

COUNTY OF TULARE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY



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Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Study

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2017011028)

October 2017

Prepared by:

Tulare County Resource Management Agency
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Appendix A: Feasibility Technical Memo

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Appendix B: CEQA Noticing

Notice of Preparation, Scoping Meeting, Agency Comment Letters Received, Notice of Availability, OPR/SCH RDEIR Submittal

NOTE: The Draft Environmental Impact Report, including Chapter 3. Impact Analysis and all other chapters as referred to in this document, can be found on the County’s website at:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

Executive Summary

This Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR) concludes that the proposed Plainview Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project (“Project” or “Proposed Project”) would result in ***No Substantial Impact*** on the environment. The project analyzed in this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is Alternatives 5 and 6 provided in the “*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*” (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The Project would result in the construction of a wastewater main along Pratt Street/Road 96 (and lift station(s)) which will connect to an existing City of Tulare (City) wastewater trunk line (at Paige Avenue/Avenue 216); and construction of collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract. These collection lines would then inter-tie to the mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City’s wastewater trunk line and subsequently to the City’s wastewater treatment plant approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract.

The Recirculated DEIR has been prepared consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Its intent is to inform the public and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors of the potential environmental impacts the proposed Project could have on resources as specified in the CEQA Guidelines. This EIR, in its entirety, addresses and discloses potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts in the following resource areas:

Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources
Air Quality	Biological Resources
Cultural Resources	Geology and Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology and Water Quality	Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources	Noise
Population and Housing	Public Services
Recreation	Transportation/Traffic
	Utilities-and Service Systems
Mandatory Findings of Significance	

Although the Mandatory Findings of Significance is not a resource per se, it is required as it essentially provides a summary conclusion of the Project’s potential on Long Term Impacts; Cumulative Impacts; and Impacts to Species, Historical Resources, and on Human Beings. It is at this discussion where the EIR concludes that there would be no significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of this Project.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that local government agencies, prior to taking action on projects over which they have discretionary approval authority, consider

the environmental consequences of such projects. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a public disclosure document designed to provide local and state governmental agency decision makers with an objective analysis of potential environmental consequences to support informed decision-making. The initial Draft EIR (State of California Clearinghouse # 2017011028) and this Recirculated DEIR have been prepared by Tulare County in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15120 through §15131 and §15161 regulating EIRs to evaluate the environmental consequences of the Project, to discuss alternatives to the proposed Project, and to propose mitigation measures that will offset, minimize or avoid identified significant environmental impacts. This document focuses on issues determined to be potentially significant as discussed in the Initial Study and the public scoping process completed for this Project,

A Notice of Preparation stating the County's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on this project and requesting comments on the scope of the EIR as issued on January 13, 2017. The NOP announced that the County intended to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project and would conduct a Public Scoping Meeting. The NOP described the Project and issues to be addressed in the EIR and welcomed written responses to the NOP. It also announced the date, time and location of the Public Scoping Meeting, indicating that any interested party was invited to attend and express comments and concerns and ask questions about the Project and discuss potential environmental impacts that could result. On February 9, 2017, the RMA requested that OPR/SCH extend the comment period by 37-days to March 30, 2017. In addition to newspaper notification, and agencies notification, the NOP was also made available at the County's website at:

<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning/environmental-planning/notice-of-preparation-nop/matheny-tract-wastewater-system-nop-pdf/>

The Public Scoping Meeting was held during the initial 30-day NOP comment period on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 1:30 PM, in the Conference Room "L" of the Resource Management Agency at 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California to solicit input on the scope of the EIR. No agencies or other interested parties attended.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project analyzed in this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is the Alternatives provided in the "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Track Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project (Project) and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Alternative 1: | On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District |
| Alternative 2: | Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare |
| Alternative 3: | Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility |

Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

Following receipt of additional alternatives from the City of Tulare, this RDEIR was prepared to consider Alternatives 5 and 6 as follows

Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows.

Construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract and connection to collection lines in the various County rights-of-way abutting the homes and businesses would occur. These collection lines would then inter-tie to main lines that would deliver the wastewater to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant located near the intersection Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 (approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract). The wastewater main line would be constructed within the Pratt Street/Road 96 right-of-way extending from Matheny Tract to the City of Tulare's sewer trunk pipeline (at the intersection of Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). Depending on precise engineering designs, at least one lift station (or other appurtenant structures) may also be required. Pipelines would be installed via open-cut trenching; trenches would be closed upon completion of construction. Roadways would be repaved/resurfaced as needed and specified by the County of Tulare.

PROJECT LOCATION

The unincorporated Matheny Tract community is located less than 0.5 miles south of the City of Tulare in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. The initial Draft EIR was prepared using the Preferred Alternative as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the "Preferred/Proposed Project" as "the Project". As provided in this Recirculated DEIR, the Project retains the intent to connect to the City of Tulare's wastewater (sewer) collection system near Paige Avenue (Avenue 216) and Pratt Street (Road 96); however, Alternatives 5 and 6 are included for consideration.

The Project site is located approximately 60 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 25 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Matheny Tract comprises of a relatively flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Matheny Tract sits at an approximate elevation of 263 feet above mean sea level.¹

¹ Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and “I” Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to “I” Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface; these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project is within the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, the north half of the southwest corner of Section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. It can be found within the Tulare United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

North Matheny (Canal Street and Beacon Avenue):

Latitude: 36°10'20.90" N

Longitude: 119°20'55.95" W

South Matheny (Matheny Avenue and Prine Drive):

Latitude: 36°10'01.11" N

Longitude: 119°21'14.90" W

As a whole community, Matheny Tract is approximately 0.5 miles west of State Route (SR) 99, two miles south of SR 137, and approximately three miles southeast of SR 63.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

Matheny Tract is unsewered and relies on individual on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal. The average lot size indicates adequate space for septic systems with a community water system; however, as noted above there are many lots with more than one dwelling and which may have more than one septic system onsite or have insufficient space to support efficient and effective septic effluent leaching. Additionally, many parcels have been divided, multiple times in some cases, to sizes as small as 6,000 square feet. Nearly 15% of the lots are now less than 12,500 square feet, which is the County of Tulare minimum lot size (see Tulare County Code 7-01-1350) for septic systems with a community water system

According to the 2010 Census data the population of the Matheny Tract is 1,212 people; however the American Community Survey (ACS) updates the housing estimates annually. The following table shows the data from the last three ACS 5-year estimates (prior population data is not available). Based on the population estimates shown above [Table 2-1: Community Population of the Report] and the building moratorium, it is not anticipated that population will

grow in the future. For the purposes of this project, it is assumed the population will remain at or near 1,200 individuals. The average household size was shown in the 2010 US Census as 3.79 persons.

The two major components of the Project are generally construction of the wastewater main line within the Pratt Street/Road 96 right-of-way extending from Matheny Tract to the City of Tulare's sewer trunk pipeline (and at least one lift station or other appurtenant structures) and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract and connection to collection lines in the various County rights-of-way abutting the homes and businesses. These collection lines would then inter-tie to the mainline leading to the City of Tulare's trunk line along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216. As indicated earlier, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a 27- or 42-inch diameter pipeline that would ultimately convey wastewater to the City of Tulare's WWTP.

Construction-related activities of the Project are anticipated to take place 8 hours a day for a total of 276 working days (approximately 9-12 months depending upon weather, holidays, and weekend work). It is anticipated that the Project's construction-related activities would require approximately eight (8) construction workers, depending on daily activities, resulting in an average of approximately 16 to 32 construction vehicle trips per day. Location of the pipeline will require construction activities in the middle of the road with equipment located on one side of the trench and materials and trench spoils on the other side of the trench. This will require continual traffic control around trenching activities. It is anticipated that two-way traffic will be maintained throughout most of the construction period. Construction-related activities of the Project would require temporary staging and storage areas for the materials and equipment.

Permits and approvals would require coordination with two regional agencies, Caltrans and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (Air District). Construction within road rights-of-way would require encroachment permits from Caltrans or the County of Tulare, dependent upon the specific right-of-way in question. The Air District has regulations in place to minimize the release of criteria pollutant emissions, specifically oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), during construction-related activities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS

Project Objectives

The following objectives are desirable if the Project is constructed as presented in the "Project Description".

Objective 1: Connection to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Construct a system capable of accessing the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility which would provide adequate on-site wastewater removal and treatment

services for Matheny Tract; (provide an average daily flow of 110,000 gpd to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses.).

Objective 2: Abandonment of on-site septic tank/leach line systems

Benefit: Eventual abandonment of the existing individual residential on-site septic tank/leach line systems located within Matheny Tract.

Objective 3: Beneficial Environmental Impacts

Benefit: Provide a system that has the least potential to result in adverse environmental impacts and would provide an environmental benefit by eliminating wastewater discharge from on-site system tanks into the ground.

Objective 4: Avert a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Avoid construction of a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility (including percolation ponds) in Matheny Tract. This would be the most expensive Alternative to the Project and would likely result in an economic and unaffordable hardship to Matheny Tract's residents.

Objective 5: Protect groundwater supply

Benefit: Treat collected wastewater so as to remove constituents, such as BOD, suspended solids, nitrogen, and waterborne bacteria and viruses, to a greater extent, thereby improving subsurface water quality in the receiving groundwater basin relative to current environmental conditions.

Objective 6: Cost-Efficiency

Benefit: Provide the most cost-effective, safe, and reliable means to collect and treat wastewater to Title 22 standards.

Objective 7: Affordable and Effective

Benefit: Implement an as affordable fees schedule to efficiently and effectively maintain and operate the wastewater system to enhance the quality of life for Matheny Tract residents.

Tulare County Objectives

The Project's purpose is consistent with a summary of key 2030 Tulare County General Plan Policies, 2015-2030 Tulare County Housing Element Policies, and Action Program 9 – Housing Related Infrastructure Needs as stated below:

Key General Plan Policies

This RDEIR incorporates applicable General Plan Policies included as part of each resource discussion in Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR. Following is a summary of the 114 General Plan Policies the Project would support:

AG-1.7 Preservation of Agricultural Lands - The County shall promote the preservation of its agricultural economic base and open space resources through the implementation of resource management programs such as the Williamson Act, Rural Valley Lands Plan, Foothill Growth Management Plan or similar types of strategies and the identification of growth boundaries for all urban areas located in the County.

AG-1.10 Extension of Infrastructure into Agricultural Areas - The County shall oppose extension of urban services, such as sewer lines, water lines, or other urban infrastructure, into areas designated for agriculture use unless necessary to resolve a public health situation. Where necessary to address a public health issue, services should be located in public rights-of-way in order to prevent interference with agricultural operations and to provide ease of access for operation and maintenance. Service capacity and length of lines should be designed to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into urban/suburban uses.

AQ-1.3 Cumulative Air Quality Impacts - The County shall require development to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize cumulative air quality impacts. Applicants shall be required to propose alternatives as part of the State CEQA process that reduce air emissions and enhance, rather than harm, the environment.

AQ-1.4 Air Quality Land Use Compatibility - The County shall evaluate the compatibility of industrial or other developments which are likely to cause undesirable air pollution with regard to proximity to sensitive land uses, and wind direction and circulation in an effort to alleviate effects upon sensitive receptors.

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions - The County shall monitor and support the efforts of Cal/EPA, CARB, and the SJVAPCD, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Section 38501 et seq.), to develop a recommended list of emission reduction strategies. As appropriate, the County will evaluate each new project under the updated General Plan to determine its consistency with the emission reduction strategies.

ERM-1.1 Protection of Rare and Endangered Species - The County shall ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive wildlife and plant life, including those species designated as rare, threatened, and/or endangered by State and/or Federal government, through compatible land use development.

ERM-1.2 Development in Environmentally Sensitive Areas - The County shall limit or modify proposed development within areas that contain sensitive habitat for special status species and direct development into less significant habitat areas. Development in natural habitats shall be controlled so as to minimize erosion and maximize beneficial vegetative growth.

PFS-3.4 Alternative Rural Wastewater Systems - The County shall consider alternative rural wastewater systems for areas outside of community UDBs and HDBs that do not have current systems or system capacity. For individual users, such systems include elevated leach fields, sand filtration systems, evapotranspiration beds, osmosis units, and holding tanks. For larger generators or groups of users, alternative systems, including communal septic tank/leach field systems, package treatment plants, lagoon systems, and land treatment, can be considered.

HS-1.2 Development Constraints - The County shall permit development only in areas where the potential danger to the health and safety of people and property can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention - The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water, and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination.

WR-2.1 Protect Water Quality - All major land use and development plans shall be evaluated as to their potential to create surface and groundwater contamination hazards from point and non-point sources. The County shall confer with other appropriate agencies, as necessary, to assure adequate water quality review to prevent soil erosion; direct discharge of potentially harmful substances; ground leaching from storage of raw materials, petroleum products, or wastes; floating debris; and runoff from the site.

WR-2.2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement - The County shall continue to support the State in monitoring and enforcing provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board.

PFS-1.8 Funding for Service Providers - The County shall encourage special districts, including community service districts and public utility districts to:

1. Institute impact fees and assessment districts to finance improvements,
2. Take on additional responsibilities for services and facilities within their jurisdictional boundaries up to the full extent allowed under State law, and

3. Investigate feasibility of consolidating services with other districts and annexing systems in proximity to promote economies of scale, such as annexation to city systems and regional wastewater treatment systems.

PF-6.4 UDBs and Interagency Coordination - The County shall use UDBs to provide a definition of an urban area for other planning programs, such as:

1. The area within the UDB should be considered as the same area for which water and sewer system planning may be needed and to be a consideration in the determination of an area required to adequately assess the availability and sufficiency of water supplies.

HS-8.18 Construction Noise - The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities by limiting construction activities to the hours of 7 am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday when construction activities are located near sensitive receptors. No construction shall occur on Sundays or national holidays without a permit from the County to minimize noise impacts associated with development near sensitive receptors.

2015-2030 Tulare County Housing Element Policies

Policy 2.21 Require all proposed housing within the development boundaries of unincorporated communities is either (1) served by community water and sewer, or (2) that physical conditions permit safe treatment of liquid waste by septic tank systems and the use of private wells.

Action Program 9 – Housing Related Infrastructure Needs

Provide vital information used for planning and development purposes, target expansion or repair of infrastructure and municipal services to areas with the most need and secure Federal and State funding for housing-related infrastructure. Provide technical assistance to PUDs, CSDs, and Mutual to fund infrastructure improvement and expansion, ensure safe and adequate water and liquid waste disposal, and have an equitable balance of fees between new and existing residents.

PFS-2.5 New Systems or Individual Wells - Where connection to a community water system is not feasible per PFS-2.4: Water Connections, service by individual wells or new community systems may be allowed if the water source meets standards for quality and quantity.

Lastly, all one hundred fourteen (114) Policies are listed in Chapter 7.

Project Benefits Statement

As implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 would be components of original Project, the overall Project would provide the following public and private benefits to Tulare County:

- 1) Collect an average daily flow of approximately 110,000 mgd in domestic wastewater and convey it (via a yet to be determined diameter pipeline along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216) to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant for treatment and disposal to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses;
- 2) Reduce and/or remove the threat of potential groundwater contamination caused by seepage of wastewater from failing and improperly operating septic systems into the underground water supply in the Community and surrounding areas;
- 3) Design and construct a wastewater system capable of adequately servicing the existing land uses and planned growth within the Matheny Tract Urban Development Boundary; and
- 4) Operate and maintain a wastewater system as affordably and cost effectively as possible for the users of the system in Matheny Tract.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS

Chapter 1 Introduction

This Chapter provides an overview of the purpose and use of an EIR and the EIR process and describes this review and recirculation of the previously prepared DEIR. The County of Tulare is proposing a Project for the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract that would connect to the existing City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant, and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract. These collection lines which would then inter-tie to the mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City's wastewater trunk line and subsequently to the City's wastewater treatment plant approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract. The community is unsewered and relies on individual on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal.

The unincorporated Matheny Tract community is located less than 0.5 miles south of the City of Tulare in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. Matheny Tract. The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and "I" Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to "I" Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface; these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project is within the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, the north half of the southwest corner of Section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 27,

Township 20 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. Matheny Tract is a community primarily comprised of rural residential properties with single-family dwelling units. The area has paved roads which are owned and maintained by the County of Tulare and provide sufficient circulation throughout the community. Of the 302 parcels included in this project, all but 17 are zoned R-A-M (Rural Residential, Special Mobil home Zone) (see Table 2-2 in Chapter 2 Project Description).

Local Regulatory Context: The Tulare County General Plan Update 2030 was adopted on August 28, 2012. As part of the General Plan, an EIR and background report were prepared. The General Plan background report contained contextual environmental analysis for the General Plan. The 2015 -2023 Tulare County Housing Element was adopted on November 17, 2015, and certified by State of California Department of Housing and Community Development on December 9, 2015.

Identification of Potentially Significant Impacts: Indicates that the EIR must identify potentially significant impacts consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15002 (h).

Consideration of Significant Impacts: Indicates that the EIR must consider significant impacts consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2.

Mitigation Measures: Indicates that the EIR is required to contain mitigation measures consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4.

Environmental Review Process: Summarizes steps taken prior to release of the draft EIR such as the Notice of Preparation, Scoping Meeting, and comments received from persons and/or agencies in response to the Notice of Preparation.

Chapter 2 Project Description, Objectives, and Environmental Setting

As noted earlier, the County of Tulare is proposing a Project for the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract that would connect to the existing City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant, and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract, and connection to collection lines which would then inter-tie to mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant.

In summary, Chapter 2 contains the following:

- **Project Location:** In addition to the location noted earlier, Alternatives 5 and 6 are located within Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 in/near the southwest quadrant of the City of Tulare, in Tulare County, California.
- **Vicinity of Project Site:** Generally, the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor, as shown in Figure 2-2.
- **Surrounding Land Uses:** Predominantly Agriculture.

- Project Setting (baseline conditions information pertinent to the proposed Project): Describes the existing septic tank/leach field systems, community water supply, existing water distribution system, water supply and wells, and required approvals/permits.
- Regulatory Setting: Applicable statutes, rules, regulations, standards, policies, etc. of the County of Tulare, local or special districts, utilities, and State and Federal governments.
- Project Objectives: (See page ES-5 and 6)

Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines include a Checklist of resources that must be addressed in an EIR. These resources are listed on page ES-1. There are 18 specific Resources and Mandatory Findings of Significance discussed in Chapter 3. It is noted that this RDEIR incorporates by reference the resources discussion contain in Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR. As such, this Chapter provides a comprehensive yet brief discussion in Tables 3-1; 3-2; and 3-3. The reader is guided to the resources discussions in separate sections of Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR where each section is structured as follows:

- Summary of Findings;
- Introduction, including Thresholds of Significance;
- Environmental Settings;
- Regulatory Settings such as applicable Federal, State, and Local laws, statutes, rules, regulations, and policies;
- Impact Evaluation including Project Impacts, Cumulative Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Conclusion;
- Definitions and Acronyms; and
- References.

Some resources required expertise to evaluate the Project's potential for impacts. As such, qualified experts prepared studies, evaluations, assessments, modeling, etc. (studies) to quantify and/or qualify potential resource impacts. The studies are contained in Appendices "A" through "H" in the initial Draft EIR and are incorporated herein by reference.

Chapter 4 Summary of Cumulative Impacts

A critically important component of an EIR is the Cumulative Impacts discussion. Chapter 4 discusses a Cumulative Impact Analysis under CEQA. Including Past, Present, Probable Future Projects; and a Summary of Cumulative Impacts. Whereas a project in and of itself may not result in an adverse environmental impact, its cumulative effects may. Therefore the CEQA Guidelines require a discussion of cumulative impacts per Section 15130. The Discussion of Cumulative Impacts defines cumulative impacts per Section 15355 - "Cumulative impacts" refers to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Tulare County, including the portion of the project near/within the City of Tulare, is the geographic extent for most impact analysis. This geographic area is the appropriate extent because of the following reasons:

1. The proposed Project is in Tulare County and County of Tulare is the Lead Agency; and
2. Tulare County General Plan polices applies to the proposed Project.

The basis for other resource specific cumulative impact analysis includes:

- For Aesthetics, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Land Use/Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Services Systems it is Tulare County and City of Tulare;
- For Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions it is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin;
- For Agriculture, Mineral Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources it is County of Tulare County;
- For Biological Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley;
- For Cultural Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley; and
- For Hydrology it is the Tulare Lake Basin (including the City of Tulare).

The Summary of Cumulative Impacts section discusses mitigable and immitigable impacts. Checklist Item criteria that would result in no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation are discussed in the Chapter 3 and are not reiterated in Chapter 4. As noted in Chapter 4, there are no Significant and Unavoidable Impacts; and Less Than Significant Impacts Cumulative Impacts are summarized in Table 4-2. There are a number of cumulative impacts that do not need mitigation; these impacts are discussed in Table 4-2 (Checklist Items with Less Than Significant Impacts). Chapter 8 contains a complete list of Mitigation Measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Project.

Chapter 5 Alternatives

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 requires that a reasonable range of Alternatives to the proposed Project be discussed in the EIR. The proposed Project site is the superior location. The conclusion contained in Chapter 5 is based on the criteria established for the site, an evaluation of a reasonable potential site, and the six reasonable Alternatives, of which four Alternatives are carried-over from the initial DEIR. The four original Alternatives evaluated are:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and Consolidation with the City of Tulare (*Preferred Alternative*)

Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Conventional Wastewater System (that is, a new collection system and wastewater treatment facility for Matheny Tract)

Alternative 4: No project

Two Additional Alternatives are:

Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline which would result in the construction of a new 42-inch trunk main pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows

The proposed Alternatives were analyzed based on five evaluation criteria which include each of the objectives of the Project and the assessment of the potential environmental impacts. Each Alternative considered did not meet all the evaluation criteria, as identified in Table 5-3 (Alternatives Evaluation), contained in Chapter 5. The following is a summary of the Alternatives contained in the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report (Appendix “D” of this DEIR):

Alternative 1: - On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District. As indicated in the Feasibility Report, There are no known significant environmental impacts associated with the construction of the treatment facilities. Construction problems may include locating the new septic tanks within each property in Matheny Tract that meets access and visual sight requirements. The unknown location and condition of existing septic tanks dictates the assumption of needing new septic tanks. Formation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District would provide for some mitigation of failing septic tank systems through pumping and rehabilitation if appropriate. Advantages to this process include the simplicity of the treatment process. Disadvantages include the requirement for septic tanks within each property served (with an access easement and visual sight lines to the electrical control panel), and the need to add an anoxic tank to achieve denitrification. As noted earlier, the reliance upon on-site systems in an area with soils that are not favorable to on-site systems and small residential lots has the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts. As such, Alternative 1 is not superior to the Preferred Alternative and is not considered a viable Alternative.

Alternative 3: – Gravity Collection System with conventional treatment (that is, a new collection system and wastewater treatment facility in Matheny Tract). Construction of a New Matheny Tract Wastewater Treatment Facility could potentially meet all of the Project objectives, but would not attain all the Alternatives Evaluation Criteria, in particular, providing a

system as affordable as possible for the community with the least environmental impact. As a low-income community, the residents would not likely have the resources to afford paying through user fees for the amortized costs of a constructing a complete new wastewater treatment plant infrastructure. Further, this Alternative would result in more significant impacts to air quality, agricultural, biological, cultural, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise resources compared to the Preferred Alternative resulting from development of an additional acreage (+/- 20.0 acres) and the establishment of support staff (for example, a business office to support operations and maintenance). Therefore, this Alternative would not meet the criteria as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Alternative 4 – No Project Alternative. The No Project Alternative would avoid all potential construction- and operations-related impacts related to agricultural land conversion, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and traffic resulting from the Preferred Alternative and each of the other Alternatives identified earlier. However, the No Project Alternative would not meet the Evaluation Criteria of eliminating the potentially significant public health-related impacts the community is currently experiencing. Therefore, the consideration of the No Project alternative being the environmentally superior alternative would require the judgment of whether in balance, eliminating or avoiding certain impacts is of greater benefit environmentally than avoiding certain other impacts. The No Project Alternative, while avoiding most impacts related to the physical environment resulting from the Project, would not avoid, resolve, or remedy the existing or future potential impacts related to human health from unsanitary conditions and/or water quality contamination by the continued use of individual septic tanks and leach fields. Therefore, this Alternative would not meet the criteria as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

As discussed in Alternatives 1 and 3, each of the Alternatives could result in more adverse environmental impacts as specified on the CEQA resources checklist. Therefore, the proposed Project is the environmentally superior alternative.

Environmental impacts associated with each of the alternatives presented compared to the Preferred Alternative are shown in **Table 5-2 Impacts of Alternatives Compared to Preferred Alternative Connection to City of Tulare WWTP** while **Table 5-3** is a matrix comparing each Alternative's and the Preferred Alternative's abilities to achieve the Evaluation Criteria.

As discussed in Alternatives 1 through 4, each of the Alternatives could result in more adverse environmental impacts as specified on the CEQA resources checklist. However, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in similar impacts as original Alternative 2. Therefore, the proposed Project is the environmentally superior alternative. As indicated in the PFR Addendum, "Based on the information presented in Table 3-1 [Table 2-1 in the RDEIR], the updated ranking of the alternatives is provided below. As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative.

The preferred alternative is Alternative No. 2b, despite it not being the least expensive alternative. The reasons for this include the evaluation of other ranking criteria that continue to

rank Alternative No. 2 as the preferred alternative and consistency with the City's Master Plan that shows a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue. Construction of a smaller main would necessitate the City removing and replacing the main or constructing a third main later, all of which are inefficient use of funds and would, overall, increase total cost of constructing a 27-inch main if replacement costs were considered (for purposes of this memorandum, evaluation of replacement costs has not been completed or included). For these reasons, Alternative 2a is not considered feasible, therefore Alternative 2b is the best ranked alternative and remains preferred.”²

Chapter 6 Economic, Social, & Growth Inducing Impacts

This Chapter discusses the Economic, Social, and Growth Inducing effects of the Project. It contains Table 6-1 which provides the CEQA requirements and a summary of the impact analysis as follows:

- **Economic Effects** - The proposed Project will not result in negative impacts to the region. It may result in an increase in economic benefits to the region since the Project consists of the quarrying of aggregates for road base and concrete mixing. That will meet demand.
- **Social Effects** - The Project will not result in a disproportionate effect on minority populations, low income populations, or Native Americans. The proposed Project would not create nor pose any adverse environmental justice issues.
- **Growth Inducing Effects** - The Project will not result in significant growth inducing impacts, as it will not result in significant new permanent jobs. Therefore, the Project does not need to rely on the available housing stock to accommodate permanent employees associated with the Project. The Project will not result in new housing; therefore growth inducing impacts will be less than significant.

The overall conclusion contained in Chapter 6 is implementation of the proposed Project will result in ***Less Than Significant*** environmental impacts, either individually or cumulatively, caused by either economic, social, or growth inducing effects.

Chapter 7 Unmitigable Impacts

This discussion provides determinations consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126.2 (b) Environmental Effects That Cannot Be Avoided, 15126.2 (c) Irreversible Impacts, and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

This Project will not result in significant and unavoidable impacts. All impacts have been found to be less than significant, or have been mitigated to a level considered less than significant.

² Matheny Tract Wastewater System Technical Memorandum, Addendum to Project Feasibility Report. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, September 2017.

Based on the analysis contained in the No Environmental Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided and the No Irreversible Impact sections contained in Chapter 7, a Statement of Overriding Considerations is not necessary. The Project's merits and objectives are discussed in the Project Description and are found to be consistent with the intent of the County of Tulare and its 2030 General Plan. As noted earlier, there are one hundred fourteen (114) General Plan Policies that apply to this Project. Chapter 3 refers the reader to Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR as this document provides a complete list of applicable policies for the specific Resource item discussed. Thus, the Project's benefits would outweigh any unavoidable and immitigable impacts to warrant a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Chapter 8 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

A summary of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is contained at the end of this Executive Summary [as Table 8-1] and in its entirety in Chapter 8. CEQA Section 21081.6 requires adoption of a reporting or monitoring program for those measures placed on a project to mitigate or avoid adverse effects on the environment. The mitigation monitoring and reporting program is required to ensure compliance during a project's implementation. Consistent with CEQA requirements, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program contained in this EIR include the following elements:

- **Action and Procedure.** The mitigation measures are recorded with the action and procedure necessary to ensure compliance. In some instances, one action may be used to verify implementation of several mitigation measures.
- **Compliance and Verification.** A procedure for compliance and verification has been outlined for each action necessary. This procedure designates who will take action, what action will be taken and when, and to whom and when compliance will be reported.
- **Flexibility.** The program has been designed to be flexible. As monitoring progresses, changes to compliance procedures may be necessary based upon recommendations by those responsible for the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. As changes are made, new monitoring compliance procedures and records will be developed and incorporated into the program.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS & MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: <i>Based on the disturbed condition of the majority of the sites, reasonable inferences were made that it was unlikely that any of the sensitive species listed would actually occur onsite. However, this Project does not preclude the opportunity for special status species from accessing or traveling through the site prior or post construction phases; including areas contained in Alternative 6 (i.e., the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor). Historically, there have been records of special status species in the vicinity of the proposed Alternatives. Within the context of CEQA, potential impacts could result in significant impacts (especially in the event Alternative 3 (standalone Matheny Tract Community Wastewater Treatment Facility) is chosen), implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 would reduce potential impacts to Less Than Significant.</i>							
Plant Species							
Impact: Four (4) special status species are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project action area. As shown in the CNDDDB results (Appendix “B”), the presence of Swainson’s hawk was indicated within 10 miles of the site in the last 10 years. No evidence is available to suggest that other raptor species are within the vicinity of the Project site (for example, through CNDDDB information and existing uses; such as residential uses, commercial uses, roadways, etc., and the absence of suitable trees for nesting).		.					
Bio 3.4-1 Avoidance: Special Status plant species: No impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, however, as a measure to ensure that no species occur in these areas prior to construction, if either Alternatives 2 or 3 are selected, pre-construction surveys shall be required before construction. Surveys should be	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless pre-construction survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Field survey by a qualified Biologist.			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
timed to coincide with flowering periods for species that could occur (March-May).		mitigation should occur as recommended following coordination with Governing Entity.					
Bio 3.4-2., Minimization (Special Status Plant Species): Because no impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, no minimization is required, but see Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 as well. If pre-construction surveys detect special status plant species, transplantation, project modification and/or compensation shall be employed.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist.			
Bio 3.4-3. Compensation (Special Status plant species): No compensation is anticipated as part of the Alternatives. If Special Status plant species are detected during pre-construction surveys in the action areas or impact footprints, compensation for impacts shall be required to compensate for impacts.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist working with USFS and/or CFW			
Bio 3.4-4. Monitoring (Special Status plant species): No monitoring is required. If pre-construction surveys detect plant species along the alignments/action areas, or impact footprints, but can be avoided, construction monitoring shall be required to ensure avoidance of those sensitive areas.	During construction-related activities.	On-going during construction-related activities	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Construction manager with oversight by qualified biologist.			
Animal Species							
Bio 3.4-5. Avoidance (Special Status Animal Species): Impacts to all kit fox dens, potential	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless	Governing Entity established for	Field survey by a qualified			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
raptor nests and other animals located along the alignments shall be avoided.		pre-construction survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then mitigation should occur as recommended following coordination with Governing Entity.	operating the Wastewater System Services.	Biologist.			
Bio 3.4-6. Minimization (Special Status Animal Species): Minimization measures assume that some level of impact will occur (that some level of disturbance occurs). Under this approach, the Agency shall consult with DFW/USFWS. As the Agency initiates this process they can offer to perform the following measures as part of their permitting process with the agencies in order to help minimize impacts to the kit foxes, raptors and other species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetate disturbed areas with trees and grass from on the site or adjacent areas; Conduct employee education programs to inform workers about sensitive biological resources they may encounter and what they should do to minimize potential impacts. 	Implemented only if sensitive species are encountered.						
3.4-7 Monitoring (Special Status Animal Species): If pre-construction surveys detect	During construction.	As needed during construction.	Governing Entity.	Determination by qualified			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>listed or protected species along any of the project alternatives, while construction occurs, a biologist will need to be on-site to educate workers, monitor compliance, [ensure implementation of] best management practices and to identify and protect natural resources, including Special Status Species. The monitor will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to prevent disturbance of core avoidance areas. Any unauthorized take of Special Status species will be immediately reported to DFW by the monitor. The monitor will also notify the Project Coordinator who will stop work until corrective measures are implemented.</p> <p>The designated Project Coordinator and the designated monitor for this Project will need to be established if Agency decides to pursue mitigation and monitoring.</p>				biologist.			
CULTURAL RESOURCES:							
Cul 3.5-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Preferred/ Proposed Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the resource finds by	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend further actions			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
specialists shall provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.			a qualified archaeologist	that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable laws including CEQA.			
Cul 3.5-2 - The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbing activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources requires further study. The project proponent shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Tulare County Resource Management Agency and the project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the find is determined to be significant and the Tulare County Resource	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the resource finds by a qualified archaeologist	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend further actions that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable laws including CEQA.			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
Management Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the project.							
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC							
Trans 3.16-1 - Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency having jurisdiction to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any potentially dangerous condition to be encountered as a result thereof.	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Governing Entity established for constructing and operating the Wastewater System Services via specific contractual requirements and via on-going review of records kept by contractor to document compliance	Maintenance by contractor of documentary evidence of compliance. Such records to be provided to County of Tulare / Governing Entity upon request			
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES							
TCR 17-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are	During Construction	On-going during construction-related	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC			

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Table 8-1
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the property owner shall retain a qualified archaeologist / paleontologist to provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.	activities	activities		/ Local Tribe			
TCR – 17-2 Consistent with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15064.5, if human remains of Native American origin are discovered during Project construction, it is necessary to comply with State laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Public Resources Code Sec. 5097). In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC / Local Tribe			

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**Table 8-1
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, the following steps should be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Tulare County Coroner/Sheriff must be contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and b. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. ii. The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. iii. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code section 							

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Table 8-1
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
5097.98, or 2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall reburial the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. a. The Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission. b. The descendant fails to make a recommendation; or c. The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent.							

