 Change of Use Petition—must adhere to the following performance criteria, which will be addressed in the proposed AMMP.

- Minimum discharges necessary to sustain habitat along the Project area identified in the CCSTC Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report that have historically benefited from WWTP discharges shall be identified and implemented.
- While 1.7 MGD is the minimum proposed discharge volume for the Project, reductions in discharge should be done in a manner that results in surface water flows that mimic the natural seasonal flow

system, which typically begins to decay around the end of April. Thus, 1.7 MGD is a minimum discharge, but higher surface water flows (above 1.7 MGD) should be maintained in the early and peak growing season (i.e. March-May) and should taper off toward the end of the growing season (i.e. June-October). Lower flows should be maintained (at or around the minimum discharge) during f he dormant season (November-February). The surface water flows would be observed through a baseline monitoring program, which is currently in effect, as outlined in Appendix 1, the CCSTC Habitat Characterization and Sustainability Report. Responses would be addressed through the AMMP.

- The groundwater table in the riparian zone of San Timoteo and Cooper's Creeks will be monitored to ensure that reductions in surface water flows do not result in a drop in groundwater elevations that results in a negative impact to the riparian habitat health.

To meet the above performance criteria, the City proposes to develop and implement an AMMP. The AMMP would:

- Establish Project-specific management objectives and performance criteria.
- Implement a monitoring program to track compliance with environmental approvals and regulatory permits and environmental conditions.
- Define mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential impacts.
- Provide an adaptive management framework linking monitoring results to management responses.
- Identify trigger thresholds and corresponding corrective actions.
- Assign agency and responsible party roles for implementation and oversight.
- Specify data evaluation methods, reporting schedules, and communication protocols.
- Include contingency measures if mitigation is unsuccessful or performance targets are not met.
- Provide long-term review and plan updates to help maintain effectiveness over the life of the Project.

Further, the Project proposes to develop several facilities to implement the beneficial reuse of treated wastewater . The Project is defined in terms of the facilities it intends to develop, and the actions it proposes to take as part of the development of this environmental document. These potential facilities are separated into three Project categories: (1) Project Category 1: Conveyance Facilities and Ancillary Facilities; (2) Project Category 2: Recharge Basin(s); (3) Project Category 3: Change of Use Permit. Below are general descriptions of the facilities and operations proposed as part of the Project. Sufficient information is known about the facilities and actions proposed in Project Categories 1 and 3 to prepare a project-level analysis of potential impacts. The specific location of the recharge basin(s) is not known, and further, the specific pipeline alignments of the non-potable water pipeline connecting from BCVWD's non-potable distribution system to the recharge basin(s), and raw water pipeline connecting from SGPWA's water distribution system to the recharge basin(s) are unknown; therefore, the EIR will provide a programmatic analysis of those project features. At the time the City identifies the location of any recharge basin(s) it will examine the proposed basin(s) in the light of this EIR to determine whether an additional CEQA document is required

Project Category 1: Conveyance Facilities and Ancillary Facilities
This Project Category would install up to 8,075 lineal feet (LF) of raw and/or recycled water/non-potable pipeline up to 24" in diameter. Further, this Project Category covers the installation of a pump station and associated connection pipelines with a capacity of approximately 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm).

Project Category 2: Recharge Basin(s)
This Project Category would install up 40 acres of a single recharge basin or would install several recharge basins equal to 40 acres. The recharge basin(s) would have a capacity for recharging up to 3,600 acre feet per year (AFY) to the Beaumont Groundwater Basin.

Project Category 3: Wastewater Change Petition
This City would obtain authorization from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to use its recycled water above 1.7 MGD for the purposes described above. This would result in an anticipated reduction in the amount of recycled water discharged to Cooper's Creek by about 1.8 AFY on average.
The whole of the Project Description for the NOP can be found at:

https://www.beaumontca.gov/1504/Public-Notices

Scoping Meeting:

A public scoping meeting will be held to receive verbal public comments and suggestions on the environmental issues associated with implementation of the Beaumont WWTP Change of Use Project that will be addressed in the PEIR. It will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the facilities proposed in the Beaumont WWTP Change of Use Project. After the presentation, oral comments will be accepted. Written comment forms will be made available for those who wish to submit comments in writing at the scoping meeting. The Scoping meeting will be held at the following address from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Monday, December 14, 2026.

Room 4, City Hall
City of Beaumont
550 East Sixth Street
Beaumont, California 92223