Chapter 9 EIR Preparation

Key persons from the County of Tulare and the consulting firms that contributed to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) are identified.

The sitting Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Tulare County Resource Management Agency RMA Director (Reed Schenke), Associate RMA Director/Economic Development and Planning Director (Michael Washam), Chief Environmental Planner (Hector Guerra) are noted.

This EIR also relied on the expertise of the consulting firm Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group in preparing the “Matheny Tract “Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report”, which is included as Appendix “D” of this EIR.

Chapter 1

Introduction

BACKGROUND ON THE RDEIR

In 2013 the County of Tulare, on behalf of the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract, applied for and was awarded a California Strategic Growth Council and California State Water Resources Board's (Water Board) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) grant to fund the preparation of the proposed "Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System" (Report) on February 11, 2011 (and subsequently amended September 24, 2011). The Report was adopted by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on April 19, 2016.

The purpose of the Report was to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to provide community sanitary sewer service to Matheny Tract as a replacement for existing individual on-site septic tank/leach line systems. (A copy of the Report is available at the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency, 5961 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, CA 93277, Attention Mr. Eric Coyne, RMA Project Manager, 559-624-7000.) The Report is herewith incorporated in its entirety by reference throughout this document (the initial DEIR can be found at the following website:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

The Report evaluated the following four specific collection, treatment, and disposal alternatives for providing sanitary sewer service to the community of Matheny Tract. Details are provided in Chapter 5 Alternatives. Following is a summary of the Alternatives contained in the initial DEIR:

Alternative No. 1 - On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District. This alternative would provide replacement of the existing on-site septic systems with systems that denitrify wastewater before discharging it, and would provide for continuation of proper maintenance of the systems by creating a Septic Maintenance District.¹

Alternative No. 2 - Gravity Collection System and Consolidation with City of Tulare. This alternative would provide construction of a wastewater collection system throughout the community with a main connection to the City of Tulare wastewater collection system and ultimate delivery to the City of Tulare Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This alternative assumes that

¹ "Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System" (Report). Page 1. The initial DEIR can be found at the following website:
<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>.

the City of Tulare will ultimately own and operate the Matheny Tract collection system and main connection to the City of Tulare.²

Alternative No. 3 - Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility. This alternative would provide for construction of a wastewater collection system similar to the one shown in Alternative 2; however it would also provide for construction of a small independent Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) within or near the Matheny Tract. This alternative would also require creation of an agency to manage and operate the community WWTP and collection system.³

Alternative No. 4. No Project. This alternative would entail no improvements to the community; the existing septic systems would remain unimproved. All operations and maintenance responsibility would remain with the individual property owners.⁴

As concluded in the Report; “Alternative No. 2, a gravity collection system and consolidation with the City of Tulare, is the preferred alternative.”⁵ “The basis of selection considered a present-worth analysis of capital and [Operations and Maintenance] O&M costs, construction concerns, and critical issues for each alternative.”⁶ “Alternative 2 is the least expensive option as well as the alternative with the least number of construction challenges and critical concerns.”⁷ Alternative 2 is the most preferred alternative by the County because it capitalizes on the economies of scale associated with consolidation of two communities, particularly a very small community and a larger agency; it is the most viable from technical, fiscal, managerial and regulatory perspectives; continued operation of septic systems, particularly at the density in Matheny Tract, does not provide the level of protecting groundwater supplies the way Alternative 2 is capable; formation of a new entity to govern a new wastewater system would not be required.⁸

A Notice of Preparation stating the County’s intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on this project and requesting comments on the scope of the EIR as issued on January 13, 2017. The NOP announced that the County intended to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project and would conduct a Public Scoping Meeting. The NOP described the Project and issues to be addressed in the EIR and welcomed written responses to the NOP. It also announced the date, time and location of the Public Scoping Meeting, indicating that any interested party was invited to attend and express comments and concerns and ask questions about the Project and discuss potential environmental impacts that could result. On February 9, 2017, the RMA requested that OPR/SCH extend the comment period by 37-days to March 30, 2017. In addition to newspaper notification, and agencies notification, the NOP was also made available at the County’s website at:

² Ibid.

³ Op. Cit. 1-2.

⁴ Op. Cit. 2.

⁵ Op. Cit. 37.

⁶ Op. Cit.

⁷ Op. Cit. 35.

⁸ Op. Cit. 35-36.

<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning/environmental-planning/notice-of-preparation-nop/matheny-tract-wastewater-system-nop-pdf/>

The Public Scoping Meeting was held during the initial 30-day NOP comment period on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 1:30 PM, in the Conference Room “L” of the Resource Management Agency at 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California to solicit input on the scope of the EIR. No agencies or other interested parties attended. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) and a summary of the comments received are attached to this recirculated draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) as Appendix “B”.

Following completion of the Draft EIR, the County of Tulare had published a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR. The NOA will indicated that the Draft EIR document was available for public and agency review and comment. The NOA for this Draft EIR was published in *The Visalia Times-Delta* announcing a 45-day public review/comment period. Pursuant to Guidelines Section 15105(a), and also simultaneously distributed to public agencies through the State Clearinghouse for a 45-day review and comment period.

Hard copies of the Draft EIR were made available during the review period at the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (RMA) Permit Center, 5961 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, at the City of Tulare Library (located at 475 N. “M” Street in Tulare) and the County Branch in Tipton, CA (located at 301 East Woods, Tipton, CA) for public availability.

Written comments on the Draft EIR were accepted by the County of Tulare at the address noted above between June 30, 2017, until close of business on August 14, 2017. Following completion of the 45-day public review period, responses to comments received on the Draft EIR were prepared.

A Final EIR, consisting of the Recirculated Draft EIR and original Draft EIR (incorporated by reference), comments received and the Response to Comments, will then be prepared and provided to the County of Tulare RMA for consideration by the Board of Supervisors for certification at an announced open public hearing. Following certification of the Final EIR for the Project Feasibility Study, a Notice of Determination will then be filed with the County of Tulare Clerk-Recorder and also forwarded to the State Clearinghouse.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 requires decision-makers to balance the benefits of a Preferred/Proposed Project against any unavoidable adverse environmental effects of the project. If the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, then the decision-makers may, at the time of certification of the EIR, adopt a statement of overriding considerations, finding that the environmental effects are acceptable in light of the project’s benefits to the public.

During the initial public review period, the County accepted five (5) written communications from agencies and one (1) comment from a private company (Chevron); no comments were received

from any interested parties (e.g., organizations and individuals). The County reviewed these comments to determine whether any additional environmental analysis would be required to respond to issues raised in the comments. In addition to comments received, a Technical Memorandum Addendum to the Project Feasibility Report was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on September 21, 2017 which included new information regarding additional alternatives not included in the original/approved Project Feasibility Report. Based on that review, the County determined that several subjects warranted additional information, analysis or clarification and, consequently, a revised DEIR (this Revised DEIR) was prepared for recirculation.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, section 15088.5(f)(2), “When the EIR is revised only in part and the lead agency is recirculating only the revised chapters or portions of the EIR, the lead agency may request that reviewers limit their comments to the revised chapters or portions of the recirculated EIR. The lead agency need only respond to (i) comments received during the initial circulation period that relate to chapter or portions of the document that were not revised and recirculated, and (ii) comments received during the recirculation period that relate to the chapters or portions of the earlier EIR that were revised and recirculated. The lead agency’s request that reviewers limit the scope of their comments shall be included either within the text of the revised EIR or by an attachment to the revised EIR.”

As provided in CEQA Guidelines, section 15088.5(f)(2), the County is not required to not respond to individual comments received on the June 2017 Draft EIR. However, as the comments are pertinent to a majority of the Draft EIR, and remain applicable to the Recirculated DEIR, the County has elected to respond to all comments of both the Draft or Recirculated EIRs in the Final EIR. A copy of the Notice of Completion, including the notice to the public requesting comments on this RDEIR, is included in Appendix “B”.

RECIRCULATION OF THE DRAFT EIR PURSUANT TO CEQA

The County evaluated the potential need to recirculate the original DEIR based on the statutory requirements described in Section 21092.1 of the Public Resources Code. This section states that:

When significant new information is added to an environmental impact report after notice has been given pursuant to Section 21092 and consultation has occurred pursuant to Sections 21104 and 21153, but prior to certification, the public agency shall give notice again pursuant to Section 21092, and consult again pursuant to Sections 21104 and 21153 before certifying the environmental impact report.

“Significant new information” requiring recirculation includes, for example, a disclosure showing that:

- A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.

- A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.
- A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the project, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it.
- The Draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

In addition, a lead agency may choose to recirculate a DEIR if additional studies or analysis are conducted for a project before a specific action is taken by local decision makers to approve a project. Recirculation may be limited to those chapters or portions of the DEIR that have been modified. Public notice and circulation of the recirculated DEIR is required, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15086 and 15087.

In its role as the lead agency, the County has directed the recirculation of the draft EIR for the proposed project. Consideration of the comments regarding alternatives to the Preferred Alternative (Alternative No. 2, Connection to the City of Tulare) received on the initial June 2017 DEIR. As will be further discussed in Chapter 2 Project Description, as the focus of this RDEIR is to include two previously unexplored alternatives in addition to the four Alternatives analyzed in the initial DEIR. All the other components of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare), listed as follows, remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main at Paige Avenue (i.e., potentially a 27- or 42-inch diameter main):

- Construction of
 - ◊ new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract
 - ◊ one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service
 - ◊ sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence
- Connection to the City of Tulare's existing 27-inch sewer main at Paige Avenue and "K" Street
 - ◊ Construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street [Road 96] from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue [Avenue 216].
- In-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields

UPDATED TOPICS WITHIN THE RECIRCULATED DEIR (RDEIR)

To address comments provided on the original DEIR and in consideration of information provided in the Technical Memorandum Addendum to the Project Feasibility Report (Technical

Memorandum Addendum), the County has re-visited every resource and has provided additional background information and analysis as part of the RDEIR's Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis of Resources. Three tables have been developed regarding level of impacts to each resource. Table 3-1 discusses resources with No Impact, Table 3-2 discusses resources with Less Than Significant Impact, and Table 3-3 discusses resources with Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation. A summary is provided below of some resource impacts with Less Than Significant Impact or Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation:

Updated Stationary Air Emission Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional criteria pollutant air emissions resulting from construction-related activities as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item III. Air Quality).

Updated Biological Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact biological resources as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item IV. Biological Resources)

Updated Cultural Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact cultural/historical/paleontological resources as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item

Updated Geology/Soils Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact geological/soil resources as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item VI. Geology and Soils).

Update Greenhouse Gases: The RDEIR includes additional greenhouse gases emissions resulting from construction-related activities as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item VII. Greenhouses Gases)

Updated Hazards/Hazardous Materials: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact the hazards/hazardous materials resource as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials)

Updated Growth Inducing Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could result in inducing growth. The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 2b, 2c, and 2d.

Updated Land Use/Planning: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact the land use/planning resource as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XI. Land Use and Planning)

Updated Noise Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact the noise resource as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XII. Noise).

Updated Population/Housing Balance: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact population/housing balance as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XIII. Population and Housing)

Updated Public Services/Facilities: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact public services/facilities as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XIV. Public Services)

Updated Traffic/Circulation: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XVI Transportation and Traffic).

Updated Tribal Cultural Resources: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact tribal cultural resources as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 (see Item XVII. Tribal Cultural Resources)

Other:

Updated Growth Inducing Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could result in inducing growth from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6.

Updated Cumulative Impacts: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could result in cumulative impacts as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6.

Updated Growth Inducing Analysis: The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could result in inducing growth. The RDEIR includes additional areas which were analyzed that could impact as related to potential impacts resulting from selection/implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6.

As previously described, this summary only represents the primary modifications included as part of the RDEIR. The County reviewed and considered all comments received and has taken this recirculation opportunity to address a variety of other comments submitted on the June 2017 Draft EIR, although many changes do not constitute significant new information per CEQA. Because of this, the County has opted to republish selected sections rather than the entire document. As provided in CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(f)(2), the County is not required to not respond to individual comments received on the June 2017 Draft EIR.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 1-1 presents a summary of impacts and mitigation measures identified in this RDEIR including those proposed in this RDEIR. It is organized to correspond with the environmental issues discussed throughout the RDEIR. The table is arranged in four columns: 1) environmental impacts; 2) mitigation measure; 3) significance before mitigation; and 4) significance after mitigation. The addition of Alternatives 5 and 6 do not require revised or new policies and implementation measures. As such, the summary contained in **Table 1-1** is consistent with MMRP **Table 8-1** included as part of Draft EIR Chapter 8 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Table 1-1 Summary of Impact and Mitigation Measures			
Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Level of Significance After Mitigation
3.4 Biological Resources			
Impact 3.4 a.) The proposed project would have a no substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a variety of special status species.	<i>Plant Species:</i> 3.4-1 <i>Pre-Construction Special Status plant species survey;</i> 3.4-2 <i>Minimization (Special Status Plant Species</i> 3.4-3 <i>Compensation (Special Status plant species); and</i> 3.4-4 <i>Monitoring (Special Status Plan Species)</i> <i>Animal Species:</i> 3.4-5 <i>Avoidance (Special Status Animal Species;</i> 3.4-6 <i>Minimization (Special Status Animal Species; and</i> 3.4-7 <i>Monitoring (Special Status Animal Species).</i>	PS	LTS
3.5 Cultural Resources			
Impact 3.5 a) The proposed project would have no substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5.	3.5-1 <i>If discovered during site excavation, grading and construction work on the Project site shall be suspended if historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered. A qualified specialist in archaeology or paleontology shall provide recommendations to protect an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource. The specialist may also recommend undertaking of data recovery, excavation analysis, and</i>	PS	LTS

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Table 1-1 Summary of Impact and Mitigation Measures			
	<i>curation of archaeological or paleontological materials.</i>		
Impact 3.5 c) The proposed project would have no directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.	<i>Avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If encountered during ground disturbing activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease. A qualified paleontologist (specialist) shall determine if further study is needed. Construction contract will be made aware of this requirement. The specialist shall notify the Tulare County RMA of procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume. If the find is determined to be significant and avoidance is not feasible, the specialist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with applicable standards to be approved by RMA. Following approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the project.</i>	PS	LTS
3.16 Transportation/Traffic			
Impact 3.16 e) The proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access.	<i>Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency having jurisdiction to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any potentially dangerous condition to be encountered as a result thereof.</i>	PS	LTS
3.17 Tribal Cultural Resources			
Impact 3.17 a) The proposed project would not result cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is a listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical	<i>In the event that tribal cultural resource is discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Project site be immediately suspended. A qualified specialist shall be required to provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to a tribal cultural</i>	PS	LTS

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Table 1-1 Summary of Impact and Mitigation Measures			
resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k).	<i>resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of tribal cultural materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design.</i>		
Impact 3.17 b) The proposed project would not result cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	<i>If human remains of Native Americans are discovered, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 shall apply. The NAHC shall be notified as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097. PRC Section 5097.98 shall also apply.</i>	PS	LTS
<i>Notes: PS = Potentially Significant; LTS = Less Than Significant</i>			

As noted earlier, no additional Mitigation Measures would be required if Alternative 2b, 2c, or 2d are selected/implemented.

PURPOSE OF THE EIR

CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of programs and projects over which they have discretionary authority before taking action on them. The County of Tulare is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, as the lead agency's decision-making body, will consider the information presented in this RDEIR before taking discretionary action on the proposed project.

This RDEIR has two primary purposes:

- The document will assist the County in complying with CEQA requirements for the analysis of environmental impacts by including a complete and comprehensive evaluation of the physical impacts of the project and its alternatives.

- The document will inform interested stakeholders (including local residents) and members of the Board of Supervisors taking action on the project.

Additionally, the RDEIR is intended to identify ways to minimize significant effects of the proposed project and describe reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that would avoid or reduce the proposed project's significant effects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15121[a]).

This RDEIR evaluates the potential impacts resulting from implementation of the project. The information contained in this EIR will be used to inform local decision makers and the general public of the potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and to assist County officials in reviewing and considering adoption of the proposed project or one of the alternatives.

As readers will see in reviewing this document, various chapters refer readers not only to the Draft EIR document, but also contains resource discussions, General Plan policies, mitigation measures, and supporting technical studies. This DEIR is a highly informative document which includes a great deal of information relevant to the environmental settings for various impact topics, in addition to providing relevant information to the EIR impact discussions. Relevant information contained in the DEIR includes the regulatory and environmental settings for each resource topic discussed. Additionally, the EIR incorporates by reference or briefly summarizes information from the 2010 Background Report, General Plan 2030 Update document as needed. Because of the interrelatedness of the EIR and these documents, readers should consider all these documents as contributing to the County's CEQA compliance for the proposed Project. Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines permits documents of lengthy technical detail to be incorporated by reference in an EIR. Specifically, Section 15150 states that an EIR may "incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public..." Consequently, the 2010 Background Report, General Plan 2030 Update are incorporated by reference.

EIR PROCESS

In preparing this RDEIR and considering approval of the proposed project, the County has completed, or will complete, the activities identified in **Table 1-2**.

TABLE 1-2 STATUS OF TULARE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE EIR	
ACTIVITY	STATUS
Notice of Preparation - Preparation and Circulation	Completed, January 13 - March 30, 2017
Public Scoping Meeting	Conducted February 9, 2017
Draft EIR (DEIR) – Preparation	Completed, June 29, 2017
Draft EIR (DEIR) – Circulation – 45-Day Public Review and Comment	Completed, June 30 – August 14, 2017
Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR) – Circulation 30 Day Public Review/Comment	October 20 – November 20, 2017
Final EIR – Preparation	To be completed by December 8, 2017
Final EIR – Circulation	December 8 – December 19, 2017

Notice of Preparation

In accordance with Section 15082(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, the County prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR for the proposed project. The NOP was circulated for a 30-day comment period, which began on January 13, 2017. However, the City of Tulare requested additional time and the review period was extended 37 days to March 30, 2017. Appendix “E” of the initial DEIR contains a copy of the NOP; and copies of the comment letters received during the 74-day comment period (January 13 to March 30, 2017). All letters were considered in preparation of the initial DEIR and continued to be considered in preparation of this RDEIR.

Draft EIR

As noted in the beginning of this chapter, in June of 2017 the original DEIR (prepared after the NOP comment period noted above) was circulated for public review and comment for an extended period of over 74 days (January 13, 2017 through March 30, 2017) to allow for maximum public involvement and input. A copy of the Notice of Completion requesting public comment, is attached to the initial DEIR as Appendix “B”. During the public review period the County accepted six (6) written communications from agencies, organizations and individuals with comments on the original DEIR. The County subsequently determined that information provided by the City of Tulare regarding the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2 – connection to the City of Tulare) warranted additional information, analysis or clarification and decided to revise and recirculate this RDEIR.

Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR)

This document constitutes the recirculated draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR). The RDEIR contains a description of the proposed project, discusses potential proposed project impacts, and discusses measures (draft general plan policies and/or revisions to draft general plan policies) to be implemented to mitigate impacts found to be significant, as well as analyzes several proposed project alternatives.

As required by CEQA, this RDEIR focuses on significant or potentially significant environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15143). Comments received on the NOP helped to refine the list of environmental issues evaluated in the original June 2017 DEIR and comments received on the original June 2017 DEIR helped to further refine those topics addressed in this RDEIR. The impacts analyzed in this RDEIR, including those considered to be less than significant, are summarized in Table 3-2.

Public Review of the Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR)

This document will be circulated to numerous agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for comment during the 30-day public review period for the RDEIR. A public notice will be posted at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) office, Tulare County

public libraries (listed below), and on the RMA's website. The RDEIR, along with copies of documents referenced herein, is also available for public review at the following locations during the review period:

Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

Tulare Branch Library 475 North Main Street Tulare, CA 93274	Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
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Tipton Branch Library 301 East Woods Tipton, CA 93272	Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 pm – 5:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
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Tulare County Web Site: <http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

To obtain a copy of the RDEIR, please contact the Resource Management Agency at 559-624-7000 or by email at hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us. Public comment is encouraged during the 30-day public review period under CEQA. Public comments on the RDEIR received during the 30-day public review period will be addressed in the FEIR. Public comment is also encouraged on the Final EIR at the public hearing that will be held later (scheduled for December 19, 2017) before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

Final EIR, EIR Certification, and Project Approval

Written comments received during the CEQA statutory public comment period in response to this RDEIR will be addressed in a response to comments document, which, together with the RDEIR, will constitute the Final EIR.⁹ The Board of Supervisors will review the Final EIR for adequacy and consider it for certification, pursuant to the requirements of Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines. Certification consists of three separate but related findings:

- The Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA.
- The Final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, and the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR prior to approving the project.

⁹ Although a part of the administrative record, because of the recirculation, the previous comments received on the June 2017 draft EIR do not require a written response in the Final EIR, and the County, as provided in CEQA Guidelines, section 15088.5(f)(1). However, in an effort to keep all interested parties fully informed, the County will respond to comments received on the June 2017 Draft EIR and to new comments received on this revised and recirculated DEIR in the Final EIR.

- The Final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

If the Board of Supervisors certifies the Final EIR and chooses to approve the proposed project, the Board will then be required to adopt findings on the feasibility of reducing or avoiding significant environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091, subd. (a)).

The findings required by Section 15091, subdivisions (a)(1), a(2) and a(3), will require the Board of Supervisors to make one or more of the following three findings with respect to each significant effect identified in this EIR:

- (a)(1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Final EIR.
- (a)(2) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
- (a)(3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the Final EIR.

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a)(1), requires lead agencies to "adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment." This mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) will be adopted when the Board adopts the findings described above. Monitoring Reports regarding the MMRP will be consolidated with the annual report required in state law and in Policy PF 7.1 "Annual Review" of the General Plan 2030 Update. Throughout this RDEIR, mitigation measures have been clearly identified and presented in language that will facilitate the establishment of an MMRP. Any mitigation measures adopted by the County for this Project may take the form of policies and implementation measures (including those contained in the Tulare County General Plan).

This approach is encouraged by the same statute, which, in subdivision (b), states that "conditions of project approval may be set forth in referenced documents which address required mitigation measures or, in the case of the adoption of a plan, policy, regulation, or other public project, by incorporating the mitigation measures into the plan, policy, regulation, or project design." Case law gives the County the option of integrating its MMRP directly into the General Plan as well. (See *Rio Vista Farm Bureau Center v. County of Solano* (1992) 5 Cal.App.4th 351, 380-381.)

If and when, the Board of Supervisors certifies the adequacy of the Final EIR and approves the proposed project (with the accompanying findings), the County will file a Notice of Determination with both the County Clerk of the County of Tulare and the State Clearinghouse. The posting of

the Notice of Determination will initiate a 30-day statute of limitations during which any affected party can initiate litigation challenging the Project on CEQA grounds.

EIR ORGANIZATION

The RDEIR is organized into the following chapters so that the reader can easily obtain information about the proposed project and its specific issues:

- **Chapter 1.0, Introduction**, provides an overview of the purpose and use of an EIR and the EIR process and describes this review and recirculation of the previously prepared DEIR.
- **Chapter 2.0, Project Description**, provides a detailed description of the proposed project objectives and the components of the proposed project.
- **Chapter 3.0, Environmental Analysis**, As this RDEIR is analyzing only Alternatives 5 and 6, the assumptions/analysis contained in the initial DEIR remain applicable. Therefore, rather than repeating the discussion in Chapter Three of this RDEIR, Chapter 3 relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference). Chapter 3 of the initial DEIR describes each resource's existing conditions, or baseline setting, before project implementation; methods and assumptions used in the impact analysis; thresholds of significance; impacts that would result from adoption and implementation of the proposed project; and mitigation measures (e.g., General Plan policies, specific mitigation identified in resource specific technical studies, requirements (e.g., orders, rules, regulations, standards, requirements, etc., from a responsible agency) that would eliminate or reduce significant impacts).
- **Chapter 4.0, Cumulative Impacts**, This chapter summarizes the cumulative impacts identified in Chapter 3.
- **Chapter 5.0, Alternatives to the Proposed Project**, As this RDEIR is analyzing only Alternatives 5 and 6, the assumptions/analysis contained in the initial DEIR remain applicable. Therefore, rather than repeating the discussion in Chapter 5 of this RDEIR, this chapter relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference). This Chapter evaluates the environmental effects of the alternatives to the proposed Alternative 5 and 6.
- **Chapter 6 – Economic, Social, & Growth Inducing Effects**, This chapter describes economic or social effects of the Project which may be used to determine the significance of physical changes caused by the Project (Guidelines Section 15131). These economic and social effects are not in and of themselves evaluated for “significance” but only used to trace a chain of cause and effect with the focus of the analysis being on the actual physical changes to the environment caused thereby. This chapter will also evaluate the potential of the Project to induce further growth and the nature of that growth and the general environmental effects that could occur as a result.
- **Chapter 7 – Immitigable Impacts**, This chapter describes any environmental effects that cannot be avoided or that are irreversible and summarizes the substantial evidence contained in the EIR that provides the economic, legal, social, technological or other benefits that would result from the Project.

- **Chapter 8 – Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program**, Provides a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that summarizes the significant environmental issues, the mitigation measures, and the agency or agencies responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the mitigation measures.
- **Chapter 9.0 - Report Preparation**, lists the individuals involved in preparing this EIR.
- **Chapter 10 References**, contains citations, footnoted sources, and references utilized in this RDEIR.

It is noted that, where applicable, this document identifies references (through citations) and individuals (e.g., personal communications) consulted in preparing this RDEIR which are listed at the end of each respective chapter. **Table 1-3** summarizes the contents and organization of the RDEIR.

TABLE 1-3 REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT CONTENTS AND ORGANIZATION	
Location in the Environmental Impact Report	Requirement (CEQA Section)
Executive Summary	Summary (Section 15123)
Chapter 1 Introduction	
Chapter 2 Project Description	Project Description (Section 15124)
Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis	Environmental Setting (Section 15125) Significant Environmental Effects of the Project (Section 15126[a]) Effects Found Not To Be Significant (Section 15128) Mitigation Measures (Section 15126[e])
Chapter 4 Cumulative Impacts	Cumulative Impacts (Section 15130)
Chapter 5 Alternatives	Alternatives to the Project (Section 15126[f])
Chapter 6 Economic, Social, and Growth-Inducing Effects	Growth-Inducing Impacts (Section 15126[d])
Chapter 7. Inmitigable Impacts	Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects (Section 15126[b])
Chapter 8 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program	Mitigation Measures (Section 15126[e])
Chapter 9 Report Preparation	List of Preparers (Section 15129)
Chapter 10 Bibliography (References listed at the end of each chapter)	Organizations and Persons Consulted (Section 15129)
<i>CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act</i>	

OVERALL EIR APPROACH AND ASSUMPTIONS

This RDEIR is a complete EIR with updated information on the Planning Area's environmental setting, impact analysis, mitigation measures, and evaluation of a range of project alternatives.

CEQA mandates that lead agencies adopt MMRPs (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs) for projects identified as having significant impacts where mitigation measures have been identified to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. MMRPs are intended to ensure compliance during project implementation. These programs provide the additional advantages of providing staff and decision-makers with feedback as to the effectiveness of

mitigation measures, as well as the experience and information to shape future mitigation measures.

The analysis provided in this RDEIR is based on the following key assumptions:

Project Parameters. As summarized from the Project Description, the Project is limited to a gravity collection system and consolidation with the City of Tulare; which is the Preferred Alternative. This alternative includes construction of a wastewater collection system within the Matheny Tract, at least one lift station located near Pratt Street, and a combination of 8-, 10- and 12-inch PVC sewer mains with manholes spaced at 350 feet. New Sewer services and onsite plumbing would be required to connect each property to the new wastewater collection system and the existing septic systems would require abandonment. The project's intent is to connect to the City of Tulare's existing 27-inch sewer main at Paige Avenue and "K" Street through construction of a 2,900 foot 12-inch diameter sewer main in Pratt Street (Road 96) from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue (Avenue 216.)

Alternatives Discussion limited to Alternatives 2a (Alternative 5) and 2b (Alternative 6)

The initial Draft EIR analyzed four (4) Project Alternatives. The Preferred and Environmentally Superior Alternative is the proposed Project. A *"Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017"* (PFR Addendum, Appendix "A" of this RDEIR) prepared by the County's consulting engineers Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P) and is considered an addendum to the original, adopted Project Feasibility Report (PFR).¹⁰ Based on the information contained in PFR Addendum, two additional alternatives were evaluated: (1) install a second domestic sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from "K" Street to the DWWTP; or (2) limit the level in the DWWTP influent wet well. Ultimately, both alternatives are needed to fully correct the surcharge condition; however, with construction of the additional trunk main improvements, the flows from Matheny Tract could be accepted by the City without worsening their current operating condition. Three alternatives were evaluated in relation to constructing a new trunk main.¹¹ Construction of a new trunk main included its own three alternatives consisting of constructing a 24-inch trunk main, a 27-inch trunk main, or a 42-inch trunk main which would result in:

- "Immediate Solution: The 24-inch trunk main would correct the existing deficiencies and provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract.
- Near-Term Solution: The 27-inch trunk main would also correct existing deficiencies, provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects.
- Long-Term Solution: The 42-inch trunk main would provide the same service in addition to providing capacity for future build-out flows."¹²

¹⁰ "Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017". Page 1. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P), September 2017.

¹¹ Ibid. 2.

¹² Op. Cit. 2.

It is noted that the PFR Addendum indicates that, “No modifications of the DWWTP are attributable to the Matheny Tract wastewater flows.”¹³

Documents Incorporated By Reference

Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines permits documents of lengthy technical detail to be incorporated by reference in an EIR. Specifically, Section 15150 states that an EIR may “incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public” Incorporated documents are to be briefly summarized in the EIR and made available to the public for inspection or reference. This RDEIR incorporates by reference the documents noted below, of which both the 2010 Background Report and the General Plan 2030 Update policy document.

- **2010 Background Report.** This is a supporting document that provided baseline information, but is not part of the EIR. This report provides a detailed description of the conditions that existed within the Planning Area during the development of the General Plan. For the Tulare County General Plan, the 2010 Background Report reflects conditions within the Planning Area in 2008.
- **General Plan 2030 Update policy document.** This document consists of Part I: the Goals and Policies Report which contains the current set of goals, policies, and implementation measures that will guide future land use decisions within the County. It also contains Part II: Area Plans as modified by this General Plan 2030 update. Parts I and II have been updated to include several additional policies or suggestions received from County stakeholders. Part III consists of individual, existing community, sub-area and other localized plans.

EIR PREPARATION

This RDEIR is a factual, objective, public-disclosure document that takes no position on the merits of the proposed project, but rather provides information on which decisions about the proposed project can be based. This document has been prepared for the County of Tulare in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et. seq.). Staff members from the County of Tulare and the consulting team who helped prepare this EIR are identified in Chapter 9.0, Report Preparation.

¹³ Op. Cit. 3.

CHAPTER 2

Project Description

INTRODUCTION

The project analyzed in this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is the Alternatives provided in the “*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*” (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Track Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project (Project) and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare
- Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

As indicated in Chapter 5 Alternatives of the initial DEIR, no alternatives were superior to the Preferred Alternative/Project. However, additional alternatives were provided by the City of Tulare following a capacity analysis conducted by the City’s consulting engineer, Carollo Engineers. As indicated in the PFR Addendum; “In June 2017, Carollo Engineers prepared a report entitled City of Tulare Collection System Capacity Analysis (Capacity Analysis) to evaluate the capacity of the City of Tulare’s (City) wastewater collection system, in part to specifically identify if the system has capacity to convey the wastewater flows from the Matheny Tract to the DWWTP, if the DWWTP has capacity to treat the wastewater flows and, if not, what improvements would be necessary to provide the necessary capacity.”¹ It is through this new, additional information that provided the basis for recirculating the initial Draft EIR which considers and analyzes two additional alternatives.

The PFR Addendum consequently used information contained in the Capacity Analysis to analyze two additional alternatives outside of the Four (4) Alternatives contained in the initial DEIR. The PFR Addendum evaluated: “(1) install a second domestic sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street to the DWWTP; or (2) limit the level in the DWWTP influent wet well. Ultimately, both alternatives are needed to fully correct the surcharge condition; however, with construction of the additional trunk main improvements, the flows from Matheny Tract could be accepted by the City without worsening their current operating condition. Three alternatives were evaluated in relation

¹ “*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*”. Page 1. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P).

to constructing a new trunk main.”² Construction of a new trunk main included its own three alternatives consisting of constructing a 24-inch trunk main, a 27-inch trunk main, or a 42-inch trunk main which would result in:

- “Immediate Solution: The 24-inch trunk main would correct the existing deficiencies and provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract.
- Near-Term Solution: The 27-inch trunk main would also correct existing deficiencies, provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects.
- Long-Term Solution: The 42-inch trunk main would provide the same service in addition to providing capacity for future build-out flows.”³

It is noted that the PFR Addendum indicates that, “No modifications of the DWWTP are attributable to the Matheny Tract wastewater flows.”⁴

Therefore, based on the above discussion, the focus of this RDEIR is to include two previously unexplored alternatives in addition to the four Alternatives analyzed in the initial DEIR. All the other components of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare), listed as follows, remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main at Paige Avenue (i.e., potentially a 27- or 42-inch diameter main):

- Construction of
 - ◊ new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract
 - ◊ one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service
 - ◊ sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence
- Connection to the City of Tulare’s existing 27-inch sewer main at Paige Avenue and “K” Street
 - ◊ Construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street [Road 96] from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue [Avenue 216].
- In-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields

SELECTED (PREFERRED) ALTERNATIVE MODIFICATIONS

As discussed in the PFR Addendum, “...the selected alternative [the Preferred Alternative in the initial DEIR] included construction of a wastewater collection system within Matheny Tract with one sewer lift station and a force main connection to the City’s wastewater trunk main in Paige Avenue.

² Ibid. 2.

³ Op. Cit. 2.

⁴ Op. Cit. 3.

The result of the Capacity Analysis will lead to modification of the selected alternative to include construction of a 42-inch sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street where it currently ends to the DWWTP. Additionally, since the original PFR was prepared, the preliminary design has been completed for the collection system. The preliminary design includes modifications to the originally described recommended alternative, also. The following sections detail the revised recommended alternative including these modifications.”⁵

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

“The analysis presented in the PFR provided several criteria for evaluating and ultimately selecting the preferred alternative (Alternative No. 2 is the selected alternative). Those criteria are summarized below and revised (where applicable) to including updated information from both the Capacity Analysis and preparation of the preliminary design for the collection system. The advantages and disadvantages of each alternative, as presented in the PFR, remain mostly unchanged; however, the disadvantaged stated for Alternative No. 2 in Table 5-6 of the PFR, “Reluctance of the City to provide wastewater service in this area” has partially been mitigated based on ongoing discussions between the City, County and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).”⁶

To avoid confusion which may result in renumbering these new alternatives, Alternatives 2a and 2b will be referred to as Alternative Five (Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline) and Alternative Six (Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline); respectively:

Alternative Five: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative Six: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 42-inch trunk main pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows.

Based on the information presented in **Table 2-1** (Table 3-1 in the PFR Addendum) regarding costs of the alternatives, the updated ranking of the alternatives is provided in Table 3-2 (of the PFR Addendum). As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative. “The preferred alternative is Alternative No. 2b [Alternative 6 in this RDEIR], despite it not being the least expensive alternative. The reasons for this include the evaluation of other ranking criteria that continue to

⁵ Op. Cit.

⁶ Op. Cit.

rank Alternative No. 2 as the preferred alternative and consistency with the City's Master Plan that shows a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue. Construction of a smaller main would necessitate the City removing and replacing the main or constructing a third main later, all of which are inefficient use of funds and would, overall, increase total cost of constructing a 27-inch main if replacement costs were considered (for purposes of this memorandum, evaluation of replacement costs has not been completed or included). For these reasons, Alternative 2a is not considered feasible, therefore Alternative 2b is the best ranked alternative and remains preferred.”⁷

Table 2 - 1				
Ranking of Alternatives⁸				
Comparison Category	Alternative Rating			
	Alt. 1	Alt. 5 [Alt. 2a]	Alt. 6 [Alt. 2b]	Alt. 3
Present Worth Cost	\$23,205,597	\$23,176,451	\$28,578,451	\$23,733,135
Present Cost Ranking	2	1	4	3
Monthly Use Fees	2	1	1	3
Construction Challenges	2	1	1	2
Critical Concerns	3	1	1	4
Total Scoring	9	4	7	12

PROJECT LOCATION

The unincorporated Matheny Tract community is located less than 0.5 miles south of the City of Tulare in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. The initial Draft EIR was prepared using the Preferred Alternative as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the "Preferred/Proposed Project" as "the Project". As provided in this Recirculated DEIR, the Project retains the intent to connect to the City of Tulare's wastewater (sewer) collection system near Paige Avenue (Avenue 216) and Pratt Street (Road 96); however, Alternatives 5 and 6 are included for consideration.

The Project site is located approximately 60 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 25 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Matheny Tract comprises of a relatively flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Matheny Tract sits at an approximate elevation of 263 feet above mean sea level.⁹

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and "I" Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to "I" Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface;

⁷ Op. Cit. 5.

⁸ Op. Cit.

⁹ Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016

these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project is within the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, the north half of the southwest corner of Section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. It can be found within the Tulare United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

North Matheny (Canal Street and Beacon Avenue):

Latitude: 36°10'20.90" N

Longitude: 119°20'55.95" W

South Matheny (Matheny Avenue and Prine Drive):

Latitude: 36°10'01.11" N

Longitude: 119°21'14.90" W

As a whole community, Matheny Tract is approximately 0.5 miles west of State Route (SR) 99, two miles south of SR 137, and approximately three miles southeast of SR 63.

As indicated in the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or Report); "The Matheny Tract is located within Tulare Irrigation District (TID or District) and has numerous canals around and within its boundaries (as shown on Figure 2-1 [of the Report]). North of the project site run TID's Main Canal, bifurcating the northern portion is the Oakland Colony Canal and along the north edge of runs the southern portion the West Oakland Colony Canal. The Main Canal is one of TID's primary canals and is approximately 7 feet deep and 35 feet wide at its top. The Oakland Colony Canal and West Oakland Colony Ditch are both smaller canals; the former is approximately 24 feet wide at its top and 5 feet deep while the latter is approximately 11 feet wide and 4 feet deep. Along the eastern boundary of the northern portion there is an out-of-use small ditch, called the Old 99 Ditch. It seldom has water in it and is used primarily for storm drain purposes. There are no other hydrological features within or around the project site."¹⁰ The nearest lake is Lake Success, approximately 25 miles southeast of the Project.

¹⁰ Ibid. 7.

PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING LAND USE, ZONING AND OTHER COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

As described in the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report (Feasibility Report, or Report), “Matheny Tract is a community primarily comprised of rural residential properties with single-family dwelling units. The area has paved roads which are owned and maintained by the County of Tulare and provide sufficient circulation throughout the community. The County of Tulare is the agency that determines property land use and zoning; however, the area is also considered in the City of Tulare’s General Plan.”¹¹

Of the 302 parcels included in this project, all but 17 are zoned R-A-M (Rural Residential, Special Mobil home Zone). **Table 2-2** provides a summary of zone classifications within Matheny Tract.

Table 2-2 County of Tulare Zoning within Matheny Tract Project Area	
No. of Parcels	Zone Classification
285	R-A-M (Rural Residential, Special Mobil home Zone)
5	AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture Zone – 20 Acre Minimum)
5	R-2 (Two Family Residential Zone)
1	C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial Zone)
2	C-2-M (General Commercial, Special Mobil home Zone)
3	C-2 (General Commercial Zone)

As indicated in the City of Tulare Zone Map (and summarized in **Table 2-3**), forty –three (43) parcels within the City Limits south of Paige Avenue between Pratt Street and “K” Street are zoned M-2 (Heavy Industrial, totaling 298.14 acres) and one is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial, 2.06 acres). While lands north of Paige Avenue between Pratt Street and “K” Street, (from west to east) are zoned as follows: one R-1-6 (Suburban residential, totaling 38.11 acres; 3.1 to 7 dwelling units per acre), two R-1-5 (Suburban residential, totaling 38.41 acres; 3.1 to 7 dwelling units per acre), two M-2 (Heavy Industrial, totaling 59.81 acres), and two M-1 (Light Industrial, totaling 6.1 acres).^{12,13}

Table 2-3 City of Tulare Land Use and Zoning adjacent to Matheny Tract Project Area			
No. of Parcels	General Plan Land Use Designation	Zone Map Classification	Acres
2	Suburban residential	R-1-5 (3.1 - 7 du/ac.)*	38.41
1	Suburban residential	R-1-6 (3.1 - 7 du/ac.)	38.11
3	Light Industrial	M-1	8.16
45	Heavy Industrial	M-2	357.95
Totals: 51			461.83
<i>Source: City of Tulare; see below footnote</i>			
<i>* du/ac. = dwelling units per acre</i>			

¹¹ Op. Cit. 10.

¹² City of Tulare Zone Map, accessed on October 13, 2-17 at: <http://www.tulare.ca.gov/departments/community-development/development-services/planning/zoning-map>.

¹³ City of Tulare 2035 Tulare General Land Use Map Plan, accessed October 13, 2-17 at: <http://www.tulare.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=604>

As described in the Feasibility Report, “The Matheny Tract was originally developed in the 1960s as two tracts, the first on the northeast corner of Addie Avenue and Road 96 (Pratt Street) and the second south of the West Oakland Colony Ditch and east of Road 96. The northern portion of the community was developed with predominantly 1-acre or near-1-acre parcels, while the southern portion was developed with mostly 0.5-acre parcels.”¹⁴

“The community is unsewered and relies on individual on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal. The average lot size indicates adequate space for septic systems with a community water system; however, as noted above there are many lots with more than one dwelling and which may have more than one septic system onsite or have insufficient space to support efficient and effective septic effluent leaching. Additionally, many parcels have been divided, multiple times in some cases, to sizes as small as 6,000 square feet. Nearly 15% of the lots are now less than 12,500 square feet, which is the County of Tulare minimum lot size (see Tulare County Code 7-01-1350) for septic systems with a community water system.”¹⁵

The land uses surrounding the project sites are primarily agricultural. Adjacent properties to the north, west, and south of the project sites are farmland including field and row crops and nut trees. Industrial uses are located east of and adjacent to the Matheny North site and 0.7 miles east of the Matheny South site, and lie within the city limits of the City of Tulare.

“The Matheny Tract community is not currently sewered, having on-site septic systems to provide wastewater treatment on each lot. The average lot size in the community is approximately 0.5 acres; however, many lots have been split in half or have more than one residence on a single property. Due to the splitting of lots or construction of multiple dwellings on one lot, the effective lot size of many properties is less than 12,500 square feet, the minimum lot size the County allows for on-site septic systems.”¹⁶ Lots smaller than the 12,500-square-feet are generally too small to support an efficient septic tank/leach line system. Further, when septic systems fail, lots this small tend to lack sufficient area for a replacement system meeting modern code requirements.

“According to the 2010 Census data the population of the Matheny Tract is 1,212 people; however the American Community Survey (ACS) updates the housing estimates annually. The following table shows the data from the last three ACS 5-year estimates (prior population data is not available).

Based on the population estimates shown above [Table 2-1 Community Population in the Feasibility Report, **Table 2-4** in this RDEIR] and the building moratorium, it is not anticipated that population will grow in the future. For the purposes of this project, it is assumed the population will remain at or near 1,200 individuals. The average household size was shown in the 2010 US Census as 3.79 persons.”¹⁷

¹⁴ Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Page 2. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Op. Cit. 1.

¹⁷ Op. Cit. 11.

Table 2-4 Matheny Tract's Community Population	
Year	Population
2010 ⁽¹⁾	1,212
2011 ⁽²⁾	1,116
2012 ⁽³⁾	1,119
2013 ⁽⁴⁾	1,130
<i>Notes: (1) 2010 Census; (2) 2007-2011 ACS 5-Year Estimates; (3) 2008-2012 ACS 5-Year Estimates; and (4) 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates.</i>	

The overall Tulare County in 2007 was estimated population at 429,000 (see **Table 2-5**). The incorporated cities of Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia contain the largest shares of the County's population. These three cities together contain over 50% of the County's population

Table 2-5 Tulare County Population Distribution				
	2007*	Percentage of Total Population	2016**	Percentage of Total Population
Dinuba	20,000	4.7	21,453	4.8
Exeter	10,730	2.5	10,334	2.3
Farmersville	10,470	2.4	10,588	2.4
Lindsay	11,170	2.6	11,768	2.6
Porterville	51,470	12.0	54,165	12.2
Tulare	55,940	13.0	59,278	13.3
Visalia	117,740	27.5	124,442	28.1
Woodlake	7,390	1.7	7,279	1.6
<i>Incorporated Subtotal</i>	<i>284,910</i>	<i>66.4</i>	<i>299,307</i>	<i>67.7</i>
<i>Unincorporated Subtotal</i>	<i>144,090</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>142,872</i>	<i>32.3</i>
County Total	429,000	100	442,179	100
<i>Notes: * Tulare County Association of Governments, page 1, 2008. ** State of California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State - January 1, 2011-2017. Sacramento, California, May 2017</i>				

Table 2-6 provides 2007 and 2016 housing estimates for the County. As shown in **Table 2-6**, the majority (approximately 66%) of the County's total population resides within the jurisdictional areas of the cities, while approximately 34% resides in unincorporated areas. The County also contains the Tule River Indian Reservation.

**TABLE 2-6
TULARE COUNTY HOUSING ESTIMATES (2007 and 2017)**

Jurisdictional Area	2007			2017		
	Housing Units	Percentage Vacant	Persons Per Household	Housing Units	Percentage Vacant	Persons Per Household
City of Dinuba	5,380	3.75	3.82	5,868	4.7	3.81
City of Exeter	3,600	5.28	3.10	3,600	6.2	3.04
City of Farmersville	2,640	5.16	4.16	2,726	4.8	4.08
City of Lindsay	3,020	5.14	3.83	3,193	5.6	3.87
City of Porterville	16,010	6.04	3.30	16,734	6.5	3.39
City of Tulare	17,600	4.98	3.30	18,863	6.1	3.33
City of Visalia	40,920	5.47	2.99	44,205	6.5	2.98
City of Woodlake	2,020	5.20	3.84	1,412	4.9	3.70
<i>Total Incorporated</i>	91,190	7.92	3.31	97,256	6.2	3.25
<i>Unincorporated Areas</i>	44,870	11.93	3.58	44,440	12.0	3.61
County Total	136,060	5.34	3.35	141,696	8.0	3.36

Source: State of California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State - January 1, 2011-2017. Sacramento, California, May 2017; accessed October 14, 2017 at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-5/>

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

The seven (7) Project Objectives shown below remain identical to the initial Draft EIR:

Objective 1: Connection to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Construct a system capable of accessing the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility which would provide adequate on-site wastewater removal and treatment services for Matheny; (provide an average daily flow of 110,000 million gallon per day (mgd) to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of the community.).

Objective 2: Abandonment of on-site septic tank/leach line systems

Benefit: Eventual abandonment of the existing individual residential on-site septic tank/leach line systems located within Matheny Tract.

Objective 3: Beneficial Environmental Impacts

Benefit: Provide a system that has the least potential to result in adverse environmental impacts and would provide an environmental benefit by eliminating wastewater discharge from on-site system tanks into the ground.

Objective 4: Avert a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Avoid construction of a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility (including percolation ponds) in Matheny Tract. This would be the most expensive Alternative to the Project and would likely result in an economic and unaffordable hardship to Matheny Tract's residents.

Objective 5: Protect groundwater supply

Benefit: Treat collected wastewater so as to remove constituents, such as BOD, suspended solids, nitrogen, and waterborne bacteria and viruses, to a greater extent, thereby improving subsurface water quality in the receiving groundwater basin relative to current environmental conditions.

Objective 6: Cost-Efficiency

Benefit: Provide the most cost-effective, safe, and reliable means to collect and treat wastewater to Title 22 standards.

Objective 7: Affordable and Effective

Benefit: Implement an as affordable fees schedule to efficiently and effectively maintain and operate the wastewater system to enhance the quality of life for Matheny Tract residents.

**BASELINE CONDITIONS INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT
AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION¹⁸**

The Baseline Conditions pertinent to Matheny Tract remain as contained in the initial Draft EIR. Where available, information applicable to the City of Tulare that is pertinent to Alternatives 5 and 6 have been incorporated herein.

“Existing Facilities

Existing System Description

The Matheny Tract residents use septic systems located on each lot to dispose of their effluent discharge. The septic systems mainly consist of a concrete tank providing rudimentary wastewater treatment, which then discharges effluent to a leach field or leach pit. The septic

¹⁸ Information excerpted from the Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Pages 13-16. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016.

tanks are typically located behind the primary or first residence constructed on the property; leach field locations vary and are not necessarily part of the public record.”¹⁹

City of Tulare residents, commercial and industrial users are connected to the City’s domestic and industrial wastewater collection and treatment system as applicable. (See below)

“Existing Flow Characteristics

Lot Sizes

As discussed in Section 2 [of the Report], the lot sizes vary broadly from approximately 6,000 square feet (sf) to 4.7 acres (ac). The smaller lots typically have one dwelling, while the larger lots can have as many as three dwellings (often a mixture of fixed houses and mobile homes). Based on visual inspection there are approximately 320 dwellings within the community on 290 residential lots; approximately one-third of the dwellings are mobile homes. The following table [Table 2-7] identifies how many fixed and mobile homes, churches, and commercial establishments are in the area.”²⁰

Table 2-7 [Table 3-1 of the Project Feasibility Report] Dwellings Summary	
Type of Use	Estimated Number of Users
Dwellings	320
Church	3
Commercial (Small Store)	3

“Waste Generation Estimates

The flowrates for the wastewater loading on the new system were estimated by using the typical wastewater flow rates for nearby communities and applying those numbers to the Matheny Tract community (see WDRs for Tipton, Tulare and Woodville in Appendix G). The following table [Table 2-8] shows the unit flowrates used.

Table 2-8 [Table 3-2 of the Project Feasibility Report] Waste Generation Estimate	
Type of Use	Unit Flow Rate
Residential	72 gpcd
Church	8 gal/attendee
Small Store	10 gal/employee

¹⁹ Ibid. 11.

²⁰ Information excerpted from the Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Pages 13-16.
Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016. Page 11.

As discussed above, there are approximately 1,212 people in the Matheny Tract. By using 50 attendees at church services per church site, once per week, and 4 employees (average) at the local commercial establishments, the community wastewater estimate is 87,500 gallons per day (gpd) or 72 gallons per capita per day (gpcd). This value is well below the threshold of 120 gpcd that would require a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES); an SSES will not be prepared for this project.

Wastewater generation can also be estimated by taking 90 percent of the winter daily water use. Based on water use records, 90 percent of the average winter month (November through February) water use is 107,320 gpd or 89 gpcd.

Based on these methods, the wastewater flow from Matheny Tract is conservatively estimated to be approximately 110,000 gpd; however the plant should be designed to accommodate 130,000 gpd to account for high flows in the summer months.”²¹

See below, in summary, the City’s the Domestic WWTP can treat 6.0 million gallons per day (mgd) while the Industrial WWTP can treat 12 mgd.

“Wastewater Characteristics

The flow rates from the City of Tulare, Woodville Public Utilities District (PUD) and Tipton Community Service District (CSD) were reviewed (see Appendix G [of the Report]). According to each community’s Waste Discharge Requirements, the City of Tulare has a permitted capacity of 6 million gallons per day (MGD), Woodville PUD has a permitted capacity of 0.33 MGD and Tipton CSD has a permitted capacity of 0.4 MGD. The communities all operate below their permitted capacity, with an average waste generation rate of approximately 72 gpcd.

The raw wastewater characteristics from the Matheny Tract to be used for the purposes of this report and design calculations of the selected alternative are shown in the following table [Table 2-8]. The reference source identified three levels of influent, low, medium and high; the medium characteristics have been selected.”²²

Table 2-9 [Table 3-3 of the Project Feasibility Report] Influent Characteristics	
Constituent	Design Values
Residential	72 gpcd
Church	8 gal/attendee
Small Store	10 gal/employee

²¹ Op. Cit. 13-14.

²² Op. Cit. 14.

“Seasonal Variations

The community has seasonal variations due to climatic factors and user impacts. The annual average water use per person in the Matheny Tract is 175 gpcd. During the summer months the average water use is 252 gpcd, while during the winter months the average is 98 gpcd.

During the summer months (May through August), the climate is hot and dry, necessitating more outdoor water usage for irrigation and recreation. Wastewater generation is exacerbated by summer break from school for children, increasing the daily average loading. The community is not home to a school; therefore, during non-summer months, the wastewater generation by school-aged children is not realized in the community for a large portion of each weekday. For design purposes, the dry-weather conditions are used to account for the highest wastewater generation.”²³

City of Tulare

“The Wastewater Treatment Plant Division operates and maintains the city’s wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF). The WWTF consists of a domestic plant (6.0 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity) and an industrial plant (12.0 MGD capacity) treating about 4.81 MGD in the domestic plant and about 7.63 MGD in the industrial plant. This includes operation, maintenance and repair of treatment structures, such as lift stations, sedimentation tanks, digesters, filters, pumps and control buildings. Additional operations include 320 acres of storage ponds, 3,230 acres of farmland under permit for beneficial reuse of treated wastewater.”²⁴ The City of Tulare’s Domestic and Industrial Plant Characteristics can be found at:

<http://www.tulare.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=490> and
<http://www.tulare.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=488>; respectively.

“Water Quality

The community is solely reliant on groundwater supply. The drinking water standards specify allowable levels for constituents of concern in the area (Arsenic and Nitrate). The Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for Arsenic and Nitrate are 10 µg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively. In addition, the water quality characteristics must meet the Federal and State drinking water standards for other regulated constituents.”²⁵

The City of Tulare’s water quality is not an issue relative to this Recirculated DEIR as all residential, commercial, and industrial uses are tied into and receive potable water from the City.

²³ Op. Cit. 15.

²⁴ City of Tulare; see <http://www.tulare.ca.gov/departments/public-works/wastewater>

²⁵ Op. Cit.

Past Water System Violations of the Pratt Mutual Water Company (Pratt MWC or PMWC)

As indicated in the initial PFR, PMWC received several Notices of Violation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). “In 1999 and 2000, Well 2 was cited several times for exceeding the MCL for nitrate, resulting in the well’s condemnation in 2002 by DHS. With the development of the lower 10 µg/L MCL for Arsenic in 2006, the remaining two wells of the water system are now in exceedance.

The nitrate levels in Well 2 were sampled in 1999 and 2000 with reported levels 60 mg/L in both instances. The presence of Nitrate at levels significantly in excess of the MCL in Well 2 was attributed to the shallowness of the well; the shallow groundwater has been affected by both septic systems and agricultural uses in the surrounding area. This well is no longer in use by Pratt MWC for this reason. From 2002 to 2010, Pratt MWC conducted 8 and 12 sampling events on Wells 1 and 3, respectively. The average Arsenic concentration was 15.0 µg/L at Well 1 and 11.9 µg/L at Well 3; substantially above the 10 µg/L MCL.”²⁶

Water Resources

Water Supply

The Matheny Tract’s water supply was previously provided by Pratt Mutual Water Company [PWMC]. PWMC was classified as a community water system and served a population of 1,212 people. PMWC provided water through two wells on a closed-loop system; the system provided both domestic and fire suppression supplies. The City of Tulare consolidated the PMWC water system into its system and currently provides potable water services to Matheny Tract; the PMWC was then consequently dissolved.

Ground Water

“The western half of Tulare County is comprised of flat valley lands of the southern San Joaquin Valley, while rolling foothills associated with the Sierra Nevada Mountains characterize its eastern half. Topography consists of flat valley land, gently rolling foothills, and canyons of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Water bearing units within Tulare County include younger and older alluvium, flood-basin deposits, lacustrine, marsh and continental deposits. The older alluvium is moderately to highly permeable and is the major aquifer for Tulare County. Regional groundwater flow is generally southwestward; however, pumping can affect local groundwater flow direction.

Tulare County is located within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 identifies several groundwater subbasins

²⁶ Op. Cit. 15-16.

in Tulare County, including the Kings Subbasin, Kaweah Subbasin and Tule Subbasin. The project is located within the Kaweah Subbasin.

The Kaweah Subbasin underlies central Tulare County west of the Sierra foothills. The major water-bearing units are made up of unconsolidated Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene-age sediments. Continental lacustrine and marsh deposits are found in the western portion of the subbasin, closer to the Tulare Lake bed. Clay beds associated with lacustrine deposits form aquitards that influence the vertical and possibly horizontal movement of local groundwater. The most well-known clay bed is the Corcoran clay, which underlies the western half of the Kaweah Subbasin from 200 to 500 feet below ground surface (bgs), confining portions of the aquifer. The county's population centers of Visalia and Tulare are located within the Kaweah Subbasin. Approximately 44% of the sampled wells were located in the Kaweah Subbasin.”²⁷

“Groundwater recharge in the county occurs through river and stream seepage, percolation of irrigation water, canal seepage, and intentional recharge. Land subsidence of up to 16 feet has occurred due to deep compaction of fine-grained units. This subsidence is thought to be due to groundwater withdrawal. The DWR-published ground water contours in the project area are included in Appendix D [in the Report].”²⁸

As noted in the earlier Water Supply discussion, the City of Tulare currently provides potable water services to Matheny Tract.

“Surface Water

The closest surface water ways are the TID canals discussed in Section 2.1.2.1 [of the Feasibility Report]. The Main Canal is approximately 0.5 miles north of the project area and the other referenced canals run through or directly adjacent to the project area.

Hazardous Constituents

A review of Identified Hazardous Waste Sites on the EnviroStor Database determined that there are no identified hazardous sites within the Matheny Tract or nearby vicinity. A review of the Geotracker Database (Appendix E [in the Feasibility Report]), which is maintained by the California Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), identifies C&E Feed & Auto Parts (T0610700135), at the northeast corner of Pratt Street and Addie Avenue, as a site with a cleanup status of “Completed- Case Closed” and Curti & Sons, Inc. (T0610700411) at 3235 Avenue 199, as a site with a cleanup status of “Open – Remediation.” The SWRCB defines “Open – Remediation” as an on-going corrective action at a site where the actual construction or implementation activities to accomplish cleanup at the site are in process.

²⁷ Op. Cit. 9.

²⁸ Op. Cit.

Further discussion of groundwater quality can be found in Section 3.3 [in the Feasibility Report].”²⁹

PERMITS REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The contents of the Recirculated DEIR do not change any local and state regulatory requirements. As such, the Preferred/Proposed Project may require, but not be limited to, the following local and state, regulatory requirements:

“The project will require permitting during the planning stage as well as construction permits. Table 6-4 [of the Report; **Table 2-9** of this document] lists the permits that will be required and what phase of the project they will be required during; this list may not be exhaustive depending on the timing of construction and permit requirements at that time.”³⁰ In addition to the permits listed in Table 2-4, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) will require compliance with Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM₁₀ Prohibitions); a series of eight (8) rules adopted by the Air District that requires action to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions from construction-related or other earth-moving/earth-disturbing activities. Regulation VIII may also require a District-approved Dust Control Plan prior to initiation of construction-related activities. A Dust Control Plan identifies the fugitive dust sources at the construction site and describes all of the dust control measures to be implemented before, during, and after any dust generating activity for the duration of the project.

Table 2-10 Selected Alternative Required Permitting		
Permit Name	Approving Agency	Project Phase
CEQA	County of Tulare	Planning
Indirect Source Review	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Planning
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	State Water Regional Control Board	Design
Common Use Agreement	Tulare Irrigation District	Design
Report of Waste Discharge	Regional Water Quality Control Board	Design
Encroachment Permit	County of Tulare	Construction

Other actions/key issues needed to implement the Preferred/Proposed Project would include:

- “County of Tulare Acceptance
 - ◇ The County will have to approve the selection of this alternative prior to moving forward with discussions with the City
- The Matheny Tract Acceptance

²⁹ Op. Cit. 10.

³⁰ Op. Cit. 40.

- ◇ Further community outreach and discussion must be held to ensure the community residents support the solution
- ◇ A vote may be required to obtain necessary majority approval to substantiate implementing a County ordinance that requires connection to the new wastewater collection system
- City of Tulare Acceptance
 - ◇ A letter of commitment backed by a City Council Resolution will be required prior to receiving funding
 - ◇ An agreement between the City and County will be required, detailing all of the terms and conditions of sewer service provision
- Obtain Construction Funding
 - ◇ The selected alternative has a capital improvement cost of \$12.05M including Contingency, Engineering and Construction Services (Inspection, Staking, Construction Engineer, etc.).
 - ◇ 100% grant, up to \$4M is allowable for projects benefitting an SDAC with a wastewater rate between 1.5% and 2% of the community's MHI. The SWRCB may increase grant percentage to 100% with special approval.
 - ◇ Entire project cost could be awarded as grant with special approval from the funding agency
 - ◇ A loan could be required on the remaining project costs. Terms would include repayment over 30 years at an interest rate of half the general obligation rate. If loan repayment is required it would necessitate creation of a Special Assessment District for the Matheny Tract residences and businesses.”³¹

As indicated in the PFR Addendum, “Table 3-1 (of the PFR Addendum, **Table 2-1** in this RDEIR) shows the costs of all Alternatives to the Preferred/Project Alternative. The PFR Addendum further states; As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 [in the PRR Addendum, but Alternatives 5 and 6 in this RDEIR] (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative.”³²

Vicinity and Project Boundary maps are presented in **Figure 2-1** Wastewater System Vicinity Map (excerpted from the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System, Appendix “D” of the initial DEIR) and **Figure 2-2** Wastewater System Project.

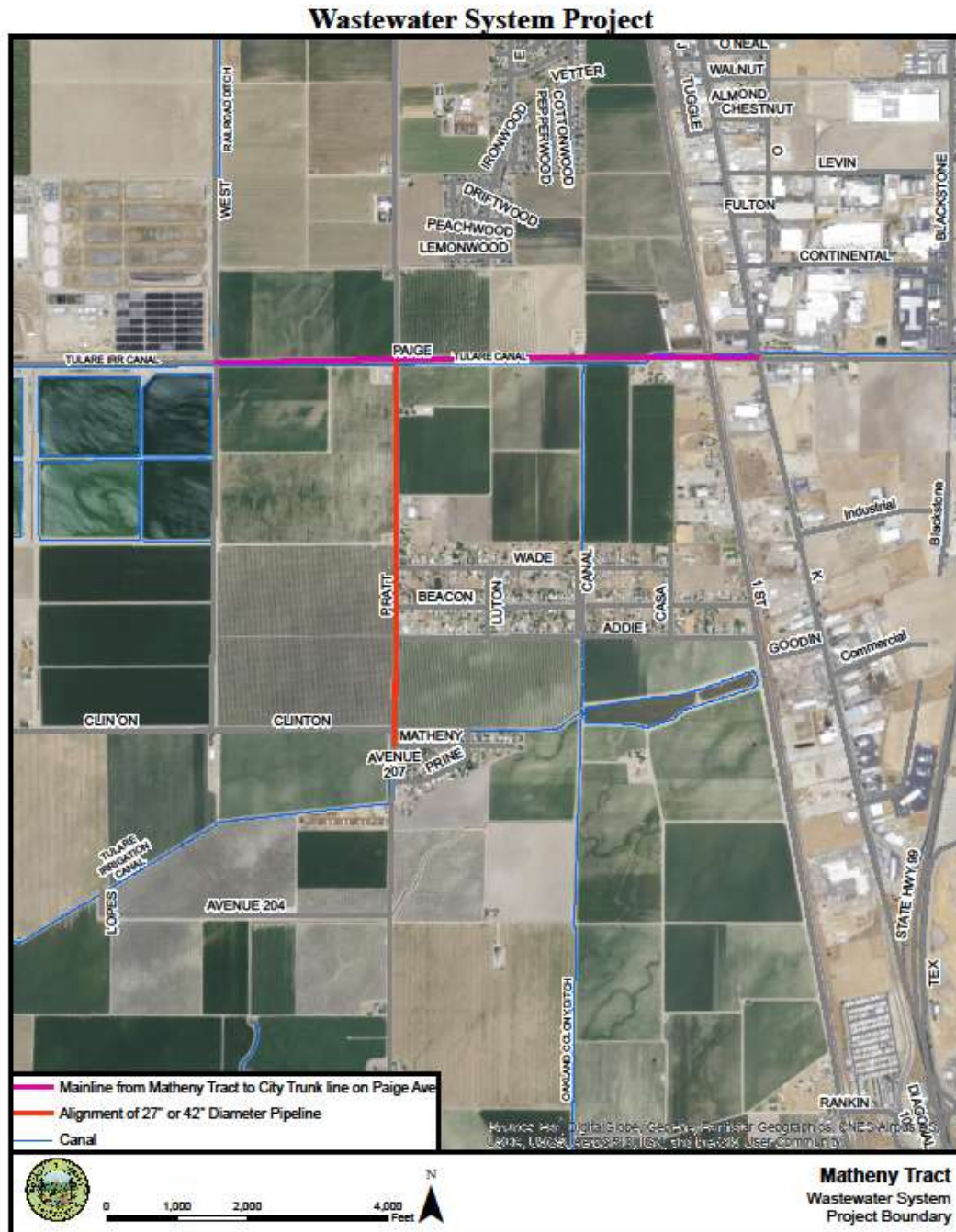
³¹ Op. Cit. 40-41.

³² Page. 3.

Figures 2-1 Wastewater System Vicinity Map



Figure 2-2



Chapter 3

Environmental Analysis

READERS GUIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

To assist the reader of this document, this section provides an overview of the organization and content of the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project described in Chapter 2. The following information includes a description of the overall scope of the environmental analysis (including those environmental resource topics addressed), a description of the organization and content of each resource section, and a description of the baseline year used in the environmental analysis.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

As indicated in Chapter 1 Introduction, this RDEIR is analyzing only Alternatives 5 and 6, the assumptions/analysis contained in the initial DEIR remain applicable. Therefore, rather than repeating the discussion here, this Chapter relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference).

Chapter 4 of the DEIR describes each resource's existing conditions, or baseline setting, before project implementation; methods and assumptions used in the impact analysis; thresholds of significance; impacts that would result from adoption and implementation of the proposed project; and mitigation measures (e.g., General Plan policies, specific mitigation identified in resource specific technical studies, requirements (e.g., orders, rules, regulations, standards, requirements, etc., from a responsible agency) that would eliminate or reduce significant impacts).

Chapter 3 of the initial DEIR provide a detailed discussion of the existing conditions (environmental setting) in the Planning Area (generally the unincorporated Tulare County) and describe the impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project. The focus of this RDEIR, Alternatives 5 and 6 has a study area limited to the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor where new 27- and 42-inch diameter sewer pipelines have been suggested by the City of Tulare. The impact discussion below also identifies mitigating measures from the proposed project that serve to mitigate or reduce significant impacts to a less than-significant level.

As part of the initial Draft EIR for the initially proposed project, an NOP with an environmental checklist (based on Appendix G "Environmental Checklist" of the CEQA Guidelines) was prepared and circulated for public review and comment (see Appendix "B") of this Recirculated RDEIR). On the basis of the NOP and public input, the scope of environmental resources and issues to be addressed in the DEIR for the initial proposed project was established and has not been

changed other than the addition of the above noted Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor where Alternatives 5 or 6 may be implemented if selected.

During preparation of the RDEIR, information was collected and analyzed on the various topics and issues described in the environmental checklist. From this analysis, it was found that a few issues from the checklist did not warrant an in depth analysis since they did not have the potential to be significantly impacted. These issues associated with consideration of Alternatives 5 and 6 are indicated in **Table 3-1** and are not evaluated further in this document since they would not result in significant impacts on the environment. **Table 3-2** considers impacts of Alternatives 5 and 6 that would result in less than significant impacts, while **Table 3-3** considers impacts of Alternatives 5 and 6 that would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation.

EVALUATION AND PRESENTATION OF IMPACTS

Terminology Used in the EIR

For each impact identified in this RDEIR, a statement of the level of significance of each impact is provided. Impacts are categorized in one of the following categories:

- A project impact is considered significant if it reaches or exceeds the threshold of significance identified in the EIR. A project impact is considered **less than significant (LTS)** when there may be an impact but it does not reach the threshold or standard of significance and, therefore, would cause no substantial adverse change in the physical environment. No mitigation is required for less-than-significant impacts.
- A **potentially significant impact (PS)** is a substantial or potentially substantial, adverse change in the physical environment. Physical conditions in the area will be directly or indirectly affected by the General Plan Update. Impacts may be direct or indirect and short-term or long-term. A project impact is considered significant if it reaches or exceeds the threshold of significance identified in the EIR. Mitigation measures may reduce a potentially significant adverse impact to a less-than-significant impact.
- A **significant unavoidable impact (SU)** occurs when even with the adoption of all feasible mitigation measures a significant adverse impact cannot be avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level should the project be implemented.
- A designation of **no impact (NI)** was given if the proposed project would not result in an adverse impact on the physical environment.

Description of Impact Analysis

The impact assessment for each environmental resource topic provided in this RDEIR is divided into a number of individual impact statements that deal with specific topics. For example, Item IV “Biological Resources”, includes the following impact statement in the first column of each Table:

Impact III. a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game [Wildlife] or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Following each impact statement is a discussion of the potential impact and, where applicable, mitigation measures that would help to mitigate this impact. As noted earlier, as this Chapter relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR Chapter 3 (incorporated herein by reference), existing policies and implementation measures are incorporated by reference.

Baseline Year

As stated in the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15125(a)), an EIR must describe the existing conditions in the vicinity of the proposed project. For each of the environmental resources assessed in this RDEIR, the description of existing environmental and regulatory conditions is included under the “Regulatory Setting” and “Environmental Setting” headings in each section of Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference) and are not repeated in the RDEIR. Chapter 2 Project Description of this RDEIR provides baseline conditions information for Alternatives 5 and 6.

As contained in Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR, in describing existing conditions, it is necessary to establish a date at which these conditions exist. As stated in the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15125(a)), existing conditions are normally assessed “at the time the notice of preparation is published” or if a notice of preparation is not published “at the time environmental analysis is commenced”. The section further states, “This environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a Lead Agency determines whether an impact is significant”.

As the original Notice of Preparation for the initial DEIR was prepared in 2017, the County established baseline physical conditions for this environmental analysis as those conditions that existed in the Planning Area at the time that the RDEIR was prepared (2017). Much of the baseline condition has not changed by including Alternatives 5 or 6 from that previously used for the initial DEIR using the most recent countywide or local resource data available from Federal, State, and other regional sources. It is noted that the only new area added to the RDEIR that were not considered in the initial DEIR is the earlier noted Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. No other changes to the baseline are necessary.

Analysis of Planning Area

As previously described in Chapter 2 “Project Description”, the Project site is located approximately 60 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 25 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Matheny Tract comprises of a relatively

flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Matheny Tract sits at an approximate elevation of 263 feet above mean sea level.¹

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and “I” Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to “I” Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface; these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. As proposed, the pipeline suggested in Alternatives 5-6 is within the City of Tulare’s City Limits and Sphere of Influence. Land Uses as shown in the City’s General Plan Map² contain predominantly light industrial and single-family residential uses west of “K” Street. Existing land uses are predominantly agricultural with some light industrial, a Tulare Irrigation District canal, Paige Avenue/Avenue 216, and a railroad just east of “I” Street.

Following is an analysis of potential resource impacts in **Table 3-1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR; Table 3-2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6; and Table 3-3 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS WITH MITIGATION CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6.**

Also, **Table 4-2** of Chapter 4 Cumulative Impacts provides a discussion regarding Cumulative Impacts for each resources discussed in **Table 3-1** thru **3-3**.

¹ Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016

² City of Tulare 2035 Tulare General Land Use Map Plan, accessed October 13, 2-17 at: <http://www.tulare.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=604>

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**TABLE 3-1
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT
AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR**

Resource	Issue Findings
I. Aesthetics	
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. There are no scenic vistas within the vicinity of the Project area. The construction-related activities and operation of underground pipelines would not result in a potential impact to the visual character of the area. At least one lift station (or other appurtenant structures) may be constructed above ground. However, these structures are visually consistent with the existing agricultural infrastructure in the area and would not result in a significant impact on scenic vistas. Therefore, Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Construction of the Project would occur on weekdays during daylight hours, and would not require any lighting. Additionally, there would be no lighting sources associated with the operation of the Project. Therefore, Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
IV. Biological Resources	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As indicated earlier, the Project will be developed within existing, utilized area (e.g., roads and shoulders) which are in a continuously disturbed state. There is no habitat whatsoever where any special status species may occur within or adjacent to the Project. Areas immediately adjacent to Avenue 216/Paige Avenue consist mostly of agriculturally productive farmland/uses. Light industrial uses occur between "K" Street and approximately 600 feet west of the railroad tracks. A Tulare Irrigation District (TID) canal that conveys seasonal irrigation water is located north of Avenue 216/Paige Avenue for approximately 835 feet west of the railroad tracks then crosses south of Paige and continues beyond the WWTP. As this canal is a man-made feature, is regularly maintained, denuded of natural occurring vegetation, and conveys water only during irrigation season. As indicated in TID's U.S. Bureau of Reclamation approved <i>2012 Agricultural Water Management Plan</i> , TID land is predominantly privately held land used only for agriculture, as such, there are no recreation and/or cultural resources within the service area; and there are also no known natural resources areas. ³ As the need arises, TID provides relief for high flows (very wet years) by

³ Tulare Irrigation District "2012 Agricultural Water Management Plan". Page 10. Accessed on October 16, 2017 at: <http://tulareid.org/tulare-id-2012-ag-water-management-planpdf>.

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**TABLE 3-1
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT
AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR**

Resource	Issue Findings
	receiving water from the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWD) and Friant-Kern Canal system. ⁴ Therefore, Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As indicated in the CNDDDB search; there are no protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) within or near the Project. As such, the Project would have no substantial adverse effect on wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, Alternative 5 or 6 would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinances. No County ordinances protect the types of biological resources found on areas where the Project would occur. In the unlikely event that Special Status species are encountered, the County would consult with Cal Fish & Wildlife, USFWS or any other agencies on potential impacts to Special Status Species. As such, Alternative 2, (the Preferred Alternative), would not conflict with Tulare County General Plan policies or natural resource protection ordinances. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	No Impact - There are two habitat conservation plans that could apply in Tulare County. The Kern Water Habitat Conservation Plan only applies to an area in Allensworth; therefore, Alternatives 5 or 6 would not subject to this plan. The Recovery Plan for Upland Species in the San Joaquin Valley outlines a number of species that are important to the San Joaquin Valley. None of these species were identified within the impact areas of Alternatives 5 or 6. As such, no project-specific impacts related to this impact area would occur. Further, Alternatives 5 or 6 would not conflict with any approved habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or regional or state habitat conservation plans. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
VI. Geology and Soils	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, the Project would not involve the use of septic tanks

⁴ Ibid. 34.

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**TABLE 3-1
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT
AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR**

Resource	Issue Findings
	or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
VII. Greenhouse Gases	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project would generate GHG emissions through construction-related activities and maintenance-related activities. The period of construction would be short-term, and construction-phase GHG emissions would occur directly from the off-road heavy-duty equipment and the on-road motor vehicles needed to mobilize crew, equipment, and materials, and to construct the pipeline. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The nearest schools to the Project area are both located approximately one (1) mile north (Valley High School, near W. Bardsley Avenue and Pratt St.) and Lincoln Elementary School (W. Bardsley Avenue, west of Blackstone Street). Also the Project Feasibility Report (Appendix D of the initial Draft EIR) noted; "A review of Identified Hazardous Waste Sites on the EnviroStor Database determined that there are no identified hazardous sites within the Matheny Tract or nearby vicinity." ⁵ As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As noted earlier, the Feasibility Report noted; "A review of Identified Hazardous Waste Sites on the EnviroStor Database determined that there are no identified hazardous sites within the Matheny Tract or nearby vicinity." ⁶ As such, the Project does not involve land that is listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Therefore, this resource would result in no impact if implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 were to occur.
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare.

⁵ Project Feasibility Report, Matheny Tract Wastewater System, Tulare County, California 2016. Page 8. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group.

⁶ Ibid.

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**TABLE 3-1
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT
AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR**

Resource	Issue Findings
the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	The nearest airstrip is Tulare Municipal Airport (Mefford Field, City of Tulare), located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Paige Avenue/Avenue 216. The Project is not located within a Tulare County Airport Land Use Plan boundary, Federal Aviation Administration designated civilian airport Runway Clear Zone, military airfield Clear Zone, or an Accidental Potential Zone. Therefore, no impact would occur to this resource if implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 were to occur.
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, this resource would result in no impact if implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 were to occur.
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project site would occur within an existing paved road and existing road right-of-way (Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). The construction and operation of an underground pipeline would not require long-term roadway closures nor would it impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur to this resource if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, the Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Therefore, no impact would occur to this resource if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
IX. Hydrology and Water Quality	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which will result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The proposed underground pipeline contained in Alternatives 5 or 6 would not result in increased runoff. The pipeline would be constructed within the existing road rights-of-way (i.e., Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). Following construction-related activities, the trench would be backfilled and restored to pre-construction (or better) conditions. Therefore, the Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT
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Resource	Issue Findings
	siltation on- or off-site. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
<p>d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding on- or off-site?</p>	<p>No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The proposed underground pipeline contained in Alternatives 5 or 6 would not result in increased runoff. The pipeline would be constructed within the existing road rights-of-way (i.e., Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). Following construction-related activities, the trench would be backfilled and restored to pre-construction (or better) conditions. Therefore, the Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.</p>
<p>e) Create or contribute runoff water which will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?</p>	<p>No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The extent of erosion on a site would typically vary depending upon slope steepness and stability, vegetation, percentage of cover, concentration of runoff, and weather conditions. The proposed underground pipeline contained in Alternatives 5 and 6 would not result in increased runoff. The pipelines would be constructed within existing road rights-of-way which are highly disturbed. Following construction-related activities, the trenches would be backfilled and restored to pre-construction (or better) conditions.</p> <p>As indicated in the City's Storm Drainage System Master Plan, "The existing storm drainage system collects and conveys surface water runoff throughout the City to City-owned stormwater basins and pump stations for retention or discharge to Tulare Irrigation District (TID) owned facilities, where applicable. The existing storm drainage system shown on Figure ES.2 is composed of neighborhood collection systems, detention basins, retention basins, pump stations, and storm drains. Stormwater is disposed of by percolation and/or by discharge to TID pipelines, canals, and ditches. Discharge to the TID facilities is permitted under an agreement between TID and the City. ... Stormwater is discharged through the outfalls either automatically or after a major storm event with TID approval, depending on the pump station."⁷ As shown in Storm Drainage System Master Plan, Figure ES.2 (Existing Storm Drainage System, Page 2 of 2)⁸, the TID Main Canal is north of Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 from "K" Street to just west of the railroad tracks, it then crosses Paige</p>

⁷ City of Tulare Storm Drainage System Master Plan Page 3.

⁸ Ibid. ES.6

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Resource	Issue Findings
	<p>Avenue/Avenue 216 and continues south of Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 beyond the Project limits.</p> <p>As the Project would not intrude upon any TID canal that serves as a City storm water conveyance facility, the Project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.</p>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, the Project does not include elements that could degrade water quality. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project does not include the construction of any housing units. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. "Two major dams could cause substantial flooding in Tulare County in the event of a failure: Terminus Dam and Success Dam. In addition, there are many smaller dams throughout the county that will cause localized flooding in the event of their failing." ⁹ The Project area is not within the inundation areas for Terminus or Success Dams. In addition, the Project does not involve water storage or changing the alignment of an established watercourse. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project area is not near any major body of water, the coast, or hillsides. Following construction-related activities, the trench would be backfilled and restored to pre-construction (or better) conditions. Therefore, if implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 were to occur, this resource would result in no impact to the Project.
X. Land Use and Planning	
a) Physically divide an established community?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract

⁹Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, Background Report, February 2010. Page 8-17.

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Resource	Issue Findings
	to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The proposed construction of an underground wastewater pipeline does not have the potential to physically divide an established community as the pipeline would be constructed within an existing road right-of-way. Following construction-related activities, the trench would be backfilled and restored to pre-construction (or better) conditions. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. There are two habitat conservation plans that apply in Tulare County. The Kern Water Habitat Conservation Plan only applies to an area near Allensworth (located in southwestern Tulare County), thus Alternative 5 and 6 would not be subject to this Plan. The Recovery Plan for Upland Species in the San Joaquin Valley outlines a number of species that are important to the San Joaquin Valley. None of these species were identified on the in relation to the Project. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
XI. Mineral Resources	
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Mineral Resources located in central Tulare County are predominantly sand and gravel resources near waterways. According to the Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, the Project area is not located in a known mineral resource zone MRZ. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Similar to item XI. a), implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
XII. Noise	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project is not in the immediate vicinity of an airport land use plan. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As the Project site is not near any known operating private

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TABLE 3-1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WITH NO IMPACT AS ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
Resource	Issue Findings
	airstrips; potential exposure to private airstrip noise is non-existent. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
XIII. Population and Housing	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, the Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact to this resource.
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project does not include the conversion of housing. Therefore, no people would be displaced. As a result, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere and would result in no impact to this resource.
XIV. Public Services	
a) Will the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	
Schools?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As no schools would be impacted, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
Parks?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As no parks would be impacted or included as part of implementing Alternatives 5 or 6, there would be no impact on this resource.
Other Public Facilities?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. No other public facilities would be impacted. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.

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**TABLE 3-1
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Resource	Issue Findings
XV. Recreation	
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The project would not increase to the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
XVI. Transportation and Traffic	
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would not require the construction of any new roadways. The Project would result in short-term, temporary traffic impacts during the construction phase. Additionally, following completion, the pipeline would not generate vehicle trips, with the exception of routine maintenance-related trips. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project does not consist of any elements that would impact air traffic patterns. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project does not consist of any elements that would substantially increase hazards as a result of a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.

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**TABLE 3-1
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Resource	Issue Findings
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project does not consist of any elements that would conflict with policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
XVIII. Utilities Service	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Project solid waste resulting from construction-related activities would be disposed of by the County's franchised hauler on a periodic basis and would be properly disposed at a County owned/operated landfill (likely either Teapot Dome or Visalia Landfills). All solid waste disposal procedures would be in compliance with the relevant provisions of AB 32 and AB 939. As such, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in no impact on this resource.
XIX. Mandatory Findings	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	No Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The project would not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Rather, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in greater conveyance capacity of sewerage than the existing Paige Avenue trunk thereby benefitting human beings.

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**TABLE 3-2
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS
RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN
LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6**

Resource	Issue Findings
I. Aesthetics	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Portions of SRs 190, 198, and 180 are eligible for state scenic highway designation. However, they are not designated as such at this time. Additionally, the Tulare County 2030 General Plan lists a series of Scenic County Routes, several of which are located in agricultural areas. Avenue 216/Paige Avenue, the roadway route where the potential 27- or 42-inch pipeline connection to Tulare's WWTP would occur, is not designated as a Scenic County Route. During construction-related activities, the visual character of the Project would be impacted as a result of trenching and other construction-related activities. However, these impacts would be short-term, temporary, and are typical of these types of construction projects. The long-term operation of the underground pipelines would not present the potential to impact the visual character of the Avenue 216/Paige Avenue view-shed. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	Less Than Significant Impact - During construction-related activities, the visual character of the Project area would be impacted as a result of trenching and other construction-related activities. However, these impacts would be short-term and temporary and are typical for these types of construction projects. The long-term operation of the underground pipelines would not impact the visual character of the site or area along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.
II. Air Quality	
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Less Than Significant - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42-inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project would result in short-term construction-related criteria air pollutant emissions. It is not necessary to calculate air quality emissions as, by analogy, the emissions from this project compared to a similar project (Plainview Wastewater System Project) within Tulare County would not exceed Air District thresholds. As construction of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare would be approximately 55% the size of Plainview's, and air emissions are simple "straight-line" calculations, it is reasonable to assume that Matheny Tract's emissions would not exceed 55% the amount of Plainview's. Also, operational emissions

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Resource	Issue Findings
	<p>associated with the Project would result from the vehicle trips associated with the maintenance of the pipelines. Maintenance trips would also be below the Air District's 1,453 trips per day Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) limits and are, therefore, assumed to fall below the Air District's thresholds of significance.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project would not increase the frequency or severity of existing air quality violation, nor would it cause or contribute to new violations. Also, The proposed wastewater treatment pipeline would neither increase population nor employment within the air basin as the pipeline is sized to serve the existing unincorporated community of Matheny Tract. Also, it is anticipated that there would be no change to City of Tulare staffing levels to maintain its operations at the City's WWTP. As noted earlier, the Project remains subject to all applicable Air District rules and regulations and it has been shown that emission levels would not exceed Air District thresholds during construction- or operations-related activities. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would not result in a significant impact on this resource and are consistent with the Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, as well as the Air District's ozone and particulate matter plans which are included in the State Implementation Plan. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.</p>
<p>b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Typically, construction of a project generates emissions of various air pollutants, including criteria pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), ozone precursors (such as nitrous oxides (NO_x) and reactive organic gases (ROG) or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)), particulate matter (both less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) and less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5})), as well as sulfur oxides (SO_x). For example, typical emission sources during construction-related activities include equipment exhaust, dust from wind erosion, earthmoving activities, and vehicle movements. To assist in evaluating impacts of project-specific air quality emissions, the Air District has adopted thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions (expressed in units of tons per year (tons/yr.)). The following unmitigated, construction-related emissions were estimated for the Plainview Project using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro) Roadway Construction Emissions Model (Version 7.1.5.1, December 2013, in Excel-5Mb) and reduced by forty-five percent (45%) to reflect Matheny Tract's project size (and subsequent construction-related activities emissions) compared with Plainview's. Emissions (in tons per year, or tpy) for Matheny</p>

¹⁰ Air District, GAMAQI. Page 85; and SPAL website <http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/CEQA%20Rules/GAMAQI-SPAL.PDF>.

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**TABLE 3-2
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Resource	Issue Findings
	<p>Tract are 0.7 tpy ROG (VOC), 5.3 tpy NOx, 3.2 tpy CO, 0.4 tpy PM10, and 0.3 tpy PM2.5, which are below the Air District's respective threshold for each pollutant. Construction of either a 27- or 42-inch pipeline from "K" Street to S. West Street along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 would not exceed any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.</p>
<p>c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project would be required to comply with all applicable Air District and ARB standards, rules, and regulations for construction activities. Project-related construction emissions do not exceed the Air District's thresholds of significance for any criteria pollutant. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would not result in a significant impact on this resource.</p>
<p>d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Sensitive receptors are those individuals who are sensitive to air pollution and include children, the elderly, and persons with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular illness. For the purposes of a CEQA analysis, the Air District considers a sensitive receptor to be a location that houses or attracts children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Examples of sensitive receptors include schools, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units.¹¹ There are no other sensitive receptors such as daycare centers, nursing homes, or hospitals located along the Avenue 216/Paige Avenue pipeline alignment.</p> <p>The Air District does not provide specific guidance on evaluation of a project's potential for adverse health risks during construction-related activities. However, the Air District's Ambient Air Quality Analysis Project Daily Emissions Assessment (2013) and draft policy Project Impact on Ambient Air Quality Status under CEQA (2015) documents do provide guidance on how to evaluate whether a project would require an Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA).¹² Projects requiring an AAQA would also need to prepare a health risk assessment if the AAQA indicates that project</p>

¹¹ Ibid. 10, 39, and 44.

¹² Air District websites at http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/ceqa%20rules/gamaqi_aaqa_05-24-2013.pdf and <http://www.valleyair.org/busind/draft-policies/project-impact-on-ambient-air-quality-under-ceqa.pdf>, accessed December 11, 2015.

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**TABLE 3-2
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LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6**

Resource	Issue Findings
	<p>emissions exceed any ambient air quality standards at the project boundary.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Air District's guidance, Project-related average daily emissions were calculated and are shown in Item II. b). Construction of the Project would take place in phases over the course of approximately 120 days (or approximately 6 months accounting for only active construction days). As shown in Item II. b), Matheny Tract's average daily emissions are all below the Air District's 100 pound per day (lbs./day) threshold for requiring an AAQA. As the Matheny Tract project and implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in is approximately 55% of the emissions when compared to Plainview's , Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.</p>
<p>e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. While offensive odors do not cause any physical harm, they can be unpleasant, leading to distress among the general public and generates citizen complaints to local government agencies (such as the Sheriff, Fire or Environmental Health Departments) and the local air district. Any project with the potential to expose members of the public to objectionable odors has the potential to adversely impact the atmosphere (environment). Because of the subjective nature of odor impacts, the number of variables that may influence the potential for an odor impact, and the variety of odor sources; there are no quantitative or formulaic methodologies to determine if potential odors would have a significant impact. Projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if there are anticipated impacts to the environment associated with objectionable odors.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Project's construction-related activities would result in diesel emissions exhaust from construction equipment along the course of the pipelines which may release odors into the atmosphere. However, construction-related emissions would be short-term, temporary, and are not anticipated to affect a substantial number of receptors at any given time. Following construction-related activities, the Project would not emit odors. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.</p>
IV. Biological Resources	
<p>d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - As indicated earlier, the Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, implementation of alternatives 5 or 6 would result in</p>

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Resource	Issue Findings
	construction of the wastewater pipeline within existing, utilized areas (e.g., roads and shoulders) which are in a continuously disturbed state. There is no habitat whatsoever where any special status species may occur within or adjacent to the Avenue 216/Paige Avenue. The route is absent of habitats that were once native to the San Joaquin Valley, and absent of areas of significant native habitat important to native wildlife species in the general site vicinity. As such, use of Avenue 216/Paige Avenue as a “movement corridor” by native wildlife is not likely. As such, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.
VI. Geology and Soils	
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. There are no known active earthquake faults within the Project area. There are, however, three faults within the region that have been, and will be, principal sources of potential seismic activity within Tulare County (San Andreas Fault located approximately 50 miles west of the Project area; Owens Valley Fault Group located approximately 70 miles east of the Project area; and the Clovis Fault located approximately 70 north of the Project area. As earthquakes are possible throughout the State of California, the Project would be required to comply with the Tulare County General Plan and Zone II of the Uniform Building Code. Also, the City of Tulare currently has existing 27-inch domestic and 42-inch industrial sewer lines located within Paige Avenue/Avenue 216; and it is assumed that these sewer lines were constructed to withstand earthquake-associated exposure. It is further assumed that similar construction techniques would be used if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented. Therefore, impacts to implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would be less than significant.
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project area is located in a seismic zone which is sufficiently far from known faults and consists primarily of a stable geological formation. Project-specific hazards due to ground shaking would be less than significant. As earthquakes are possible throughout the State of California, the Project would be required to comply with the Tulare County General Plan and Zone II of the Uniform Building Code. As noted above, the City of Tulare currently has existing 27-inch domestic and 42-inch industrial sewer lines located with Paige Avenue/Avenue 216; and it is

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Resource	Issue Findings
	assumed that these sewer lines were constructed to withstand earthquake-associated exposure. It is further assumed that similar construction techniques would be used if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented. Therefore, impacts to implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would be less than significant
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As the Project area is sufficiently far from known faults and consists primarily of a stable geological formation, it is unlikely to be subject to seismically-induced liquefaction. Also, as noted earlier, the City of Tulare currently has existing 27-inch domestic and 42-inch industrial sewer lines located with Paige Avenue/Avenue 216; and it is assumed that these sewer lines were constructed to account for seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. It is further assumed that similar construction techniques would be used if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would be less than significant.
iv) Landslides?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project area for Alternatives 5 and 6 are not near any areas susceptible for landslides (e.g., foothills/mountains, steep river or creek banks) and is situated on relatively flat topography, as such, there is no risk of landslides within or near the Project area. Therefore, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact.
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Alternative's 5 and 6 are over Colpien loam soil with 0 to 2 percent slopes. The Colpien loam has moderately well drained soil resulting in rare frequency of flooding and ponding. While impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be developed by a qualified engineer or erosion control specialist and implemented before construction begins. Compliance with local grading and erosion control ordinances would also help minimize adverse effects associated with erosion and sedimentation. Any stockpiled soils would be watered and/or covered to prevent loss due to wind erosion as part of the SWPPP during construction and reclamation. As a result of these efforts, loss of topsoil and substantial soil erosion during the construction

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	and reclamation periods are not anticipated. Therefore, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact.
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. See earlier discussion regarding landslide, liquefaction at Item VI a) iii) and iv). As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact.
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As noted earlier, the City of Tulare currently has existing 27-inch domestic and 42-inch industrial sewer lines located with Paige Avenue/Avenue 216; and it is assumed that these sewer lines were constructed to accommodate expansive soils if applicable. It is further assumed that similar construction techniques would be used if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact.
VII. Greenhouse Gases	
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project would generate GHG emissions through construction-related activities and maintenance-related activities. The period of construction would be short-term, and construction-phase GHG emissions would occur directly from the off-road heavy-duty equipment and the on-road motor vehicles needed to mobilize crew, equipment, and materials, and to construct the pipeline.</p> <p>According to the Air District's <i>Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA</i> (Agency Guidance), projects implementing Best Performance Standards (BPS) in accordance with District guidance are determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact on global climate change and do not require project specific quantification of GHG emissions. The Agency Guidance also states that projects not implementing BPS should quantify emissions and any project demonstrating a 29% reduction in GHG emissions as compared to business-as-usual (BAU)</p>

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	<p>would have a less than significant impact.¹³ The Air District's policy <i>APR 2015: Zero Equivalency Policy for Greenhouse Gases</i> has determined that projects emitting less than 230 metric tons of CO₂e per year is considered to have a less than significant impact.¹⁴</p> <p>As the Air District has not established BPS for construction-type projects (such as the Project) GHG emissions were estimated using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's Roadway Construction Emissions Model Version 7.1.5.1 (see Appendix "A" of this DEIR). As construction emissions are short-term in nature, generation of GHG emissions would cease upon completion of the Project. Consistent with Air District procedures for determining construction related impacts for stationary sources, Project-related GHG emissions were amortized over the projected life of the pipeline. Wastewater facility pipelines are typically specified for a 50-year life; however, for a conservative estimate, emissions have been amortized assuming a 30-year life.</p> <p>The emissions model for the Plainview Wastewater System Project indicates that the Project would emit 1,012.7 tons of GHG emissions during construction operations. As the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project plus Alternatives 5 or 6 are approximately 55% the size of Plainview's project, it would likely result in approximately 561.6 tons (which is 55% of 1,012.7 tons). Therefore, the 30-year amortized GHG emissions are approximately 18.7 tons/year (55% of 561.6 tons divided by 30), which is below the Air District's zero-equivalency threshold. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would be less than significant on this resource.</p>
VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
<p>a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. There were known hazardous materials sites along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 where the above-noted pipelines would be constructed. Construction of the Project's components would require the transport and use of small quantities of hazardous materials in the form of gasoline, diesel and oil associated with construction equipment. There is the potential for small leaks due to refueling of the construction equipment; however, standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be included in the SWPPP for the Project which would reduce the potential for and clean-up in the unlikely event of</p>

¹³ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects Under CEQA. Pages 4 to 5.

¹⁴ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, APR 2015: Zero Equivalency Policy for Greenhouse Gases. Page 2.

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	spills or leaks of construction-related fuels and other hazardous materials. The BMP included in the SWPPP would addresses storm water contamination, control the amount of runoff from the site, and require proper disposal or recycling of hazardous materials. All solid construction wastes would be disposed of or recycled by qualified service providers. In order to accommodate directing of construction materials to proper end-point destinations, contractors and workers would be educated on waste sorting, appropriate recycling storage areas, and measures to reduce landfill waste. Any hazardous wastes, in liquid or solid form, would be removed from the site by a licensed hazardous waste recycling or disposal firm. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The construction-related equipment used to construct or operate either Alternatives 5 or 6 would utilize insignificant amounts of hazardous materials. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
IX. Hydrology and Water Quality	
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project would result in the installation of an underground sewer pipeline that would not result in increased runoff. The pipeline would be constructed within existing Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 rights-of-way. No chemicals would be used in the construction or operation of the pipeline that could be discharged into surface water. The proposed wastewater pipeline would not require the construction of a new well. Minimal water may be used during construction phases for dust suppression. No chemicals will be used in the construction or operation of the pipeline that could be discharged into ground water. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there will be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells will drop to a level which will not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The proposed wastewater pipeline would not require the construction of a new well. As noted earlier, the City of Tulare provides potable water service to Matheny Tract and uses along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 where the proposed pipeline would be located. As a result of this Project, the rate/usage of water currently used (including those for septic systems) is not anticipated to change. The

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	intent of the Alternative 5 and 6 is to convey wastewater to the wastewater collection system ultimately reaching the City of Tulare WWTP. Also, minimal water may be used during construction phases for dust suppression. Therefore, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which will impede or redirect flood flows?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. According to information provided in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) number 06107C1275E, Avenue 216/Paige Avenue lies with Zone A and notes, “1% annual chance flood discharge contained in channel [Tulare Canal].” ¹⁵ No surface structures would be constructed which would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard areas. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
XI. Land Use and Planning	
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As proposed, the pipeline suggested in Alternatives 5-6 is within the City of Tulare’s City Limits and Sphere of Influence. Land Uses as shown in the City’s General Plan Map ¹⁶ contain predominantly light industrial and single-family residential uses west of “K” Street. Alternative 5 would not have the capacity to accommodate Matheny Tract and the City’s planned growth; however, Alternative 6 would accomplish both. As noted in the PFR Addendum, “Considering that the 27-inch main does not provide sufficient capacity for ultimate City build-out, it would be impractical for the City to construct it only to need another trunk main in the same corridor to accommodate future development. For this reason, the City intends to construct the master-planned 42-inch trunk main to provide a long-term solution for the wastewater conveyance.” ¹⁷ As such, although neither Alternative 5 nor 6 conflict with the City’s General Plan, implementation of Alternative 6 would result in a less than significant impact.
XII. Noise	
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline

¹⁵ FEMA Map Service Center, Definitions of FEMA Flood Zones FIRM number 06107C1275E which can be accessed at: <http://map1.msc.fema.gov/idms/IntraView.cgi?KEY=96011768&IFIT=1>

¹⁶ City of Tulare 2035 Tulare General Land Use Map Plan, accessed October 13, 2-17 at: <http://www.tulare.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=604>

¹⁷ “Matheny Tract Wastewater System Technical Memorandum, Addendum to Project Feasibility Report”. Page 2. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. September 2017 (and included as Appendix “ ” of this RDEIR).

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plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. If Alternatives 5 or 6 were selected, project construction would involve temporary, short-term noise sources including site preparation, installation of the pipeline, and site cleanup work which is anticipated to last for approximately six (6) months. Construction-related short-term, temporary noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels in the Project area, but would not occur after construction is completed. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact from this resource.
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Construction-related activities if Alternative 5 or 6 is implemented, such activities would result in minor amounts of ground-borne vibration. Such ground-borne noise or vibration would attenuate rapidly from the source and would not be generally perceptible outside of the construction areas. In addition, there would not be any vibrational impacts from operation and maintenance activities. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project site (Paige Avenue/Avenue 216) is partially within the City of Tulare but predominantly within a rural area of Tulare County. The ambient noise environment in the vicinity of the Project site is dominated by light industrial uses west of "K" Street (to approximately 900' west of the railroad tracks), agricultural uses, primarily tractors and by vehicles traveling along (Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). No noise would be generated from the operation of the pipeline, which would be buried underground. Therefore, the Project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the Project. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Temporary and short-term construction-related noise would occur if Alternatives 5 or 6 are implemented. No other temporary or periodic noise is

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	anticipated. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
XIII. Population and Housing	
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As noted in Item XI. b., Land Uses, Alternatives 5 and 6 are consistent with the City's General Plan which shows future residential and light industrial uses along the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on this resource.
XIV. Public Services	
a) Will the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
Fire protection?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project is within the service areas of both the City of Tulare and Tulare County Fire Departments. The proposed underground wastewater pipelines do not require electricity or flammable materials which could ignite a fire. Therefore, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
Police protection?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project is within the service areas of both the City of Tulare Police Department and the County of Tulare's Sheriff's Office to receive police protection services to the Project area, with or without the Project. Police services response is, and would remain, adequate to the Project and surrounding areas. The proposed underground wastewater pipeline would not require active police protection. While the Police Department or Sheriff's Office may be contacted for non-emergency situations (e.g., vandalism), it is not anticipated that such vandalism would occur. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.

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XVI. Transportation and Traffic	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The County does not have a congestion management plan applicable to the Project roadways. Traffic generated by the Project would occur only during construction related activities. Traffic increases would, therefore, be short-term/temporary and would consist of equipment transport vehicles as well as employee and management vehicles. Less than twenty (20) vehicle trips per day are estimated over a construction period duration of approximately nine months. The operation of the selected Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 trunk pipeline would not require any vehicle trips other than routine maintenance-related trips. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
XVIII. Utilities and Service Systems	
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would not impact the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB as it is intended to increase <i>conveyance</i> (emphasis added) capacity.
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource as it is intended to increase <i>conveyance</i> (emphasis added) capacity.
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 is intended to increase <i>conveyance</i> (emphasis added) capacity, neither would require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project been identified from existing entitlements and	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater

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resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 is intended to increase conveyance (emphasis added) capacity, available water supplies (which would be provided by the City of Tulare) would not be impacted by this project. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 is intended to increase conveyance (emphasis added) capacity, it is not anticipated that wastewater treatment capacity would be adversely impacted. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	Less Than Significant Impact - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The only solid waste anticipated if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented would be construction-related waste; which would be temporary in nature. Operation of the pipeline would not result in any solid waste. Also see discussion Item XVIII. g). As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a less than significant impact on/from this resource.

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TABLE 3-3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6	
Resource	Issue Findings
III. Biological Resources	
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game [Wildlife] or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 are incorporated herein in its entirety. Although within the historic range of special status species, it is unlikely any species or habitat would be affected by the Alternatives 5 or 6 as Avenue 216/Paige Avenue are either constructed to permanent, paved surfaces or are highly disturbed on a regular basis by daily vehicle movements. As such, there is no possibility of potential use as habitat.
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 are incorporated herein in its entirety. However, these structures are visually consistent with the existing agricultural infrastructure in the area and would not result in a significant impact on scenic vistas. Therefore, Alternatives 5 or 6 would not result in no impact on this resource. Following construction-related activities of Alternatives 5 or 6, the undergrounded pipes will be covered and the paved surfaces restored to their permanent surfaces. As such, based on the disturbed condition of the majority of the sites, reasonable inferences were made that it was unlikely that any of the sensitive species listed would actually occur onsite. However, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 does not preclude the opportunity for special status species from accessing or traveling through the site prior or post construction phases. Historically, there have been records of special status species in the vicinity of the proposed Alternatives. As noted earlier, even if Alternatives 5 or 6 are selected, implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.
V. Cultural Resources	
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.5-1 is incorporated herein in its entirety. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 would reduce potential impacts to this resource to less than

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TABLE 3-3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6	
Resource	Issue Findings
	significant with Mitigation Measures if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measure 3.5-1 is incorporated herein in its entirety. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 would reduce potential impacts to this resource to less than significant with Mitigation Measures if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measure 3.5-2 is incorporated herein in its entirety. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 would reduce potential impacts to this resource to less than significant with Mitigation Measures if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measure 3.5-3 is incorporated herein in its entirety. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 would reduce potential impacts to this resource to less than significant with Mitigation Measures if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
XVI. Transportation and Traffic	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The Project construction-related activities may temporarily interrupt access to adjacent properties. However, the interruptions would be no longer than a few hours while trenching- and installation-related activities occur at each property's access driveway. It is possible that that Project construction-related activities would temporarily impact vehicle travel lanes while the pipeline is being installed underneath Paige Avenue/Avenue 216. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 is incorporated herein in its entirety. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1 would reduce potential impacts to this resource to less than significant with Mitigation Measures if Alternatives 5 or 6 were implemented.
XVII. Tribal Cultural Resources	

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TABLE 3-3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR RESULTING IN LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION CAUSED BY ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6	
Resource	Issue Findings
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.17-1 through 3.17-2 are incorporated herein in its entirety. Also, an updated CHRIS search has been requested but not yet received as of the date of release of this document. A final impact determination to this resource will be provided in the final environmental impact report.
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.17-1 through 3.17-2 are incorporated herein in its entirety. Also, another opportunity for tribal consultation has been forwarded to applicable tribes; however, no tribes have responded as of the date of release of this document. A final impact determination to this resource will be provided in the final environmental impact report.
XIX. Mandatory Findings	
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation - The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. The analysis contained in the initial DEIR and the Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 and 3.5-1 through 3.5-3 are incorporated herein in its entirety.
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	Cumulative impacts are address for each Item discussed earlier. In addition, cumulative impacts are summarized in Chapter 4. Cumulative impacts for biological and cultural resources are discussed in Table 4-2 Cumulative Environmental Issues Analyzed in this Recirculated Draft EIR

Chapter 4

Summary of Cumulative Impacts

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS UNDER CEQA

Section 15355 Cumulative Impacts

““Cumulative impacts” refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

- (a) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.
- (b) The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.”¹

Section 15130 Discussion of Cumulative Impacts

- “(a) An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable, as defined in section 15065(a)(3). Where a lead agency is examining a project with an incremental effect that is not “cumulatively considerable,” a lead agency need not consider that effect significant, but shall briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable.
- (1) As defined in Section 15355, a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts. An EIR should not discuss impacts which do not result in part from the project evaluated in the EIR.
 - (2) When the combined cumulative impact associated with the project's incremental effect and the effects of other projects is not significant, the EIR shall briefly indicate why the cumulative impact is not significant and is not discussed in further detail in the EIR. A lead agency shall identify facts and analysis

¹ CEQA Guidelines Section 15355

supporting the lead agency's conclusion that the cumulative impact is less than significant.

- (3) An EIR may determine that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact will be rendered less than cumulatively considerable and thus is not significant. A project's contribution is less than cumulatively considerable if the project is required to implement or fund its fair share of a mitigation measure or measures designed to alleviate the cumulative impact. The lead agency shall identify facts and analysis supporting its conclusion that the contribution will be rendered less than cumulatively considerable.
- (b) The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided for the effects attributable to the project alone. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness, and should focus on the cumulative impact to which the identified other projects contribute rather than the attributes of other projects which do not contribute to the cumulative impact. The following elements are necessary to an adequate discussion of significant cumulative impacts:
 - (1) Either:
 - (A) A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside the control of the agency, or
 - (B) A summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional or statewide plan, or related planning document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect. Such plans may include: a general plan, regional transportation plan, or plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. A summary of projections may also be contained in an adopted or certified prior environmental document for such a plan. Such projections may be supplemented with additional information such as a regional modeling program. Any such document shall be referenced and made available to the public at a location specified by the lead agency.
 - (2) When utilizing a list, as suggested in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), factors to consider when determining whether to include a related project should include the nature of each environmental resource being examined, the location of the project and its type. Location may be important, for example, when water quality impacts are at issue since projects outside the watershed would probably not contribute to a cumulative effect. Project type may be important, for example, when the impact is specialized, such as a particular air pollutant or mode of traffic.

- (3) Lead agencies should define the geographic scope of the area affected by the cumulative effect and provide a reasonable explanation for the geographic limitation used.
 - (4) A summary of the expected environmental effects to be produced by those projects with specific reference to additional information stating where that information is available, and
 - (5) A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects. An EIR shall examine reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.
- (c) With some projects, the only feasible mitigation for cumulative impacts may involve the adoption of ordinances or regulations rather than the imposition of conditions on a project-by-project basis.
- (d) Previously approved land use documents, including, but not limited to, general plans, specific plans, regional transportation plans, plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and local coastal plans may be used in cumulative impact analysis. A pertinent discussion of cumulative impacts contained in one or more previously certified EIRs may be incorporated by reference pursuant to the provisions for tiering and program EIRs. No further cumulative impacts analysis is required when a project is consistent with a general, specific, master or comparable programmatic plan where the lead agency determines that the regional or area wide cumulative impacts of the proposed project have already been adequately addressed, as defined in section 15152(f), in a certified EIR for that plan.
- (e) If a cumulative impact was adequately addressed in a prior EIR for a community plan, zoning action, or general plan, and the project is consistent with that plan or action, then an EIR for such a project should not further analyze that cumulative impact, as provided in Section 15183(j).²

Tulare County, including the portion of the project near/within the City of Tulare, is the geographic extent for most impact analysis. This geographic area is the appropriate extent because of the following reasons:

1. The proposed Project is in Tulare County and County of Tulare is the Lead Agency; and
2. Tulare County General Plan policies apply to the proposed Project.

The basis for other resource specific cumulative impact analysis includes:

- For Aesthetics, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Land Use/Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services,

² CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130

Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Services Systems it is Tulare County and City of Tulare;

- For Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions it is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin;
- For Agriculture, Mineral Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources it is County of Tulare County;
- For Biological Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley;
- For Cultural Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley; and
- For Hydrology it is the Tulare Lake Basin (including the City of Tulare).

PAST, PRESENT, PROBABLE FUTURE PROJECTS

It is noted that the County of Tulare is studying other wastewater treatment projects. The Plainview wastewater systems project is similar to Matheny Tract in every way and it would connect to the City of Lindsay's WWTP if it is realized. The unincorporated community of Traver in northwestern Tulare County has an existing WWTP, this project would include new wastewater collection lines and a lift station. As such, there are no other known WWTP or wastewater system projects within the Tulare County. Following are more recent Plans and Projects within or adjacent to Tulare County.

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) Blueprint Scenario

Under the Tulare County Regional Blueprint Preferred Growth Scenario, TCAG suggested a 25% increase over the status quo scenario to overall density by 2050. The preferred growth scenario principles included directing growth towards incorporated cities and communities where urban development exists and where comprehensive services and infrastructure are/or will be provided. Another relevant preferred scenario is the creation of urban separators around cities. The proposed Project location is outside incorporated areas and would be consistent with the goal of separating urban boundaries.³

Tulare County 2030 General Plan

The Cumulative Analysis outlined in the Tulare County General Plan Update 2030 Recirculated Draft EIR notes regional population growth (which in part was developed by TCAG) and a number major projects. Regional population projections are provided in the **Table 4-1**.⁴

³ Tulare County Associated of Governments Blueprint 2050, Preferred Scenario (2009).

⁴ Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update Recirculated Draft EIR. Page 5-4 to 5-5.

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Table 4-1 Regional Population Projections and Planning Efforts			
Jurisdiction	General Plan Planning Timeframe	General Plan Buildout Population	Significant Environmental Impacts
City of Dinuba	2006-2026	33,750	Farmland conversion; conflicts with agricultural zoning and Williamson Act contracts; conversion of agricultural soils to non-agricultural use; regional air quality impacts; and climate change-greenhouse gases.
City of Woodlake			Unavailable.
City of Visalia	1991-2020	165,000	Air quality; biological resources; land use conflicts; noise; transportation/traffic; mass transit; agricultural resources; water supply; and visual resources.
City of Tulare	2007-2030	134,910	Farmland conversion; aesthetics; water supply; traffic; air quality; global climate change; noise; flooding from levee or dam failure; biological resources; and cultural resources.
City of Farmersville	2002-2025	12,160	Agricultural resources; agricultural land use conflicts; air quality; and traffic circulation.
City of Exeter			Information unavailable at time of analysis.
City of Lindsay	1990-2010	17,500	Air quality and farmland land conversion.
City of Porterville	2006-2030	107,300	Farmland conversion; air quality; noise; and biological resources.
City of Kingsburg	1992-2012	16,740	Farmland conversion and air quality.
City of Delano	2005-2020	62,850	Air quality; noise; farmland conversion; disruption of agricultural production; and conversion of agricultural soils to non-agricultural use.
County of Fresno	2000-2020	1,113,790	Farmland conversion; reduction in agricultural production; cancellation of Williamson Act Contracts; traffic; transit; bicycle facilities; wastewater treatment facilities; storm drainage facilities; flooding; police protection; fire protection; emergency response services; park and recreation facilities; library services; public services; unidentified cultural resources; water supply; groundwater; water quality; biological resources; mineral resources; air quality; hazardous materials; noise; and visual quality.
County of Kern	2004-2020	1,142,000	Air quality; biological resources; noise; farmland conversion; and traffic.

Table 4-1
Regional Population Projections and Planning Efforts

Jurisdiction	General Plan Planning Timeframe	General Plan Buildout Population	Significant Environmental Impacts
County of Kings*	1993-2005	149,100 (low) 228,000 (high)	Biological resources; wildlife movement; and special status species.
<i>* The adopted Kings County General Plan did not identify a projected population for 2005. The General Plan does include population projections for 2010, which is included in this table.</i>			
<i>SOURCE: City of Delano, 1999; City of Dinuba, 2008; City of Farmersville, 2003; City of Kingsburg, 1992; City of Lindsay, 1989; City of Porterville, 2007; City of Visalia, 2001, 1991; County of Fresno, 2000; County of Kern, 2004; County of Kings, 2009; DOF, 2007; TCAG, 2008.</i>			

In addition to the Regional Growth Projections used for the cumulative impact analysis, the Tulare County General Plan Update 2030 Recirculated Draft EIR noted the following Major Projects

- **Goshen**: Status – On-Going. On December 10, 2013, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Planning Branch proposal to update the Goshen Community Plan. The Goshen Community Plan Update is being updated to implement the 2030 Tulare County General Plan (2012). The project Study Area Boundary will assess the potential project impacts from the proposed land use changes, for the areas north of Riggins Drive and Ave 320 to the North, Road 60 to the east, Avenue 304 to the South, and into the City of Visalia to the east. The project EIR is based on a projected annual population growth rate of 1.3%. Additional growth beyond the 1.3% annual growth rate will require further growth analysis pursuant to CEQA. The Goshen Community Plan Update will become consistent with the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives: (1) Land use and environmental planning - Promote development within planning areas next to the Regional State Route 99 Corridor; (2) Improvements for a “disadvantaged community”; and 3) Strengthening the relationship between the RMA the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) which will help to facilitate the funding and implementation of several key transportation programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, Complete Streets, and Bike/Pedestrian Projects. By pursuing these transportation programs through a heightened collaborative process, the likelihood of getting actual projects in the ground will be realized faster than historically achieved. In doing so, these communities and others can become safer and healthier by providing a more efficient transportation network. Some of the major components of the Community Plan Update are based on

Caltrans reconstructing the over-crossing at Betty Drive and State Route 99 in the Community of Goshen. There are five additional projects that have been analyzed; three directly and two in relationship to the Project's impacts to these areas. The County is proposing more than 20 new land use and zoning designations, including a Mixed Use zone. Also in the process is an update to the Zoning Code to include a mixed use zoning district in compliance with the mixed use designation in the 2030 General Plan.

- **Yokohl Ranch:** Status – On-Going. GPI allowed to proceed in February 2007. On September 13, 2005, the Tulare County Resource Management Agency received a request from the J.G. Boswell Company and the Eastlake Company, to initiate the formal process to amend the Tulare County General Plan, including the Foothill Growth Management Plan (FGMP), to change the land use designation for the 36,000 acre Yokohl Ranch property from 'Extensive Agriculture' to 'Planned Community Area'. According to the applicants, the proposed amendment will result in master planned communities that balance the needs for housing, neighborhood commercial uses, recreation, ranching operations and open space. As such, 40% (14,400 acres) of the ranch is proposed for development with 60% (21,600 acres) of the property to remain as untouched open space and ranchlands. The developed portions of the ranch will include the Village of Yokohl Ranch, an active adult community accessible to Yokohl Drive; and a Ranch Resort Lodge Enclave located in the northern reaches of the site, approximately four miles south of Lake Kaweah.
- **Rancho Sierra:** Status – GPA approved. The project site consists of 114.6 acres. The site was a golf course facility located on both sides of Liberty Avenue (Avenue 264), east of Road 124, south of the city of Visalia. There are 30 existing homes within the golf course area but not a part of this application. The intended use is to subdivide the site into 175 single family residential lots. The project has been approved.
- **Earlimart:** Status – Approved. The Earlimart Community Plan Update (General Plan Amendment No. 14-005) was updated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 19, 2017 to implement the Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update (2012). Among the entitlements updated are: (1) the General Plan Amendment, (2) changes to Zoning District Boundaries, and (3) changes to the Zoning Code Ordinance creating a New Mixed Use Zoning District only for the Earlimart Community Plan Update. Consistent with the General Plan and the Community Plan Update Study Area Boundary, the land uses and alternative land use patterns were considered based on expansion to the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and their potential impacts to the environment. In addition, a Complete Streets Program was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 15, 2015, for inclusion in the Circulation Element of this Community Plan Update. The Earlimart Complete Streets Program has thoroughly analyzed the alternative forms of transportation, including transit, bicycle ways, and pedestrian circulation. The three (3) projects that were analyzed at the project level in this DEIR include: (1) the

New High School Project, (2) the Northern Earlimart Rezone Project, and (3) the Existing UDB Project. The County is proposing six (6) land use and zoning districts, including a Mixed Use zone. Also, Zoning Code was updated to include a mixed use zoning district in compliance with the mixed use designation in the 2030 General Plan. The Community Plan Update is intended to serve residents and business owners in the Project Area by providing necessary public improvements, encouraging rehabilitation and repair of deteriorating infrastructure and fostering economic development of the Project Area.

- **Traver Community Plan:** Status – GPA approved. On December 16, 2014 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved an update to the Traver Community Plan. The Traver Community Plan Update is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.
- **Ducor:** Status – GPA approved. On November 3, 2015 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved an update to the Ducor Community Plan. The Ducor Community Plan Update is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.
- **Terra Bella:** Status – GPA approved. On November 3, 2015 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved an update to the Terra Bella Community Plan. The Terra Bella Community Plan Update is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.
- **Pixley:** Status – GPA approved. On June 17, 2015 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved an update to the Pixley Community Plan. The Pixley Community Plan Update is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.
- **Tipton:** Status – GPA approved. On June 17, 2015 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Tipton Community Plan. The Tipton Community Plan is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.
- **Strathmore:** Status – GPA approved. On June 17, 2015 the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved an update to the Strathmore Community Plan. The Strathmore Community Plan Update is consistent with the recent approval of the General Plan 2030 Update, and will include the following primary goals and objectives.

In addition to the Major Projects outlined in the Tulare County General Plan Update 2030 Recirculated Draft EIR, the approved projects listed as follows may produce cumulative impacts:

- **Pena's:** The project is for Peña's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Transfer Station (TS) which currently sits on 18.01 acres that are being rezoned from AE 30 to M1 Light Industrial Zoning, and rezoning 6.7 acres and 11.3 acres from residential and industrial reserve zoning to industrial zoning. The land is currently operated by Peña's Disposal, Inc. and has a previously permitted peak processing capacity of 500 tons per day (TPD). This existing facility serves the unincorporated northern portions of Tulare County and the unincorporated southern portions of Fresno County, and the City of Orange Cove in Fresno County. Within the County of Tulare, the facility serves the cities of Dinuba and Porterville, the communities of Cutler, Orosi, London, Sultana, Traver, Seville and other smaller communities in the area that may need to utilize the facility for the recycling of source-separated recyclables, commingled recyclables, commercial and industrial rubbish, green material and wood wastes, construction and demolition wastes, and inert debris to assist in reaching the diversion goals of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939).
- **South County Correctional Detention Facility in Porterville:** The project will require a rezoning of the project site, which is half in the County and half in the City of Porterville. The proposed project contains a build-out "footprint" for the proposed facility of approximately 15.0 acres with a new maximum security Type II facility as the primary structure. The project will consist of 250-cell double occupancy units (500 beds) and 14 special use beds for a total of 514 beds. In addition to the main detention facility, the project will also include support service components.

As the site is currently under agricultural production, the project will require new utilities infrastructure (such as electrical, gas, phone, etc.). It will also require streets/roads improvements, potable water systems, wastewater systems, and storm water drainage infrastructure. These will be constructed or expanded to meet facility demands. Where feasible, the project will be extended to connect with existing potable water, wastewater, and storm water drainage infrastructure provided by City of Porterville. However, possible new construction of the above mentioned infrastructure may be necessary, and as such, will be evaluated.

- **Pixley Biogas:** The project is for development of a biogas facility on 2.75 acre portion of an 8 acre parcel. The digester will extract methane gas, via an anaerobic manure digester. The facility will be used to produce 266 MMBTUS per day of biogas via an anaerobic digestion of manure feedstock from nearby dairies. The biogas produced will be used to fuel the Calgren bio-refinery facility, located adjacent and to the south of the project site, which will reduce the Calgren plant consumption of natural gas.
- **Harvest Power:** The project is for a Composting Expansion and Anaerobic Digester. The project will allow a maximum total tonnage for the composting to increase from 156,000 tons per year to a potential 216,000 tons per year. An additional 60,000 tons will

be allowed at the proposed anaerobic digester facility. The facility will produce transportation fuel through a compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling station.

- **Orosi Rock:** The project includes concrete a recycling and surface mining operation on 35.13 acres where concrete from various construction projects around the region are delivered for recycling. The project includes transporting up to 800,000 tons of aggregate via 44,000 trips per year heavy-duty truck trips from the operation on an annual basis.

The amendment to the previous permit allows an increase of 1.9 million tons of rock and 2.1 million tons of imported recycled concrete. The total production of aggregate will be 10.8 million tons over the course of the existing 25 year period of the existing permit. Excavating will be limited to 400' Mean Sea Level (MSL) and the operation will continue blasting by a licensed blaster to break up larger rocks that cannot be moved or broken up by mechanical equipment.

- **Tulare Solar Center:** The project includes the construction of an 80 MW solar photovoltaic facility on up to 800 acres of an approximately 1,144 acre property historically used as agricultural farmland in Tulare County, California. Proposed Project construction generally requires a focus in three major areas. The areas of focus include: (1) The solar field with associated equipment, including solar PV panels/modules, racking systems, inverters, intermediate voltage transformers, access roads, and underground, above-ground, or overhead electrical systems to collect and consolidate power from across the Project; (2) A substation(s) that receives the solar field's electrical production and increases the voltage to match the voltage of the adjacent utility grid via a generator step-up transformer(s), with Project owned gen-tie lines, and (3) Any other electrical interconnection components necessary for the Project's production to reach the utility grid, including disconnect equipment, communications lines (e.g. fiber optics) and a sub-transmission tap line.
- **Deer Creek Mine:** This is a Project amendment to a Surface Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan to allow expanded operations at this site. The Applicant currently operates a rock and gravel surface mining operation on 98 acres. The Project will result in no increase in the maximum depth of the mine, as expansion will occur laterally within the existing mining footprint. The approval includes an increase in production by 450,000 tons per year (from a maximum of 500,000 tons per year to a maximum of 950,000 tons per year). Increase truck hauling by 176 round trips per day (from a maximum of 200 round trips per day to a maximum of 376 round trips per day). The Project will not result in any change to the estimated total rock production of 15,000,000 tons of rock material during the estimated 50 years of operation nor would it result in any change to the approved reclamation plan.'

- **Papich:** The Applicant received a Special Use Permit through Tulare County for the following: 1) Permanent establishment of the asphalt batch plant on the existing site; 2) Expansion of the existing operation from 3,700 tons/day to 8,000 tons/day of asphalt; and 3) To conduct retail/commercial sales of asphalt.
- **Derrel's Mini Storage** –Project includes a proposed General Plan Amendment (No. GPA 14-007) and proposed Change of Zone (No. PZ 14-001). GPA 14-007 received approval to amend the Tulare County Land Use Element of the General Plan by changing the land use designation on the 19.33-acre parcel from “Agriculture” to “Commercial or Light Industrial”. PZ 14-001 was approved to re-zone the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural-20 acre minimum) Zone to C-3 (Service Commercial) Zone on the same 19.33 acres. The zone change allows, as noted in the Tulare County Zoning Ordinance, Mini-Warehouses – “Storage or warehousing service within a building or buildings primarily for individuals to store personal effects”⁵

The site consists of the phased construction of 19.33 acre mini- storage facility. Phase 1 consists of 129,550 square feet; Phase 2 consists of 148,950 square feet, and Phase 3 consists of 96,600 square feet. RV storage will be used on the Phase 2 portion of the site, moving to Phase 3 as the earlier phases are constructed with the eventuality of the entire site constructed as mini storage units (if necessary) to meet market demands. It is possible that Phase 3 will remain as RV storage. The applicant approximates a ten year full build-out of the entire proposed Project site.

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This section contains a very brief summary of mitigated impacts and immitigable impacts. Checklist Item criteria that would result in No Impacts are discussed in Chapter 3 and are not reiterated here.

Unavoidable Impacts - There are no significant and unavoidable impacts. All potentially significant cumulative impacts have been reduced below a level of significance through mitigation.

Less Than Significant Impacts with Mitigation - All impacts that can be effectively mitigated are listed in the **Table 3-3**. As such, the reader is directed to Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis. See Chapter 2 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for a comprehensive list of Mitigation Measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Project. As noted in Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis, the mitigation measures contained in the initial Draft EIR remain applicable and unchanged if Alternatives 5 or and 6 were implemented

⁵ Tulare County Zoning Ordinance. Page 13.

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Less Than Significant Impact - All impacts that are Less Than Significant are listed in **Table 3-2**. As such, the reader is directed to Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis.

Cumulative Impacts discussions for each resource is provided in **Table 4-2**.

TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
I. Aesthetic a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	a) - d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. There are no scenic vistas on or near the Project area; it would not substantially damage a scenic resource; substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site; or create substantial light or glare or affect a day or nighttime view. Therefore, there would be <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> related to this Checklist Item.
II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses? b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(q), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the entire State of California. This cumulative analysis is based on the Statewide FMMP map provided by the California Department of Conservation. Since the Project would be constructed within an existing road right-of-way, there would be <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> of conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural. b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the entire State of California. This cumulative analysis is based on provisions of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act) and on Tulare County allowed uses in agricultural zones. While some of the vicinity's properties are under Williamson Act Contracts, the Project would be constructed within an existing road right-of-way. Therefore, the Project result in <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> (conflicts) with existing agricultural uses or Williamson Act contracted lands. c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. There are no forests or timberlands located on or near the Project area. The proposed pipeline would be constructed within existing road rights-of-way. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> to forests, timberlands or related zoning would occur. d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project would not be located within a forest land zone or would not require the change of a forest land zone. As such, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> to this Checklist Item would occur. e) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project would be constructed within an existing road right-of-way, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.
III. Air Quality a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. As previously discussed, Project-related criteria pollutant emissions would not exceed Air District significance thresholds and, as such, the Project is consistent with and would not obstruct the applicable air quality attainment plan. Furthermore, the Project, if implemented, would comply with all applicable Air District rules and regulations. Therefore, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i> related this Item would occur.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Sac Metro Road Construction Emissions Model Version 7.1.5.1 data presented in Appendix "A" of the initial DEIR that was used for Plainview's similar wastewater system project. The Project would result in short-term emissions relating to the construction of the pipeline. Ongoing operation and maintenance of the pipeline would result in a limited number of vehicle trips associated with maintenance of the pipeline and/or lift station(s). The Project, both during construction and operation phases, would result in less than significant impacts to air quality. Project related emissions would not substantially contribute to cumulative impacts in the air basin. Therefore, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i>.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Sac Metro Road Construction Emissions Model (Version 7.1.5.1) data presented in Appendix "A" of the initial DEIR. The Project would result in short-term emissions relating to the construction of the pipeline. Ongoing operation and maintenance of the pipeline would result in a limited number of vehicle trips associated with maintenance of the pipeline. Furthermore, the Project would comply with all applicable Air District and ARB rules and regulations for construction-related activities. During construction and operation phases, the Project would not exceed Air District thresholds of significance and, therefore would not substantially contribute to cumulative impacts in the air basin. As such, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i> to this Item.</p> <p>d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Although there are sensitive receptors (in the form of rural residences) near the Project's alignment, it is anticipated that the Project would not expose</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<p>sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, based on the above analysis and projected emissions from the Project's construction phase, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i> related to this Checklist Item.</p> <p>e) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. The Project's construction-related activities could potentially generate odors associated with diesel combustion emissions; however, construction-related odors are anticipated to be temporary and short-term. The Project's permanent operation (maintenance of the pipeline) is not anticipated to result in the release of odors into the atmosphere. As such, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i> related to this Item.</p>
<p>IV. Biological Resources</p> <p>a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game [Wildlife] or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p> <p>b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?</p> <p>c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</p> <p>d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?</p> <p>e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?</p> <p>f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?</p>	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley. While the study area is limited to Tulare County, sensitive species with similar habitat requirements may exist in other portions of the San Joaquin Valley, and therefore cumulative impacts would extend beyond Tulare County political boundaries. The proposed Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7, impacts would also be reduced to a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i>.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley. While the study area is limited to Tulare County, sensitive species with similar habitat requirements may exist in other portions of the San Joaquin Valley; and therefore, cumulative impacts would extend beyond Tulare County political boundaries. The proposed Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project specific impacts to sensitive habitats were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-8, impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the Project would result in a <i>No Cumulative Impact</i>.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the western U.S. While the study area is limited to Tulare County, federally protected wetlands exist in other portions of the U.S., and therefore, cumulative impacts would extend beyond County of Tulare political/jurisdictional boundaries. Neither Alternatives 5 nor 6 are located near nor contain any wetlands which could be impacted. As such, potential impacts are below the 0.1 threshold of impact to require mitigation; therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p> <p>d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley. While the study area is limited to Tulare County, corridors for fish and wildlife species with similar habitat requirements may exist in other portions of the San Joaquin Valley; and therefore, cumulative impacts will extend beyond County of Tulare political/jurisdictional boundaries. Because Alternatives 5 and 6 would consist of an</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<p>underground pipeline, it is not anticipated to obstruct wildlife movement more than temporarily, or not at all. As such, <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>e) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. Local policies relating to impacts on biological resources contained in the initial DEIR are incorporated by reference. There are no impacts to any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, therefore, the Project would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i>.</p> <p>f) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is California. There are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans which apply to the Project site and its immediate vicinity. Therefore, there would be <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> because the proposed Project site is not subject to an HCP or other local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.</p>
<p>V. Cultural Resources</p> <p>a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?</p> <p>b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?</p> <p>c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?</p> <p>d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?</p>	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-1, potential Project impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Therefore, the Project would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i>.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-1, potential Project-specific impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Therefore, the Project would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i>.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-2, potential Project-specific impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Therefore, the Project would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i>.</p> <p>d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-3, potential Project-specific impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Therefore, the Project would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i>.</p>
<p>VI. Geology/Soils</p> <p>a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death.</p> <p>b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</p> <p>c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or</p>	<p>a) i. thru iv. - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would not increase</p>

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<p>that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?</p> <p>d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?</p> <p>e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?</p>	<p>geotechnical related impacts off-site. The Project would result in a Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project shall comply with state and federal laws which require that a SWPPP be prepared and implemented. With implementation of a SWPPP, the Project would result in a Less Than Significant Impact Cumulative Impact related to this Checklist Item.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would have a minor impact on soil compaction. As a result, the Project would result in a Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact.</p> <p>d) - Regional development would increase the number of people and structures subject to geologic- and soils-related risks. Compliance with federal, State and local regulations as well as General Plan policies would reduce building construction and run-off and erosion potential impacts associated with geology and soils to a less-than-significant level. Federal, State and local regulations are designed to protect people and structures from increased hazards related to such issues as earthquakes, landslides and soil erosion. As a result, conformance with adopted California building codes, and other measures to protect people and structures from geologic hazards, would reduce this impact to a less than significant level. The Project's incremental contribution would result in a Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact.</p> <p>e) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is limited to Matheny Tract and the City of Tulare. The Project would not involve the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact.</p>
<p>VII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p> <p>a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</p> <p>b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?</p>	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. As the proposed Project would result in Less Than Significant Project-specific Impacts, Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts would also occur.</p> <p>b) - The Project does not conflict with the Tulare Climate Action Plan, the Tulare County General Plan, the Air District Climate Change Action Plan, or any Air District rules/regulations, for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Project's objectives and components do not conflict with the goals of AB 32 and greenhouse gas reduction. Therefore, the Project is consistent with the aforementioned plans, policies, and regulations. As such, Project would result in a Less Than Significant Impact</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<i>Cumulative Impacts.</i>
VIII. Hazardous & Hazardous Materials a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. While construction of the proposed pipeline would require equipment that utilizes insignificant amounts hazardous materials, the long-term operation of the pipeline would not require any. Therefore, there would be No Cumulative Impacts.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan.</p> <p>c) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, No Cumulative Impact would occur.</p> <p>d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project does not involve land that is listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Therefore, No Cumulative Impact would occur.</p> <p>e) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project is not located within a Tulare County Airport Land Use Plan boundary. Therefore, No Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p> <p>f) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, No Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p> <p>g) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<p>County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The construction and operation of an underground pipeline would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans. Therefore, No Cumulative Impact would occur.</p> <p>h) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. The Project is not located in wildland and would not impact the growth of wildlands. No Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p>
<p>IX. Hydrology/Water Quality</p> <p>a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?</p> <p>b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there will be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells will drop to a level which will not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?</p> <p>c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which will result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?</p> <p>d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding on- or off-site?</p> <p>e) Create or contribute runoff water which will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?</p> <p>f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?</p> <p>g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?</p> <p>h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which will impede or redirect flood flows?</p> <p>i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?</p> <p>j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?</p>	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project would require a minimal amount of water to be used during the construction activity phases for dust suppression. Construction and operation of the pipeline would not result in stormwater runoff or the potential for surface or groundwater contamination. No chemicals would be used in the construction or operation of the pipelines that could be discharged into surface or ground water. Therefore, the Project would result in No Cumulative Impacts to surface or groundwater quality.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted above, the proposed wastewater pipeline would not require the construction of a new well. Minimal water may be used during construction phases for dust suppression. Therefore, Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts to groundwater would occur.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, No Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p> <p>d) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would not alter the existing</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<p>drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>e) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. As such, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>f) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. As noted earlier, the Project does not include elements that could degrade water quality. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>g) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, Tulare County General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project does not include any housing units. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>g) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would not have off-site impacts related to flooding. In addition, the Project would not induce additional flooding hazards, on-site or off-site. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>i) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project is not within the inundation area</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
	<p>for either major dam in Tulare County. The Project would not have any impacts either on-site or on other off-site parcels. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>j) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project is not located near a large body of water, the coast or hillsides. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p>
<p>X. Land Use/Planning</p> <p>a) Physically divide an established community?</p> <p>b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?</p> <p>c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?</p>	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Project does not have to potential to physically divide an established community, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>c) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. There are no impacts related to habitat conservation plans, and, therefore, there are <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> that would conflict with local policies or ordinances.</p>
<p>XI. Mineral Resources</p> <p>a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?</p> <p>b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?</p>	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. As noted earlier, the Project does not include mining operations and is not located within a known mineral resource zone. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. As noted in the Response to 3.11 a), the Project does not include a mining operation and is not located within a mineral resource zone. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p>
<p>XII. Noise</p> <p>a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?</p> <p>b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or ground borne noise levels?</p>	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the area of Tulare County encompassing the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract and the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan.</p>

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TABLE 4-2 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ANALYZED IN THIS RECIRCULATED DRAFT EIR	
<p>c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</p> <p>d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</p> <p>e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</p> <p>f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</p>	<p>Construction of the Project would not result in any long-term noise impacts. Therefore, the Project would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i>.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the area of Tulare County encompassing the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract and the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. Operations of the Project would not result in any long-term vibration impacts. As such, cumulative impacts would <i>be Less Than Significant</i>.</p> <p>c) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the area of Tulare County encompassing the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract and the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. There are no other known or reasonable-foreseeable sources of noise that may occur in the near future. Cumulative impacts related to this category can only occur if there are Project-specific impacts. Therefore, <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>d) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is the area of Tulare County encompassing the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract and the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. There are no other projects that would significantly increase either temporary or short-term noise levels in the vicinity of the Project site. Unless significant temporary noise levels from multiple sources would occur at the same time, temporary and short-term construction-related noise would result in <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i>.</p> <p>e) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. As noted earlier, the Project site is not located within an airport land use plan boundary nor does it involve full-time employees or residential uses. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>f) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. As noted earlier, the Project entails construction of a sewer pipeline. As noted earlier, the Project is not located near a private airstrip; there is no possible way it would impact a public or public use airport or expose</p>

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	people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.
XIII. Population/Housing a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<p>a) – The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i> on this resource.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. No existing housing would be displaced. As a result, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>c) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would not convert housing on-site or off-site. As a result, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p>
XIV Public Services a) Will the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services to Fire protection, Police protection, Schools, Parks or other public facilities?	<p>a) - Fire protection. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The proposed underground wastewater pipeline do not require electricity or flammable materials which could ignite a fire. The potential for an unlikely fire to ignite at a lift station would not pose a significant threat to nearby properties. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i>.</p> <p>a) - Police protection. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The proposed underground wastewater pipeline would not require active police protection services. While the County of Tulare’s Sheriff’s Office may be contacted for non-emergency situations (such as vandalism), even if such vandalism did occur, it would likely be a non-emergency event. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i>.</p> <p>a) – Schools. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The proposed underground wastewater pipelines would not result in the creation of new residences or other facilities that</p>

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	<p>could result in an influx of population. Therefore, the Project would not impact schools. As such, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>a) – Parks. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As discussed in Item XV. Recreation, the Project would not impact parks. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>a) - Other Public Facilities. The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project does not involve the creation of new residences or other facilities that could result in an influx of population such that other public facilities would be needed. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p>
<p>XV. Recreation</p> <p>a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?</p> <p>b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?</p>	<p>a) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Typically, the increased use of parks and recreational facilities result from the addition of new housing and the accompanying growth of population. However, no new housing is proposed as part of the Project. Therefore, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p> <p>b) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project does not include new recreational facilities or the expansion of recreational facilities. As such, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p>
<p>XVI. Transportation/Traffic</p> <p>a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?</p> <p>b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service</p>	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Project would not result in Project-specific impacts, <i>No Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Traffic generated by the Project would occur during construction-related activities. Traffic increases would,</p>

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<p>standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?</p> <p>c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?</p> <p>d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?</p> <p>e) Result in inadequate emergency access?</p> <p>f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?</p>	<p>therefore, be short-term/temporary and would consist of equipment transport vehicles as well as employee and management vehicles. Since the Project would result in less than significant Project-specific impacts, <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts</i> would occur</p> <p>c) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Project would not result in Project-specific potential impacts, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p> <p>d) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Project would not result in Project-specific potential impacts, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p> <p>e) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.16-1, potential Project-specific impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Therefore, the Project's cumulative impacts would be <i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation</i>.</p> <p>f) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. The Project would only contribute to cumulative impacts related to this Checklist Item if Project-specific impacts were to occur. Since the Proposed Project would not result in Project-specific impacts, <i>No Cumulative Impact</i> would occur.</p>
<p>XVII. Tribal Cultural Resources</p> <p>Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</p> <p>a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?</p> <p>b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe?</p>	<p>a) – As previously discussed, based on the analysis noted earlier, impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources will be reduced to a level of <i>Less Than Significant Project-specific and Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i> with the implementation of Mitigation Measures 17-1 and 17-2.</p> <p>b) - As previously discussed, based on the analysis noted earlier, impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources will be reduced to a level of <i>Less Than Significant Project-specific and Cumulative Impacts With Mitigation</i> with the implementation of Mitigation Measures 17-1 and 17-2.</p>
<p>XVIII. Utilities/Services Systems</p> <p>a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?</p> <p>b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of</p>	<p>a) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare</p>

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<p>existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</p> <p>c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</p> <p>d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project been identified from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?</p> <p>e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?</p> <p>f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?</p> <p>g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</p>	<p>2035 General Plan (including the City's Storm Drain and Sewer System Master Plans). As noted earlier, the Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. Implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would not impact the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB as it is intended to increase conveyance (emphasis added) capacity. It is possible that a new Report of Waste Discharge would be required to update the existing Waste Discharge Requirements (Order R5-2013-0019; April 2013). Therefore, with revisions to the existing Waste Discharge Permit; therefore, the Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p> <p>b) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. The Project would result in the generation of a minimal increase in the amount of wastewater to be treated by the City of Tulare's WWTP as it has sufficient capacity to accept this increase. As implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 is intended to increase conveyance (emphasis added) capacity, it is not anticipated that wastewater treatment capacity would be adversely impacted. Therefore, No Cumulative Impacts would occur.</p> <p>c) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. With implementation of the above noted SWPPP, minimal (if any) impacts would occur during the construction phase of the Project. Following completion of construction-related activities, there would be no impacts. Therefore, the Project would result in Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts.</p> <p>d) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project would utilize water from existing sources only during the short-term, temporary construction-related activities phase for dust suppression and would not require new or expanded water entitlements. As such, Cumulative impacts would be Less Than Significant Cumulative Impacts.</p> <p>e) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report,</p>

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	<p>Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As noted earlier, the Project includes the installation of a 27- or 42- inch diameter wastewater pipeline along Avenue 216/Paige Avenue to connect a wastewater pipeline from Matheny Tract to the existing wastewater treatment plant in the City of Tulare. As implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 is intended to increase conveyance (emphasis added) capacity, it is not anticipated that wastewater treatment capacity would be adversely impacted. As such, implementing Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a <i>Less Than Significant Cumulative Impact</i> on/from this resource.</p> <p>f) – The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As the Project would comply with applicable City of Tulare and Tulare County General Plan policies and there is adequate capacity at landfills to accommodate any solid waste resulting from the Project, there would be <i>No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts</i>.</p> <p>g) - The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County, including the City of Tulare. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan Background Report, Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR, and/or City of Tulare 2035 General Plan. As the Project would comply with applicable City of Tulare and Tulare County General Plan policies and there is adequate capacity at landfills to accommodate any solid waste resulting from the Project, there would be <i>No Project-specific or Cumulative Impacts</i>.</p>

CHAPTER 5

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

OVERVIEW

General CEQA Requirements

The purpose of the alternatives analysis in an EIR is to describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project, but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and to evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6[a]). Additionally, Section 15126.6(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires consideration of alternatives that could reduce to a less-than-significant level or eliminate any significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed project, including alternatives that may be more costly or could otherwise impede to some degree the attainment of the proposed project's objectives.

It is important to understand, however, that the mere inclusion of an alternative in an EIR does not constitute definitive evidence that the alternative is in fact "feasible." The ultimate decision regarding the feasibility of alternatives lies with the ultimate decision-maker for a project, which in this case is the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors. Such determinations are to be made in statutorily mandated findings addressing potentially feasible means of reducing the severity of significant environmental effects. One finding that is permissible, if supported by substantial evidence, is that "specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations . . . make infeasible the . . . alternatives identified" in the EIR (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081, subd. [a]; see also CEQA Guidelines, § 15901, subd. [a]). CEQA Guidelines section 15364 defines "feasible" to mean "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors." In deciding whether an alternative is feasible or infeasible, a decision-making body may consider the stated project objectives in an EIR, and may balance any relevant economic, environmental, social, and technological factors. (See *City of Del Mar v. City of San Diego* (1982) 133 Cal.App.3d 410, 417; *Sequoyah Hills Homeowners Assn. v. City of Oakland* (1993) 23 Cal.App.4th 704, 715.)

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVES

The CEQA Guidelines recommend that an EIR should briefly describe the rationale for selecting the alternatives to be discussed, identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible, and briefly explain the reasons underlying the lead agency's selection of the alternatives. The alternatives addressed in this recirculated draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) were selected in consideration of one or more of the following factors:

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- The extent to which the alternative would accomplish most of the basic goals and objectives of the proposed project;
- The extent to which the alternative would avoid or lessen any of the identified significant environmental effects of the project;
- The potential feasibility of the alternative, taking into account site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, and consistency with various applicable plans and regulatory limitations;
- The appropriateness of the alternative in contributing to a “reasonable range” of alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice; and
- The requirement of the CEQA Guidelines to consider a “no project” alternative and, where the “no project” alternative is the environmentally superior alternative, to identify an “environmentally superior” alternative in addition to the no-project alternative [CEQA guidelines, Section 15126.6(e)].

Some of the significant environmental impacts that the County, in identifying alternatives, seeks to eliminate or reduce are:

- Transportation and circulation impacts, such as substantial increases in vehicular traffic.
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emission impacts resulting from increased development and vehicular traffic.
- Noise and nuisance effects on adjacent sensitive receptor locations.
- Loss of agricultural land.
- Biological resources impacts resulting from a loss of habitat.
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural resources impacts resulting in loss of cultural, historical paleontological, and tribal cultural resources.
- Aesthetic (e.g., viewshed, light, and glare) impacts resulting from increased development.
- Groundwater impacts and availability of adequate water supply and protecting water quality.

ALTERNATIVES SELECTION PROCESS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 requires that a reasonable range of alternatives to the Preferred/Proposed Project be discussed in the EIR. As noted earlier, this document has been prepared using the Preferred Alternative as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the “Preferred/Proposed Project” as “the Project”. Specific requirements include the following:

CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(a): Alternatives to the Proposed Project. An EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would

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feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. The Lead Agency is responsible for selecting a range of alternatives for examination and must publicly disclose its reasoning for selecting those alternatives. Consistent with CEQA requirements (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(a)), the initial Draft EIR process reviewed various scenarios and developed a range of alternatives designed to feasibly attain most of the project objectives but also avoid or lessen several significant effects associated with the overall Matheny Tract wastewater project. As such, this Recirculated DEIR relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR Chapter 5 Alternatives discussion in regards to the On-Site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District, Gravity Collection System with Conventional Wastewater System, and No Project.

CEQA Guidelines §15126.6 (c) Selection of a range of reasonable alternatives. The range of potential alternatives to the proposed project shall include those that could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project and could avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects. The EIR should briefly describe the rationale for selecting the alternatives to be discussed. The EIR should also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible during the scoping process and briefly explain the reasons underlying the lead agency's determination. Additional information explaining the choice of alternatives may be included in the administrative record. Among the factors that may be used to eliminate alternatives from detailed consideration in an EIR are: (i) failure to meet most of the basic project objectives, (ii) infeasibility, or (iii) inability to avoid significant environmental impacts.

CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(d) Evaluation of alternatives. The EIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project. A matrix displaying the major characteristics and significant environmental effects of each alternative may be used to summarize the comparison. If an alternative would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the project as proposed, the significant effects of the alternative shall be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the project as proposed.

CEQA Guidelines §15126.6 (e) “No project” alternative. (1) The specific alternative of “no project” shall also be evaluated along with its impact. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project. The no project alternative analysis is not the baseline for determining whether the proposed project's environmental impacts may be significant, unless it is identical to the existing environmental setting analysis which does establish that baseline (see Section 15125).

- (2) The “no project” analysis shall discuss the existing conditions at the time the notice of preparation is published, or if no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced, as well as what would be reasonably expected to
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occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services. If the environmentally superior alternative is the “no project” alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.

(3) A discussion of the “no project” alternative will usually proceed along one of two lines:

(A) When the project is the revision of an existing land use or regulatory plan, policy or ongoing operation, the “no project” alternative will be the continuation of the existing plan, policy or operation into the future. Typically this is a situation where other projects initiated under the existing plan will continue while the new plan is developed. Thus, the projected impacts of the proposed plan or alternative plans would be compared to the impacts that would occur under the existing plan.

(B) If the project is other than a land use or regulatory plan, for example a development project on identifiable property, the “no project” alternative is the circumstance under which the project does not proceed. Here the discussion would compare the environmental effects of the property remaining in its existing state against environmental effects which would occur if the project is approved. If disapproval of the project under consideration would result in predictable actions by others, such as the proposal of some other project, this “no project” consequence should be discussed. In certain instances, the no project alternative means “no build” wherein the existing environmental setting is maintained. However, where failure to proceed with the project will not result in preservation of existing environmental conditions, the analysis should identify the practical result of the project's non-approval and not create and analyze a set of artificial assumptions that would be required to preserve the existing physical environment.

(C) After defining the no project alternative using one of these approaches, the lead agency should proceed to analyze the impacts of the no project alternative by projecting what would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services.

CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(f): Rule of reason. The range of alternatives required in an EIR is governed by a “rule of reason” that requires the EIR to set forth only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. The alternatives shall be limited to ones that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. Of those alternatives, the EIR need examine in detail only the ones that the lead agency determines could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project. The range of feasible alternatives shall be selected and discussed in a manner to foster meaningful public participation and informed decision making.

(1) Feasibility. Among the factors that may be taken into account when addressing the feasibility of alternatives are site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, general plan consistency, other plans or regulatory limitations,

- jurisdictional boundaries (projects with a regionally significant impact should consider the regional context), and whether the proponent can reasonably acquire, control or otherwise have access to the alternative site (or the site is already owned by the proponent). No one of these factors establishes a fixed limit on the scope of reasonable alternatives.
- (2) Alternative locations.
 - (A) Key question. The key question and first step in analysis is whether any of the significant effects of the project would be avoided or substantially lessened by putting the project in another location. Only locations that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project need be considered for inclusion in the EIR.
 - (B) None feasible. If the lead agency concludes that no feasible alternative locations exist, it must disclose the reasons for this conclusion, and should include the reasons in the EIR. For example, in some cases there may be no feasible alternative locations for a geothermal plant or mining project which must be in close proximity to natural resources at a given location.
 - (C) Limited new analysis required. Where a previous document has sufficiently analyzed a range of reasonable alternative locations and environmental impacts for projects with the same basic purpose, the lead agency should review the previous document. The EIR may rely on the previous document to help it assess the feasibility of potential project alternatives to the extent the circumstances remain substantially the same as they relate to the alternative.
 - (3) An EIR need not consider an alternative whose effect cannot be reasonably ascertained and whose implementation is remote and speculative.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15021. Duty to minimize environmental damage and balance competing public objectives

- (a) CEQA establishes a duty for public agencies to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible.
 - (1) In regulating public or private activities, agencies are required to give major consideration to preventing environmental damage.
 - (2) A public agency should not approve a project as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant effects that the project would have on the environment.
- (b) In deciding whether changes in a project are feasible, an agency may consider specific economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.
- (c) The duty to prevent or minimize environmental damage is implemented through the findings required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

- (d) CEQA recognizes that in determining whether and how a project should be approved, a public agency has an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social factors and in particular the goal of providing a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian. An agency shall prepare a statement of overriding considerations as described in Section 15093 to reflect the ultimate balancing of competing public objectives when the agency decides to approve a project that will cause one or more significant effects on the environment.”¹

ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The following alternative(s) were originally considered during the planning and scoping process for the proposed project, but were determined to not be viable for continued evaluation and were eliminated from further consideration. [for example:]

Zero Growth Alternative. This alternative was eliminated as Matheny Tract provides a viable area to accommodate minimal growth to provide affordable housing opportunities to, by definition, economically disadvantaged groups. Also, this alternative would contradict the goals, policies, and objectives of the County’s Housing Element and the Regional Housing Needs Determination Plan.

Alternative Project Location. This alternative was eliminated as land would have to be purchased within reasonable proximity to Matheny Tract. This alternative would result in the removal of agriculturally productive lands (which completely surround Matheny Tract), would encroach within a nearby elementary school (Palo Verde Elementary) if it were located south of the community, and existing City of Tulare wastewater treatment ponds are located within ½ west of the community.

ALTERNATIVES SELECTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The following section provides a general description of the overall six (6) alternatives considered in this Analysis. As noted earlier, this RDEIR is relying on the initial Draft EIR which provides a complete discussion of the four initial Alternatives.

Summary of Original Alternatives, Initial DEIR (See Chapter 5 Alternatives of the initial DEIR)

Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District

Description: “This alternative would entail removal and replacement or reconstruction of the existing septic systems on each individual property throughout the community. In order for this option to be feasible, the new septic systems would have to reduce nitrate levels in the wastewater to below 10 mg/l to avoid degrading the underlying groundwater. Such a level of nitrate reduction is difficult to achieve on a reliable basis in a non-mechanized treatment process.

¹ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15021

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Installation of new septic treatment systems would be expensive to accomplish in an existing developed community where locations for the new septic systems and leach fields will be limited and difficult to find.

Construction and maintenance of the new septic systems and leach fields would be carried out by the Septic Tank Maintenance District, which would be formed prior to commencement of project construction. Easements for installation and maintenance for each system would be obtained from each affected property owner. Once construction is completed, the Septic Tank Maintenance District would continue routine maintenance of the septic systems. A monthly rate would be established and each property owner would pay his or her pro-rata share of the cost of such maintenance on an ongoing basis.”²

Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and Consolidation with the City of Tulare (*Preferred Alternative*)

Description: “This alternative consists of constructing a new gravity wastewater collection system, likely with at least one lift station, and connection to the City of Tulare’s wastewater collection system. New sewer services and onsite plumbing would be required to connect each property to the new wastewater collection system and the existing septic systems would require proper abandonment.”³

As indicated in the Feasibility Report, Alternative 2 contains many components which would need to be accomplished as part of implementation of this Alternative. “The components of this project alternative would entail the following items:

- Construction of
 - new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract
 - one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service
 - sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence
- Connection to the City of Tulare’s existing 27-inch sewer main at Paige Avenue [Avenue 216] and K Street
 - Construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street [Road 96] from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue [Avenue 216].
- In-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields
- Conduct a Proposition 218 Election
- New utility account setup for all residents with the City of Tulare
- Payment of capacity fees to the City for each property
- Modifications to the City’s existing Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP)
- Update the City’s Report of Waste Discharge (RWD)”⁴

Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Conventional Wastewater System (that is, a new collection system and wastewater treatment facility for Matheny Tract).

² “Project Feasibility Report - Matheny Tract Wastewater System, Tulare County, California, February 2016”. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group. Ibid. 23-24.

³ Op. Cit. 25-26.

⁴ Op. Cit. 26.

Description: As indicated in the Feasibility Study: ‘This option would be similar to Alternative 2 in that a new collection system would be constructed to provide wastewater collection. Instead of connecting to the City of Tulare, a new wastewater treatment plant, designed to produce denitrified secondary effluent, would be constructed adjacent to the community. After treatment, the effluent would be discharged to evaporation/percolation ponds located at the treatment plant site.’⁵

Alternative 4: No Project

Description: “This alternative would entail no improvements to the community; the existing septic systems would remain unimproved. As existing septic systems fail, they would either remain in use after failure or be replaced with similar systems, which would continue to impact the groundwater quality in the area.”⁶

This RDEIR is focusing on the two alternatives contained in the Technical Addendum to the PFR prepared by the County’s consultant Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group (P&P). These additional two alternatives were developed and have been determined to represent a reasonable range of alternatives which have the potential to feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives. The two additional alternatives main purpose is to provide wastewater conveyance to the City’s WWTP; all other criteria used in the initial DEIR alternatives discussion remain applicable and valid. Therefore, the FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES discussion contained in Chapter 5 Alternatives of the initial DEIR are reiterated as follows:

Evaluation Criteria 1: Project Specific Elements

The primary Project-specific elements include:

- Collect approximately 110,000 gallons per day in domestic wastewater and transport it to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant for treatment and disposal;
- Reduce and/or remove the threat of potential groundwater contamination caused by seepage of wastewater from failing and improperly operating septic systems into the underground water supply in the Community and surrounding areas;
- Design and construct a wastewater system capable of adequately servicing the existing land uses and planned growth within the Matheny Tract Planning area; and
- Operate and maintain a wastewater system as affordably and cost effectively as possible for the users of the system in Matheny Tract.
- Enhance Matheny Tract residents’ quality of life.

⁵ Op. Cit. 29.

⁶ Op. Cit. 32.

Evaluation Criteria 2: Project Objectives

1. Construct a system capable of accessing the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility which would provide adequate on-site wastewater removal and treatment services for Matheny Tract; (provide an average daily flow of 110,000 mgd to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses.);
2. Eventual abandonment of the existing individual residential on-site septic tank/leach line systems located within Matheny Tract;
3. Provide a system that has the least potential to result in environmental impacts and would provide an environmental benefit by eliminating wastewater discharge from on-site system tanks into the ground;
4. Avoid construction of a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility (including percolation ponds) in Matheny Tract. This would be the most expensive Alternative to the Project and would likely result in an economic and unaffordable hardship to Matheny Tract's residents.
5. Treat collected wastewater so as to remove constituents, such as BOD, suspended solids, nitrogen, and waterborne bacteria and viruses, to a greater extent, thereby improving subsurface water quality in the receiving groundwater basin relative to current environmental conditions;
6. Provide the most cost-effective, safe, and reliable means to collect and treat wastewater to Title 22 standards; and
7. Implement an as affordable fees schedule to efficiently and effectively maintain and operate the wastewater system.

Evaluation Criteria 3: Minimize Construction and Operations & Maintenance Costs

Although there may be a diversity of theoretical alternatives, there are only a few alternatives that could potentially be feasibly implemented due to cost prohibitive expenses involved in some alternatives. Considerable increases in costs can result in infeasibility of a project alternative.

The Project involves the construction and operation of a wastewater system for Matheny Tract that is recommended by the *Project Feasibility Report - Matheny Tract Wastewater System, Tulare County, California, 2016* (Feasibility Report or Report) to be the most financially and operationally feasible for the community (including both physical and governance operation and maintenance). Operational efficiency is a major concern in the long-term viability of the facility. Operational efficiency affects both operational costs and operational effectiveness through the minimization of new infrastructure and capital costs needed. Irrespective of the physical operational alternative chosen, the governance operation alternatives (Community Service District, County Sanitation District, County Service Area or City of Tulare Zone Of Benefit, Public Utility District, Pratt Mutual Water Company, or extra-territorial agreement with the City of Tulare, etc.) would have no direct or indirect effects on the environment.

Evaluation Criteria 4: Lessen (Reduce) Significant Impacts

According to CEQA, a valid Project alternative should be capable of meeting most of the Project objectives *and* reducing potential significant impacts associated with the Project. Reasonable alternatives are those that may reduce the extent and magnitude of Project, site, and cumulative significant impacts.

Each alternative should be analyzed to assess the potential to reduce significant impacts. (On a cumulative basis, alternative sites generally require the construction of duplicate buildings. The creation of additional buildings requires the use of additional resources, which on a cumulative basis would increase impacts to the environment in general.)

Evaluation Criteria 5: Physical Feasibility (Land Size and Configuration Constraints)

Physical feasibility is required because if a site for a particular alternative is too small or if the components of the proposed Project cannot be configured on the site, then the alternative would not be feasible and should be eliminated from review.

REASONS FOR INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES 5 AND 6

As indicated in Chapter 5 Alternatives of the initial DEIR, no alternatives were superior to the Preferred Alternative/Project. However, additional alternatives were provided by the City of Tulare following a capacity analysis conducted by the City's consulting engineer, Carollo Engineers. "In June 2017, Carollo Engineers prepared a report entitled City of Tulare Collection System Capacity Analysis (Capacity Analysis) to evaluate the capacity of the City of Tulare's (City) wastewater collection system, in part to specifically identify if the system has capacity to convey the wastewater flows from the Matheny Tract to the DWWTP, if the DWWTP has capacity to treat the wastewater flows and, if not, what improvements would be necessary to provide the necessary capacity."⁷ It is through this new, additional information that provided the basis for recirculating the initial Draft EIR which considers and analyzes two additional alternatives, Alternatives 5 and 6 which analyze conveyance capacity requirements for a 27- or 42-inch diameter pipeline; respectively, to ensure adequate conveyance of Matheny Tract's and the City's wastewater to the City's WWTP.

As indicated in the "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report*" (PFR Addendum); "The capacity of the 27-inch sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue at Pratt Street was evaluated and found to be operating in a surcharge state in its current configuration without the addition of wastewater flows from Matheny Tract. Adding new flows to this main would worsen the operating condition.

⁷ "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*". Page 2. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P).

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The recommended improvements to resolve this condition include evaluation of two alternatives, (1) install a second⁸ [footnote 1 in the PFR Addendum] domestic sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street to the DWWTP or (2) limit the level in the DWWTP influent wet well. Ultimately, both alternatives are needed to fully correct the surcharge condition; however, with construction of the additional trunk main improvements, the flows from Matheny Tract could be accepted by the City without worsening their current operating condition. Three alternatives were evaluated in relation to constructing a new trunk main.

The alternatives evaluated include constructing a 24-inch trunk main, a 27-inch trunk main or a 42-inch trunk main¹ [footnote 1 in the PFR Addendum]. The purpose of each alternative is as follows:

- *Immediate Solution:* The 24-inch trunk main would correct the existing deficiencies and provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract.
- *Near-Term Solution:* The 27-inch trunk main would also correct existing deficiencies, provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects.
- *Long-Term Solution:* The 42-inch trunk main would provide the same service in addition to providing capacity for future build-out flows.

The necessary improvements to provide service to the Matheny Tract (near-term solution) is constructing the 27-inch trunk main which would correct the existing City wastewater collection system deficiencies, provide the necessary capacity to serve Matheny Tract and previously approved development projects.

Considering that the 27-inch main does not provide sufficient capacity for ultimate City build-out, it would be impractical for the City to construct it only to need another trunk main in the same corridor to accommodate future development. For this reason, the City intends to construct the master-planned 42-inch trunk main to provide a long-term solution for the wastewater conveyance.

Despite the City's intention to construct the 42-inch main, the Matheny Tract is responsible for their proportionate share of the hypothetical second¹ 27-inch main, based on flow apportionment. This share equates to 4.5 percent of the 27-inch or 42-inch trunk main, \$315,810 and \$558,900, respectively (as shown in Table 14 of the Capacity Analysis). The remaining percentage of the improvement cost will be borne by the City. No modifications of the DWWTP are attributable to the Matheny Tract wastewater flows."⁹

Therefore, based on the above discussion, the focus of this RDEIR is to include two previously unexplored alternatives in addition to the four Alternatives analyzed in the initial DEIR. All the other components of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare), listed as follows, remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be

⁸ The secondary sewer trunk main would be in addition to the existing sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue, not a replacement of the existing main. Both mains would be in operation to convey wastewater to the DDWTP.

⁹ "Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017". Page 2 thru 3. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P).

determined) size of the sewer main at Paige Avenue (i.e., potentially a 27- or 42-inch diameter main):

- Construction of
 - ◇ new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract
 - ◇ one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service
 - ◇ sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence
- Connection to the City of Tulare’s existing 27-inch sewer main at Paige Avenue and “K” Street
 - ◇ Construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street [Road 96] from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue [Avenue 216].
- In-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields

SELECTED (PREFERRED) ALTERNATIVE MODIFICATIONS

As discussed in the PFR Addendum, “...the selected alternative [the Preferred Alternative in the initial DEIR] included construction of a wastewater collection system within Matheny Tract with one sewer lift station and a force main connection to the City’s wastewater trunk main in Paige Avenue.

The result of the Capacity Analysis will lead to modification of the selected alternative to include construction of a 42-inch sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street where it currently ends to the DWWTP. Additionally, since the original PFR was prepared, the preliminary design has been completed for the collection system. The preliminary design includes modifications to the originally described recommended alternative, also. The following sections detail the revised recommended alternative including these modifications.”¹⁰

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

“The analysis presented in the PFR provided several criteria for evaluating and ultimately selecting the preferred alternative (Alternative No. 2 is the selected alternative). Those criteria are summarized below and revised (where applicable) to including updated information from both the Capacity Analysis and preparation of the preliminary design for the collection system. The advantages and disadvantages of each alternative, as presented in the PFR, remain mostly unchanged; however, the disadvantaged stated for Alternative No. 2 in Table 5-6 of the PFR, “Reluctance of the City to provide wastewater service in this area” has partially been mitigated based on ongoing discussions between the City, County and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).”¹¹

¹⁰ Ibid. 3.

¹¹ Op. Cit.

To avoid confusion which may result in renumbering these new alternatives in the RDEIR, Alternatives 2a and 2b will be referred to as Alternative 5 (Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline) and Alternative 6 (Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline); respectively:

Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 42-inch trunk main pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows.

Based on the information presented in **Table 5-1** [Table 3-1 in the PFR Addendum] regarding costs of the alternatives, the updated ranking of the alternatives is provided in Table 3-2 of the PFR Addendum. As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative. “The preferred alternative is Alternative No. 2b [Alternative 6 in this RDEIR], despite it not being the least expensive alternative. The reasons for this include the evaluation of other ranking criteria that continue to rank Alternative No. 2 [in the initial DEIR] as the preferred alternative and consistency with the City’s Master Plan that shows a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue. Construction of a smaller main would necessitate the City removing and replacing the main or constructing a third main later, all of which are inefficient use of funds and would, overall, increase total cost of constructing a 27-inch main if replacement costs were considered (for purposes of this memorandum, evaluation of replacement costs has not been completed or included). For these reasons, Alternative 2a [Alternative 5 in this RDEIR] is not considered feasible, therefore Alternative 2b [Alternative 6 in this RDEIR] is the best ranked alternative and remains preferred.”¹²

Table 5 - 1*				
Ranking of Alternatives¹³				
Comparison Category	Alternative Rating			
	Alt. 1	Alt. 5 [Alt. 2a]	Alt. 6 [Alt. 2b]	Alt. 3
Present Worth Cost	\$23,205,597	\$23,176,451	\$28,578,451	\$23,733,135
Present Cost Ranking	2	1	4	3
Monthly Use Fees	2	1	1	3
Construction Challenges	2	1	1	2
Critical Concerns	3	1	1	4
Total Scoring	9	4	7	12

* Table 3-2 in the PFR addendum, page 5.

¹² Op. Cit. 5.

¹³ Op. Cit.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVE

Environmental impacts associated with each of the alternatives presented compared to the Preferred Alternative are shown in **Table 5-2**.

Table 5-2 Impacts of Alternatives Compared to Preferred Alternative Connection to City of Tulare WWTP					
Impact Topic	Alternative 1 Septic Tank Maintenance District	Alternative 3 New Sewer Collection System and WWTP	Alternative 4 No Project	Alternative 4 27-inch Trunk to WWTP	Alternative 4 27-inch Trunk to WWTP
Aesthetics	less	similar-greater	less	similar	similar
Agriculture	less	greater	less	similar	similar
Air Quality	less	greater	less	greater	greater
Biology	less	similar-greater	less	similar	similar
Cultural	unknown	greater	less	similar	similar
Geology/Soils	greater	similar	less	similar	similar
Greenhouse Gases	similar	greater	less	greater	greater
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	less	similar	less	similar	similar
Hydrology/Water Quality	greater	similar	greater	similar	similar
Land Use	less	greater	less	similar	similar
Mineral Resources	less	similar	less	similar	similar
Noise	less	greater	less	greater	greater
Population/Housing	less	similar	less	similar	similar
Public Services	similar	similar	less	similar	similar
Recreation	similar	similar	similar	similar	similar
Transportation and Traffic	similar	greater	less	greater	greater
Utilities	similar	similar	less	similar	similar
Mandatory Findings	similar	greater	less	similar	similar

In summary, the “greater” impacts identified in **Table 5-2** are all related to the greater area/length of the new 27- or 42-inch diameter lines. Whereas the initial Preferred Alternative did not include any new trunk line, regardless of diameter or length, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in approximately 1.5 miles of new pipeline. Therefore, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in greater potential impacts to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic (due to road closure during construction-related activities).

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Table 5-3 is a matrix comparing each Alternative's and the Preferred Alternative's abilities to achieve the Evaluation Criteria.

Table 5-3 Comparison of Alternative Attaining Evaluation Criteria					
Evaluation Criteria	Alternative 2 Septic Tank Maintenance District	Alternative 3 New Sewer Collection System and WWTP	Alternative 4 No Project	Alternative 5* 27-inch Trunk to WWTP	Alternative 6 42-inch Trunk to WWTP
Project Specific Elements	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Meet all Project Objectives	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
O & M and Cost Efficiency	Maybe	Yes	Yes & No	Yes	Yes
Reduce Significant Impacts	Yes & No	Yes	Yes & No	Yes	Yes
Physical Feasibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
* Does not meet City of Tulare's Build-out criteria, as such, it is considered inferior to Alternative 6.					

As discussed in Alternatives 1 through 6, each of the Alternatives could result in more adverse environmental impacts as specified on the CEQA resources checklist. Therefore, the proposed Project is the environmentally superior alternative.

In summary, based upon the above analyses, Alternative 6 - Preferred Alternative is the Environmentally Superior Alternative and would result in less, or the avoidance of, significant environmental impacts compared to the other identified Alternatives and would satisfy all the Evaluation Criteria noted earlier.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

As previously described, **Tables 5-2** thru **5-3** provide a summaries of the anticipated impacts resulting from implementation of the alternatives compared to those identified for the originally proposed project. As summarized in the **Table 5-2**, the environmentally superior alternative for this project would remain Alternative 2. Other than the No Project Alternative, this is the only alternative that would reduce the severity of most environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. However, as described earlier, the PFR Addendum noted that the City of Tulare has determined that the use of the existing 27-inch wastewater pipeline does not have the conveyance capacity to accommodate Matheny Tract, and the City's needs. As such, as indicated in the PFR Addendum, Alternative 5 is not considered feasible by the City. Whereas, Alternative 6 would meet all of the initial project's objectives and is considered the best ranked and preferred alternative.

Chapter 6

Economic, Social, and Growth-Inducing Effects

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses economic, social, and growth-inducing effects of the Project. Table 6-1 provides the CEQA requirements and a summary of the impact analysis. As noted earlier, this document has been prepared using the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2, City of Tulare option) as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the “Preferred/Proposed Project” as “the Project”.

Table 6-1 Summary of Economic, Social and Growth Inducing Impacts		
Topic	Summary of Impact	CEQA Requirement
Economic Impact	Implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 may result in adverse financial impacts (in the form of monthly wastewater service fees) to the community. The Project may result in off-setting benefits for improved quality of life related to public health and property values to the community and immediate vicinity.	CEQA does not have specific requirements for evaluating the economic impacts of a Project. Section 15131 of CEQA Guidelines states that “Economic or social information may be included in an EIR or may be presented in whatever form the agency desires.”
Social Impact	Alternatives 5 or 6 would not result in disproportionate environmental effects on minority populations, low income populations, or Native Americans. The initial Preferred/Proposed Project, and Alternatives 5 or 6, do not pose any adverse environmental justice issues that would require mitigation. The Preferred/Proposed Project, and Alternatives 5 or 6, would improve the quality of life for the community.	The social impacts of a project include environmental justice considerations. California Government Code Section 65040.12 defines Environmental Justice as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”
Growth Inducing Effect	The Preferred/Proposed Project, Alternative, and Alternatives 5 or 6, would not result in significant growth inducing impacts. The Preferred/Proposed Project is unable to accommodate future growth due to limitations in funding. Consequently the Preferred/Proposed Project t would not result in new housing. Growth inducing impacts would be less than significant. Alternatives 5 or 6 are not growth	CEQA Guidelines Section 15126 (d) makes recommendations for analyzing impacts due to growth inducement, including discussing ways in which the project could foster economic or population growth, the construction of additional housing, or other factors which could remove obstacles to population growth or encourage and facilitate other activities which could impact the environment individually or cumulatively.

Table 6-1 Summary of Economic, Social and Growth Inducing Impacts	
	inducing as previously approved project are accounted for in the recommend pipe diameter sizing; and both short-term and build-out growth within the City of Tulare are consistent with the City's General Plan. The undetermined factors are intensity and timing of potential short-term and build-out growth. As these factors remains an unknown, any effort to project intensity and timing would be speculative and contrary to fact-based information necessary to adequately, and properly, address CEQA-related issues.

Based on the information provided in **Table 6-1**, implementation of the Preferred Alternative (the Project) would result in ***Less Than Significant*** environmental impacts, either individually or cumulatively, caused by either economic, social, or growth-inducing effects. No mitigation measures are required.

DEMOGRAPHICS

“Tulare County has one of the highest rates of unemployment in California and the nation, due in large part to the seasonal nature of agricultural employment. “The unemployment rate in the Tulare County was 13.4 percent in February 2015, down from a revised 13.8 percent in January 2015, and below the year-ago estimate of 15.5 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.8 percent for California and 5.8 percent for the nation during the same period.”¹ The general demographic information can be found in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6-2 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics - 2010²	
Demographic Profile Data	Tulare County
Population	
Total	442,179
% Hispanic or Latino	60.6%
% not Hispanic or Latino	39.4%
White alone	27.5%
Black or African American alone	0.4%

¹ State of California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, (March 29, 2013) [http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/visa\\$pd.pdf](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/visa$pd.pdf)

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Demographic Profile Data <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Table 6-2 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics - 2010²	
Demographic Profile Data	Tulare County
Asian alone	0.2%
Some other race alone	0.1%
Two or more races	1.4%
Housing	
Total housing units	141,696
Occupied Housing Units	130,352
Vacant housing units	11,344
Owner-occupied housing units	76,586 (58.8%)
Renter-occupied housing units	53,766 (41.2%)
Homeowner vacancy rate (%)	2.4%
Renter vacancy rate (%)	5.8%

Table 2-4 Matheny Tract’s Community Population; **Table 2-5** Tulare County Population Distribution, and **Table 2-6** Tulare County Housing Estimates (2007 and 2017) in Chapter 2 Project Description (of this RDEIR) provide additional demographic information. As such, the reader is also referred to Chapter 2.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS

Section 15131 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

“Economic or social information may be included in an EIR or may be presented in whatever form the agency desires.

- (a) Economic or social effects of a project shall not be treated as significant effects on the environment. But rather, an EIR may trace a chain of cause and effect from a proposed decision on a project through anticipated economic or social changes resulting from the project to physical changes caused in turn by the economic or social changes. The intermediate economic or social changes need not be analyzed in any detail greater than necessary to trace the chain of cause and effect. The focus of the analysis shall be on the physical changes.
- (b) Economic or social effects of a project may be used to determine the significance

of physical changes caused by the project. For example, if the construction of a new freeway or rail line divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the effect would be significant. As an additional example, if the construction of a road and the resulting increase in noise in an area disturbed existing religious practices in the area, the disturbance of the religious practices could be used to determine that the construction and use of the road and the resulting noise would be significant effects on the environment. The religious practices would need to be analyzed only to the extent to show that the increase in traffic and noise would conflict with the religious practices. Where an EIR uses economic or social effects to determine that a physical change is significant, the EIR shall explain the reason for determining that the effect is significant.

- (c) Economic, social, and particularly housing factors shall be considered by public agencies together with technological and environmental factors in deciding whether changes in a project are feasible to reduce or avoid the significant effects on the environment identified in the EIR. If information on these factors is not contained in the EIR, the information must be added to the record in some other manner to allow the agency to consider the factors in reaching a decision on the project.”³

Some benefits would accrue directly to the general Tulare County economy from this project related to initial expenditures for local labor force, potential purchase of construction and infrastructure materials from local vendors, and possible rental of construction equipment. Also, these economic benefits can have beneficial secondary or “multiplier effects” which refers to the extent to which a Project could indirectly cause increased activity elsewhere in the local or regional economy from the initial local expenditures.

Also, as indicated in Chapter 3.17 Utilities, potential contamination of Matheny Tract’s existing groundwater quality (from effluent and high nitrates from septic systems), potential for vectors and disease from exposure to the raw sanitary waste, and the general health and safety of the community’s population are some of the adverse environmental impacts which could occur if the Project is not implemented. Because the residents of Matheny Tract are generally low-income, the cost and frequency of maintenance and up-keep can be costly relative to the resident’s income. Without the Project, additional expenses could be incurred by Matheny Tract residents to remedy the adverse impacts of a failing septic/leach field system.

SOCIAL EFFECTS

Environmental Justice

³ CEQA Guidelines Section 15131.

“The basis for environmental justice lies in the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment expressly provides that the states may not “deny to any person within [their] jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” (U.S. Constitution, amend. XIV, Section1).

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (E.O.) 12898, titled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” The executive order followed a 1992 report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) indicating that “[r]acial minority and low-income populations experience higher than average exposures to selected air pollutants, hazardous waste facilities, and other forms of environmental pollution.” Among other things, E.O. 12898 directed federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions.”⁴

As evidenced by the analysis in Item Chapter 3.14, Population and Housing, the Preferred Alternative is generally within the established unincorporated community of Matheny Tract; with the exception of the main wastewater line within the Road 96 right-of-way extending from Matheny Tract to the City of Tulare’s sewer trunk pipeline located within Paige Avenue (Avenue 216). Land uses are predominantly residential, with commercial and religious uses within the community; agriculture and scattered rural residences are within the surrounding area. The Preferred Alternative would take place within and outside Matheny Tract, a generally disadvantaged unincorporated. Although the EIR identifies some potentially significant impacts that could result from the Preferred Alternative, the EIR also indicates they can all be reduced or avoided through the adoption and implementation of project design features and feasible and reasonable Mitigation Measures. The replacement of old, sometimes improperly maintained (and occasionally failing) septic tank/leach line systems with a centralized sanitary wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system would also result in health benefits to the community and benefits from avoiding potential further groundwater contamination.

GROWTH-INDUCING EFFECTS

As outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15126 (d), growth-inducing impact of the Preferred Alternative should be addressed.

The Preferred Alternative would result in the development of a sanitary wastewater system involving the construction of collection pipelines from existing development within Matheny Tract and conveyance of the wastewater to the existing wastewater treatment facility in the City of Tulare. Pipelines would be sized as appropriate to serve existing development and to meet potential infill within Matheny Tract only.

Based on the facts provided earlier, the Preferred Alternative would not be growth-inducing. Consequently, there would be ***No Growth-Inducing Impacts*** as a result of constructing the Project as the Preferred Alternative.

⁴ State of California, General Plan Guidelines 2003. Page 22, http://opr.ca.gov/docs/General_Plan_Guidelines_2003.pdf

Chapter 7

IMMITIGABLE IMPACTS

NO ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Under CEQA Guidelines §15126.2 (b), “[w]here there are impacts that cannot be alleviated without imposing an alternative design, their implications and the reasons why the project is being proposed, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.”¹ This analysis should include a description of any significant impacts, including those which can be mitigated but not reduced to a level of insignificance.

The proposed Project will not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts. All impacts have been found to be Less Than Significant, or have been mitigated to a level considered Less Than Significant.

NO IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

Under CEQA Guidelines §15126.2 (c), “[u]ses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified. (See Public Resources Code section 21100.1 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15127 for limitations to applicability of this requirement.)”²

The resources committed to the proposed Project are standard resources necessary for the construction and operation a wastewater collection system and main line (including lift stations and other appurtenances). Potential impacts would occur during the construction-related phase and minimal, if any, would occur during operations of the wastewater collection system and mainline. As noted in applicable resource sections, the Project would be required to comply with local, state, and federal permitting requirements and operational practices, including air quality and greenhouse gas emission reductions (for example, through conservation of electricity and water), the proposed Project would not result in any irreversible life-cycle costs. The proposed Project will be in compliance with the goals of AB32 and the Climate Change Scoping Plan that

¹ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2 (b)

² Ibid. 15126.2 (c)

outlines GHG reductions to 1990 levels.

As contained in CEQA Guidelines §15043, “[a] public agency may approve a project even though the project would cause a significant effect on the environment, if the agency makes a fully informed and publicly disclosed decision that:

- (a) There is no feasible way to lessen or avoid the significant effect (see Section 15091); and
- (b) Specifically identified expected benefits from the project outweigh the policy of reducing or avoiding significant environmental impacts of the project. (see Section 15093)”³

When approving a project pursuant to § 15043, an agency must prepare a statement of overriding considerations. As noted in CEQA Guidelines § 15093, “CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered acceptable.”⁴

“When the lead agency approves a project which will result in the occurrence of significant effects which are identified in the final EIR but are not avoided or substantially lessened, the agency shall state in writing the specific reasons to support its action based on the final EIR and/or other information in the record. The statement of overriding considerations shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.”⁵

“If an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the notice of determination. This statement does not substitute for, and shall be in addition to, findings required pursuant to Section 15091.”⁶

NO STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

Based on the analysis contained in this Draft EIR, there are no environmental impacts that cannot be avoided and there are no irreversible impacts; therefore, a Statement of Overriding Considerations is not necessary. Furthermore, the Project’s merits and objectives are discussed in the Project Description (Chapter 2) and are found to be consistent with the intent of Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update.

³ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15043

⁴ Ibid. 15093 (a)

⁵ Ibid. 15093 (b)

⁶ Ibid. 15093 (c)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BENEFIT STATEMENTS

As indicated earlier in this Recirculated DEIR is analyzing only Alternatives 5 and 6 (a 27- or 42-inch wastewater line (and other appurtenances thereof) along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216), the objectives and benefits statements contained in the initial DEIR remain applicable. Therefore, rather than repeating the discussion in this Chapter of the RDEIR, this Chapter relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference), the project The following objectives are desirable if the Project is constructed as presented in the “Project Description”.

Objective 1: Connection to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Construct a system capable of accessing the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility which would provide adequate on-site wastewater removal and treatment services for Matheny Tract; (provide an average daily flow of 110,000 mgd to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses.).

Objective 2: Abandonment of on-site septic tank/leach line systems

Benefit: Eventual abandonment of the existing individual residential on-site septic tank/leach line systems located within Matheny Tract.

Objective 3: Beneficial Environmental Impacts

Benefit: Provide a system that has the least potential to result in adverse environmental impacts and would provide an environmental benefit by eliminating wastewater discharge from on-site system tanks into the ground.

Objective 4: Avert a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Avoid construction of a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility (including percolation ponds) in or near Matheny Tract. This would be the most expensive Alternative to the Project and would likely result in an economic and unaffordable hardship to Matheny Tract’s residents.

Objective 5: Protect groundwater supply

Benefit: Reduce and/or remove the threat of potential groundwater contamination caused by seepage of wastewater from failing and improperly operating septic systems into the underground water supply in the Community and the surrounding area.

Objective 6: Cost-Efficiency

Benefit: Provide the most cost-effective, safe, and reliable means to collect and treat wastewater to Title 22 standards.

Objective 7: Affordable and Effective

Benefit: Implement an as affordable fees schedule to efficiently and effectively maintain and operate the wastewater system to enhance the quality of life for Matheny Tract residents.

Following are the one hundred fourteen (114) General Plan Policies as they apply to each specific Resource contained in the CEQA Checklist and discussed in Chapter 3 of this document for the Program. Additional policies, standards, etc., may apply as determined by the City of Tulare, however they are not included in this comprehensive list of County of Tulare policies.

I. AESTHETICS – 1 Policies

SL-1.2 Working Landscapes - The County shall require that new non-agricultural structures and infrastructure located in or adjacent to croplands, orchards, vineyards, and open rangelands be sited so as to not obstruct important viewsheds and to be designed to reflect unique relationships with the landscape by:

1. Referencing traditional agricultural building forms and materials,
2. Screening and breaking up parking and paving with landscaping, and
3. Minimizing light pollution and bright signage.

II. AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – 6 Policies

AG-1.1 Primary Land Use - The County shall maintain agriculture as the primary land use in the valley region of the County, not only in recognition of the economic importance of agriculture, but also in terms of agriculture's real contribution to the conservation of open space and natural resources.

AG-1.3 Williamson Act - The County should promote the use of the California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) on all agricultural lands throughout the County located outside established UDBs. However, this policy carries with it a caveat that support for the Williamson Act as a tax reduction component is premised on continued funding of the State subvention program that offsets the loss of property taxes.

AG-1.5 Substandard Williamson Act Parcels - The County may work to remove parcels that are less than 10 acres in Prime Farmland and less than 40 Acres in Non-Prime Farmland from Williamson Act Contracts (Williamson Act key term for Prime/Non-Prime).

AG-1.6 Conservation Easements - The County shall consider developing an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to help protect and preserve agricultural lands (including “Important Farmlands”), as defined in this Element. This program may require payment of an in-lieu fee sufficient to purchase a farmland conservation easement, farmland deed restriction, or other farmland conservation mechanism as a condition of approval for conservation of important agricultural land to non-agricultural use. If available, the ACEP shall be used for replacement lands determined to be of statewide significance (Prime or other Important Farmlands), or sensitive and necessary for the preservation of agricultural land, including land that may be a part of a community separator as part of a comprehensive program to establish community separators. The in-lieu fee or other conservation mechanism shall recognize the importance of land value and shall require equivalent mitigation.

AG-1.7 Preservation of Agricultural Lands - The County shall promote the preservation of its agricultural economic base and open space resources through the implementation of resource management programs such as the Williamson Act, Rural Valley Lands Plan, Foothill Growth Management Plan or similar types of strategies and the identification of growth boundaries for all urban areas located in the County.

AG-1.10 Extension of Infrastructure into Agricultural Areas - The County shall oppose extension of urban services, such as sewer lines, water lines, or other urban infrastructure, into areas designated for agriculture use unless necessary to resolve a public health situation. Where necessary to address a public health issue, services should be located in public rights-of-way in order to prevent interference with agricultural operations and to provide ease of access for operation and maintenance. Service capacity and length of lines should be designed to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into urban/suburban uses.

III. AIR QUALITY – 6 Policies

AQ-1.1 Cooperation with Other Agencies - The County shall cooperate with other local, regional, Federal, and State agencies in developing and implementing air quality plans to achieve State and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards. The County shall partner with the Air District, Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), and the California Air Resource Board to achieve better air quality conditions locally and regionally.

AQ-1.2 Cooperation with Local Jurisdictions - The County shall participate with cities, surrounding counties, and regional agencies to address cross-jurisdictional transportation and air quality issues.

AQ-1.3 Cumulative Air Quality Impacts - The County shall require development to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize cumulative air quality impacts. Applicants shall be required to propose alternatives as part of the State CEQA process that reduce air emissions and enhance, rather than harm, the environment.

AQ-1.4 Air Quality Land Use Compatibility - The County shall evaluate the compatibility of industrial or other developments which are likely to cause undesirable air pollution with regard to proximity to sensitive land uses, and wind direction and circulation in an effort to alleviate effects upon sensitive receptors.

AQ-1.5 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance - The County shall ensure that air quality impacts identified during the CEQA review process are consistently and reasonably mitigated when feasible.

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions - The County shall monitor and support the efforts of Cal/EPA, CARB, and the AIR DISTRICT, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Section 38501 et seq.), to develop a recommended list of emission reduction strategies. As appropriate, the County will evaluate each new project under the updated General Plan to determine its consistency with the emission reduction strategies.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – 5 Policies

ERM-1.1 Protection of Rare and Endangered Species - The County shall ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive wildlife and plant life, including those species designated as rare, threatened, and/or endangered by State and/or Federal government, through compatible land use development.

ERM-1.2 Development in Environmentally Sensitive Areas - The County shall limit or modify proposed development within areas that contain sensitive habitat for special status species and direct development into less significant habitat areas. Development in natural habitats shall be controlled so as to minimize erosion and maximize beneficial vegetative growth.

ERM-1.4 Protect Riparian Areas - The County shall protect riparian areas through habitat preservation, designation as open space or recreational land uses, bank stabilization, and development controls.

ERM-1.16 Cooperate with Wildlife Agencies - The County shall cooperate with State and federal wildlife agencies to address linkages between habitat areas.

ERM-2.7 Minimize Adverse Impacts - The County will minimize the adverse effects on environmental features such as water quality and quantity, air quality, flood plains, geophysical characteristics, biotic, archaeological, and aesthetic factors.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – 5 Policies

ERM-6.1 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources - The County shall participate in and support efforts to identify its significant cultural and archaeological resources using appropriate State and Federal standards.

ERM-6.2 Protection of Resources with Potential State or Federal Designations - The County shall protect cultural and archaeological sites with demonstrated potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California State Office of Historic Preservation's California Points of Interest and California Inventory of Historic Resources. Such sites may be of Statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values as determined by a qualified archaeological professional.

ERM-6.3 Alteration of Sites with Identified Cultural Resources - When planning any development or alteration of a site with identified cultural or archaeological resources, consideration should be given to ways of protecting the resources. Development can be permitted in these areas only after a site specific investigation has been conducted pursuant to CEQA to define the extent and value of resource, and Mitigation Measures proposed for any impacts the development may have on the resource.

ERM-6.4 Mitigation - If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records.

PFS-3.4 Alternative Rural Wastewater Systems - The County shall consider alternative rural wastewater systems for areas outside of community UDBs and HDBs that do not have current systems or system capacity. For individual users, such systems include elevated leach fields, sand filtration systems, evapotranspiration beds, osmosis units, and holding tanks. For larger generators or groups of users, alternative systems, including communal septic tank/leach field systems, package treatment plants, lagoon systems, and land treatment, can be considered.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – 11 Policies

HS-1.2 Development Constraints - The County shall permit development only in areas where the potential danger to the health and safety of people and property can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

HS-1.3 Hazardous Lands - The County shall designate areas with a potential for significant hazardous conditions for open space, agriculture, and other appropriate low intensity uses.

HS-1.5 Hazard Awareness and Public Education - The County shall continue to promote awareness and education among residents regarding possible natural hazards, including soil conditions, earthquakes, flooding, fire hazards, and emergency procedures.

HS-1.11 Site Investigations - The County shall conduct site investigations in areas planned for new development to determine susceptibility to landslides, subsidence/settlement, contamination, and/or flooding.

HS-2.1 Continued Evaluation of Earthquake Risks - The County shall continue to evaluate areas to determine levels of earthquake risk.

HS-2.4 Structure Siting - The County shall permit development on soils sensitive to seismic activity permitted only after adequate site analysis, including appropriate siting, design of structure, and foundation integrity.

HS-2.7 Subsidence - The County shall confirm that development is not located in any known areas of active subsidence. If urban development may be located in such an area, a special safety study will be prepared and needed safety measures implemented. The County shall also request that developments provide evidence that its long-term use of ground water resources, where applicable, will not result in notable subsidence attributed to the new extraction of groundwater resources for use by the development.

HS-2.8 Alquist-Priolo Act Compliance - The County shall not permit any structure for human occupancy to be placed within designated Earthquake Fault Zones (pursuant to and as determined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act; Public Resource code, Chapter 7.5) unless the specific provision of the Act and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations have been satisfied.

WR-2.2 NPDES Enforcement - The County shall continue to support the State in monitoring and enforcing provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board.

WR-2.3 Best Management Practices - The County shall continue to require the use of feasible BMPs and other mitigation measures designed to protect surface water and groundwater from the adverse effects of construction activities, agricultural operations requiring a County Permit and urban runoff in coordination with the Water Quality Control Board.

WR-2.4 Construction Site Sediment Control - The County shall continue to enforce provisions to control erosion and sediment from construction sites.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – 6 Policies

AQ-1.3 Cumulative Air Quality Impacts - The County shall require development to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize cumulative air quality impacts. Applicants shall be required to propose alternatives as part of the State CEQA process that reduce air emissions and enhance, rather than harm, the environment.

AQ-1.4 Air Quality Land Use Compatibility - The County shall evaluate the compatibility of industrial or other developments which are likely to cause undesirable air pollution with regard to proximity to sensitive land uses, and wind direction and circulation in an effort to alleviate effects upon sensitive receptors.

AQ-1.5 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance - The County shall ensure that air quality impacts identified during the CEQA review process are consistently and reasonably mitigated when feasible.

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions - The County shall monitor and support the efforts of Cal/EPA, CARB, and the SJVAPCD, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Section 38501 et seq.), to develop a recommended list of emission reduction strategies. As appropriate, the County will evaluate each new project under the updated General Plan to determine its consistency with the emission reduction strategies.

AQ-1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan - The County will develop a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (Plan) that identifies greenhouse gas emissions within the County as well as ways to reduce those emissions. The Plan will incorporate the requirements adopted by the California Air Resources Board specific to this issue. In addition, the County will work with the Tulare County Association of Governments and other applicable agencies to include the following key items in the regional planning efforts.

1. Inventory all known, or reasonably discoverable, sources of greenhouse gases in the County,
2. Inventory the greenhouse gas emissions in the most current year available, and those projected for year 2020, and
3. Set a target for the reduction of emissions attributable to the County's discretionary land use decisions and its own internal government operations.

AQ-1.9 Support Off-Site Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions - The County will support and encourage the use of off-site measures or the purchase of carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – 2 Policies

HS-4.1 Hazardous Materials - The County shall strive to ensure hazardous materials are used, stored, transported, and disposed of in a safe manner, in compliance with local, State, and Federal safety standards, including the Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, and Area Plan.

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention - The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water, and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY –20 Policies

AG-1.10 Extension of Infrastructure into Agricultural Areas - The County shall oppose extension of urban services, such as sewer lines, water lines, or other urban infrastructure, into areas designated for agriculture use unless necessary to resolve a public health situation. Where necessary to address a public health issue, services should be located in public rights-of-way in order to prevent interference with agricultural operations and to provide ease of access for operation and maintenance. Service capacity and length of lines should be designed to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into urban/suburban uses.

AG-1.17 Agricultural Water Resources - The County shall seek to protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources critical to agriculture.

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention - The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water, and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination.

WR-1.1 Groundwater Withdrawal - The County shall cooperate with water agencies and management agencies during land development processes to help promote an adequate, safe, and economically viable groundwater supply for existing and future development within the County. These actions shall be intended to help the County mitigate the potential impact on ground water resources identified during planning and approval processes.

WR-1.5 Expand Use of Reclaimed Wastewater - To augment groundwater supplies and to conserve potable water for domestic purposes, the County shall seek opportunities to expand groundwater recharge efforts

WR-1.6 Expand Use of Reclaimed Water - The County shall encourage the use of tertiary treated wastewater and household gray water for irrigation of agricultural lands, recreation and open space areas, and large landscaped areas as a means of reducing demand for groundwater resources.

WR-2.1 Protect Water Quality - All major land use and development plans shall be evaluated as to their potential to create surface and groundwater contamination hazards from point and non-point sources. The County shall confer with other appropriate agencies, as necessary, to assure adequate water quality review to prevent soil erosion; direct discharge of potentially harmful substances; ground leaching from storage of raw materials, petroleum products, or wastes; floating debris; and runoff from the site.

WR-2.2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement - The County shall continue to support the State in monitoring and enforcing provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board.

WR-2.3 Best Management Practices (BMPs) - The County shall continue to require the use of feasible BMPs and other mitigation measures designed to protect surface water and groundwater from the adverse effects of construction activities, agricultural operations requiring a County Permit and urban runoff in coordination with the Water Quality Control Board.

WR-2.8 Point Source Control - The County shall work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that all point source pollutants are adequately mitigated (as part of the California Environmental Quality Act review and project approval process) and monitored to ensure long-term compliance.

WR-3.3 Adequate Water Availability - The County shall review new development proposals to ensure the intensity and timing of growth will be consistent with the availability of adequate water supplies. Projects must submit a Will-Serve letter as part of the application process, and provide evidence of adequate and sustainable water availability prior to approval of the tentative map or other urban development entitlement.

WR-3.6 Water Use Efficiency - The County shall support educational programs targeted at reducing water consumption and enhancing groundwater recharge.

WR-1.5 Expand Use of Reclaimed Wastewater - To augment groundwater supplies and to conserve potable water for domestic purposes, the County shall seek opportunities to expand groundwater recharge efforts.

PFS-1.8 Funding for Service Providers - The County shall encourage special districts, including community service districts and public utility districts to:

1. Institute impact fees and assessment districts to finance improvements,
2. Take on additional responsibilities for services and facilities within their jurisdictional boundaries up to the full extent allowed under State law, and

3. Investigate feasibility of consolidating services with other districts and annexing systems in proximity to promote economies of scale, such as annexation to city systems and regional wastewater treatment systems.

PFS-1.13 Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) - The County shall use MSRs adopted by LAFCo and Urban Water Management Plans, as tools to assess the capacity, condition, and financing of various public utility services provided by special districts and cities, most commonly, domestic water and sanitary sewer.

PFS-3.3 New Development Requirements - The County shall require all new development, within UDBs, UABs, Community Plans, Hamlet Plans, Planned Communities, Corridor Areas, Area Plans, existing wastewater district service areas, or zones of benefit, to connect to the wastewater system, where such systems exist. The County may grant exceptions in extraordinary circumstances, but in these cases, the new development shall be required to connect to the wastewater system when service becomes readily available.

PFS-3.7 Financing - The County shall cooperate with special districts when applying for State and federal funding for major wastewater related expansions/upgrades when such plans promote the efficient solution to wastewater treatment needs for the area and County.

FGMP-8.4 Development of Wastewater Systems - The County shall ensure that new wastewater systems meet the standards of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Tulare County Health & Human Services.

FGMP-9.2 Provision of Adequate Infrastructure - The County shall require evidence, prior to project approval, which (1) describes a safe and reliable method of wastewater treatment and disposal; and (2) substantiates an adequate water supply for domestic and fire protection purposes.

FGMP-9.5 Alternate Sewage Disposal - The County may allow unconventional methods of disposing of sewage effluent, provided the system meets the performance standards of the Water Quality Control Board and the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency. Such systems may include, but are not limited to common leach field, soil absorption mounds, aerobic septic tanks, or evapotranspiration systems.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING – 8 Policies

PF-6.4 UDBs and Interagency Coordination - The County shall use UDBs to provide a definition of an urban area for other planning programs, such as:

1. The area within the UDB should be considered as the same area for which water and sewer system planning may be needed and to be a consideration in the determination of an area required to adequately assess the availability and sufficiency of water supplies.

2. UDBs should be used to define traffic analysis zones in the Regional Transportation Plan program.
3. The UDBs shall be used to provide a framework for inventories on growth and development, as well as socio-economic data

AG-1.10 Extension of Infrastructure into Agricultural Areas - The County shall oppose extension of urban services, such as sewer lines, water lines, or other urban infrastructure, into areas designated for agriculture use unless necessary to resolve a public health situation. Where necessary to address a public health issue, services should be located in public rights-of-way in order to prevent interference with agricultural operations and to provide ease of access for operation and maintenance. Service capacity and length of lines should be designed to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into urban/suburban uses.

WR-2.2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement - The County shall continue to support the State in monitoring and enforcing provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board.

WR-2.4 Construction Site Sediment Control - The County shall continue to enforce provisions to control erosion and sediment from construction sites.

WR-2.8 Point Source Control - The County shall work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that all point source pollutants are adequately mitigated (as part of the California Environmental Quality Act review and project approval process) and monitored to ensure long-term compliance.

PFS-1.5 Funding for Public Facilities - The County shall implement programs and/or procedures to ensure that funding mechanisms necessary to adequately cover the costs related to planning, capital improvements, maintenance, and operations of necessary public facilities and services are in place, whether provided by the County or another entity.

PFS-3.4 Alternative Rural Wastewater Systems - The County shall consider alternative rural wastewater systems for areas outside of community UDBs and HDBs that do not have current systems or system capacity. For individual users, such systems include elevated leach fields, sand filtration systems, evapotranspiration beds, osmosis units, and holding tanks. For larger generators or groups of users, alternative systems, including communal septic tank/leach field systems, package treatment plants, lagoon systems, and land treatment, can be considered.

PFS-3.5 Wastewater System Failures - The County shall require landowners to repair failing septic tanks, leach field, and package systems that constitute a threat to water quality and public health or connect to an existing community system through applicable County and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board standards and requirements.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES – 3 Policies

ERM-2.1 Conserve Mineral Deposits - The County will encourage the conservation of identified and/or potential mineral deposits, recognizing the need for identifying, permitting, and maintaining a 50 year supply of locally available PCC grade aggregate.

ERM-2.2 Recognize Mineral Deposits - The County will recognize as a part of the General Plan those areas of identified and/or potential mineral deposits.

ERM-2.10 Incompatible Development - Proposed incompatible land uses in the County shall not be on lands containing or adjacent to identified mineral deposits, or along key access roads, unless adequate mitigation measures are adopted or a statement of overriding considerations stating public benefits and overriding reasons for permitting the proposed use are adopted.

XII. NOISE – 4 Policies

HS-8.2 Noise Impacted Areas - The County shall designate areas as noise-impacted if exposed to existing or projected noise levels that exceed 60 dB Ldn (or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)) at the exterior of buildings.

HS-8.11 Peak Noise Generators - The County shall limit noise generating activities, such as construction, to hours of normal business operation (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). No peak noise generating activities shall be allowed to occur outside of normal business hours without County approval.

HS-8.18 Construction Noise - The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities by limiting construction activities to the hours of 7 am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday when construction activities are located near sensitive receptors. No construction shall occur on Sundays or national holidays without a permit from the County to minimize noise impacts associated with development near sensitive receptors.

HS-8.19 Construction Noise Control - The County shall ensure that construction contractors implement best practices guidelines (i.e., berms, screens, etc.) as appropriate and feasible to reduce construction-related noise-impacts on surrounding land uses.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING (2015-2030 Tulare County Housing Element) – 13 Policies

- Policy 1.11 Encourage the development of a broad range of housing types to provide an opportunity of choice in the local housing market.

- Policy 1.14 Pursue an equitable distribution of future regional housing needs allocations, thereby providing a greater likelihood of assuring a balance between housing development and the location of employment opportunities.
 - Policy 1.33 Encourage and support a balance between housing and agricultural needs.
 - Policy 2.11 Encourage Federal and State governments to increase the level of funding for improvements or expansion of public infrastructure serving the unincorporated communities.
 - Policy 2.12 Increase opportunities for technical assistance to public utility districts and community service districts and mutual water companies in an effort to educate and assist them in attaining the necessary public infrastructure.
 - Policy 2.13 When land is purchased by the County in conjunction with installation of new public facilities, the County will endeavor to make any excess land available to housing agencies for development of affordable housing.
 - Policy 2.14 Create and maintain a matrix of Infrastructure Development Priorities for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities in Tulare County through analysis and investigation of public infrastructure needs and deficits, pursuant to Action Program 9.
 - Policy 2.21 Require all proposed housing within the development boundaries of unincorporated communities is either (1) served by community water and sewer, or (2) that physical conditions permit safe treatment of liquid waste by septic tank systems and the use of private wells.
 - Policy 2.24 Improvement requirements should reflect a balance between housing needs and the protection of public health and safety.
 - Policy 2.25 The County shall encourage special districts, including community services districts and public utility districts to: 1. Institute impact fees and assessment districts to finance improvements, 2. Take on additional responsibilities for services and facilities within their jurisdictional boundaries up to the full extent allowed under State law, and 3. Investigate feasibility of consolidating services with other districts and annexing systems in proximity to promote economies of scale, such as annexation to city systems and regional wastewater treatment systems (GPU PFS 1.8 Funding for Service Providers).
 - Policy 3.11 Support and coordinate with local economic development programs to encourage a “jobs to housing balance” throughout the unincorporated area.
 - Policy 5.21 Administer and enforce the relevant portions of the Health and Safety Code.
 - Action Program 9 – Housing Related Infrastructure Needs
-

Provide vital information used for planning and development purposes, target expansion or repair of infrastructure and municipal services to areas with the most need and secure Federal and State funding for housing-related infrastructure. Provide technical assistance to PUDs, CSDs, and Mutual to fund infrastructure improvement and expansion, ensure safe and adequate water and liquid waste disposal, and have an equitable balance of fees between new and existing residents.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES – 7 Policies

PFS-7.1 Fire Protection - The County shall strive to expand fire protection service in areas that experience growth in order to maintain adequate levels of service.

PFS-7.2 Fire Protection Standards - The County shall require all new development to be adequately served by water supplies, storage, and conveyance facilities supplying adequate volume, pressure, and capacity for fire protection.

PFS-7.3 Visible Signage for Roads and Buildings - The County shall strive to ensure all roads are properly identified by name or number with clearly visible signs.

PFS-7.5 Fire Staffing and Response Time Standards - The County shall strive to maintain fire department staffing and response time goals consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

PFS-7.6 Provision of Station Facilities and Equipment - The County shall strive to provide sheriff and fire station facilities, equipment (engines and other apparatus), and staffing necessary to maintain the County's service goals. The County shall continue to cooperate with mutual aid providers to provide coverage throughout the County.

PFS-7.8 Law Enforcement Staffing Ratios - The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a staffing ratio of 3 sworn officers per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

PFS-7.9 Sheriff Response Time - The County shall work with the Sheriff's Department to achieve and maintain a response time of:

1. Less than 10 minutes for 90 percent of the calls in the valley region; and
2. 15 minutes for 75 percent of the calls in the foothill and mountain regions.

XV. RECREATION – None that would apply to this Project.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC – 3 Policies

TC-1.14 Roadway Facilities - As part of the development review process, new development shall be conditioned to fund, through impact fees, tonnage fees, and/or other mechanism, the construction and maintenance of roadway facilities impacted by the project. As projects or

locations warrant, construction or payment of pro-rata fees for planned road facilities may also be required as a condition of approval.

TC-1.16 County Level of Service (LOS) Standards - The County shall strive to develop and manage its roadway system (both segments and intersections) to meet a LOS of “D” or better in accordance with the LOS definitions established by the Highway Capacity Manual.

HS-1.9 Emergency Access - The County shall require, where feasible, road networks (public and private) to provide for safe and ready access for emergency equipment and provide alternate routes for evacuation.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES– 6 Policies

ERM-6.1 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources - The County shall participate in and support efforts to identify its significant cultural and archaeological resources using appropriate State and Federal standards.

ERM-6.2 Protection of Resources with Potential State or Federal Designations - The County shall protect cultural and archaeological sites with demonstrated potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California State Office of Historic Preservation’s California Points of Interest and California Inventory of Historic Resources. Such sites may be of Statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values as determined by a qualified archaeological professional.

ERM-6.3 Alteration of Sites with Identified Cultural Resources - When planning any development or alteration of a site with identified cultural or archaeological resources, consideration should be given to ways of protecting the resources. Development can be permitted in these areas only after a site specific investigation has been conducted pursuant to CEQA to define the extent and value of resource, and Mitigation Measures proposed for any impacts the development may have on the resource.

ERM-6.4 Mitigation - If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records.

ERM-6.9 Confidentiality of Archaeological Sites - The County shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.

ERM-6.10 Grading Cultural Resources Sites - The County shall ensure all grading activities conform to the County’s Grading Ordinance and California Code of Regulations, Title 20, § 2501 et. seq.

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS – 8 Policies

PFS-2.3 Well Testing - The County shall require new development that includes the use of water wells to be accompanied by evidence that the site can produce the required volume of water without impacting the ability of existing wells to meet their needs.

PFS-2.5 New Systems or Individual Wells - Where connection to a community water system is not feasible per PFS-2.4: Water Connections, service by individual wells or new community systems may be allowed if the water source meets standards for quality and quantity.

PFS-3.1 Private Sewage Disposal Standards - The County shall maintain adequate standards for private sewage disposal systems (e.g., septic tanks) to protect water quality and public health.

PFS-3.4 Alternative Rural Wastewater Systems - The County shall consider alternative rural wastewater systems for areas outside of community UDBs and HDBs that do not have current systems or system capacity. For individual users, such systems include elevated leach fields, sand filtration systems, evapotranspiration beds, osmosis units, and holding tanks. For larger generators or groups of users, alternative systems, including communal septic tank/leach field systems, package treatment plants, lagoon systems, and land treatment, can be considered.

PFS-4.1 Stormwater Management Plans - The County shall oversee, as per Community Plan Content Table PF-2.1 and Specific Plan Content, Hamlet Plans Policy PF-3.3, and Table LU-4.3, the preparation and adoption of stormwater management plans for communities and hamlets to reduce flood risk, protect soils from erosion, control stormwater, and minimize impacts on existing drainage facilities, and develop funding mechanisms as a part of the Community Plan and Hamlet Plan process.

PFS-5.8 Hazardous Waste Disposal Capabilities - The County shall require the proper disposal and recycling of hazardous materials in accordance with the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

PFS-4.7 NPDES Enforcement - The County shall continue to monitor and enforce provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

PFS-5.8 Hazardous Waste Disposal Capabilities - The County shall require the proper disposal and recycling of hazardous materials in accordance with the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In order to implement the wastewater services, an entity with sufficient operational capabilities may be formed. The community could also leave

governance of wastewater operations to the City of Livingston through an extraterritorial agreement. As is the case with the Pratt Mutual Water Company, which currently owns and operates the community's water system, creation of a private wastewater service entity is an option.

CHAPTER 8

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

As indicated in Chapter 1 Introduction, this RDEIR is analyzing only Alternatives 5 and 6, the assumptions/analysis contained in the initial DEIR remain applicable. As such, this Chapter relies heavily on the initial Draft EIR (incorporated herein by reference). As indicated earlier in this RDEIR, the focus of this RDEIR has been discussion/analysis of two alternatives that were not previously considered in the initial Draft EIR and are summarized as follows:

Alternative Five: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative Six: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline

Description: This Alternative would result in the construction of a new 42-inch trunk main pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows.

Alternatives 5 and 6 are more fully discussed in Chapter 5 Alternatives of this Recirculated DEIR. As such, the reader is referred to Chapter 5 for additional details.

This draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared in compliance with State law and based upon the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Matheny Wastewater System Feasibility Report's recommended Alternative 2 – Connection to the City of Tulare's Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Preferred/Proposed Project. As noted earlier, this Recirculated DEIR has been prepared using the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2, Tulare option) as the proposed Project which continues to contain all of the components of the original Alternative 2 but is now updated to include the 42-inch diameter pipeline (and any appurtenances thereof) as described in Alternative 6. As such, the following discussion refers to the "Preferred/Proposed Project" as "the Project". The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the draft EIR for the proposed Project and identifies monitoring and reporting requirements.

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The CEQA Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires the Lead Agency decision making body is going to approve a project and certify the EIR that it also adopt a reporting or monitoring program for those measures recommended to mitigate or avoid significant/adverse effects of the environment identified in the EIR. The law states that the reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation. The MMRP is to contain the following elements:

- **Action and Procedure.** The mitigation measures are recorded with the action and procedure necessary to ensure compliance. In some instances, one action may be used to verify implementation of several mitigation measures.
- **Compliance and Verification.** A procedure for compliance and verification has been outlined for each action necessary. This procedure designates who will take action, what action will be taken and when and by whom and compliance will be monitored and reported and to whom it will be report. As necessary the reporting should indicate any follow-up actions that might be necessary if the reporting notes the impact has not been mitigated.
- **Flexibility.** The program has been designed to be flexible. As monitoring progresses, changes to compliance procedures may be necessary based upon the recommendations by those responsible for the MMRP. As changes are made, new monitoring compliance procedures and records will be developed and incorporated into the program

Table 8-1 presents the Mitigation Measures identified for the proposed Project in this EIR. Each Mitigation Measure is identified by alpha-numeric symbol indicating the topical section to which it pertains, a hyphen, and the impact number. For example, BIO 3.4-1 would be the first Mitigation Measure identified in the Biological analysis of the draft EIR.

The first column of **Table 8-1** identifies the Mitigation Measure. The second column, entitled “When Monitoring is to Occur,” identifies the time the Mitigation Measure should be initiated. The third column, “Frequency of Monitoring,” identifies the frequency of the monitoring that should take place to assure the mitigation is being or has been implemented to achieve the desired outcome or performance standard... The fourth column, “Agency Responsible for Monitoring,” names the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Mitigation Measure is implemented. The last columns will be used by the Wastewater System Governing Entity once formed to ensure that individual Mitigation Measures have been complied with and monitored.

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Based on the disturbed condition of the majority of the sites, reasonable inferences were made that it was unlikely that any of the sensitive species listed would actually occur onsite. However, this Project does not preclude the opportunity for special status species from accessing or traveling through the site prior or post construction phases; including areas contained in Alternative 6 (i.e., the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor). Historically, there have been records of special status species in the vicinity of the proposed Alternatives. Within the context of CEQA, potential impacts could result in significant impacts (especially in the event Alternative 3 (standalone Matheny Tract Community Wastewater Treatment Facility) is chosen), implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 would reduce potential impacts to Less Than Significant .							
Plant Species							
Impact: Four (4) special status species are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project action area. As shown in the CNDDDB results (Appendix “B”), the presence of Swainson’s hawk was indicated within 10 miles of the site in the last 10 years. No evidence is available to suggest that other raptor species are within the vicinity of the Project site (for example, through CNDDDB information and existing uses; such as residential uses, commercial uses, roadways, etc., and the absence of suitable trees for nesting).		.					
Bio 3.4-1 Avoidance: Special Status plant species: No impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, however, as a measure to ensure that no species occur in these areas prior to construction, if either Alternatives 2 or 3 are selected, pre-construction surveys shall be required before construction. Surveys should be timed to coincide with flowering periods for species that could occur (March-May).	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless pre-construction survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then mitigation should occur as recommended	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Field survey by a qualified Biologist.			

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<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
		following coordination with Governing Entity.					
Bio 3.4-2., Minimization (Special Status Plant Species): Because no impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, no minimization is required, but see Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 as well. If pre-construction surveys detect special status plant species, transplantation, project modification and/or compensation shall be employed.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist.			
Bio 3.4-3. Compensation (Special Status plant species): No compensation is anticipated as part of the Alternatives. If Special Status plant species are detected during pre-construction surveys in the action areas or impact footprints, compensation for impacts shall be required to compensate for impacts.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist working with USFS and/or CFW			
Bio 3.4-4. Monitoring (Special Status plant species): No monitoring is required. If pre-construction surveys detect plant species along the alignments/action areas, or impact footprints, but can be avoided, construction monitoring shall be required to ensure avoidance of those sensitive areas.	During construction-related activities.	On-going during construction-related activities	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Construction manager with oversight by qualified biologist.			
Animal Species							
Bio 3.4-5. Avoidance (Special Status Animal Species): Impacts to all kit fox dens, potential raptor nests and other animals located along the	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless pre-construction	Governing Entity established for operating the	Field survey by a qualified Biologist.			

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Table 8-1
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
alignments shall be avoided.		survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then mitigation should occur as recommended following coordination with Governing Entity.	Wastewater System Services.				
Bio 3.4-6. Minimization (Special Status Animal Species): Minimization measures assume that some level of impact will occur (that some level of disturbance occurs). Under this approach, the Agency shall consult with DFW/USFWS. As the Agency initiates this process they can offer to perform the following measures as part of their permitting process with the agencies in order to help minimize impacts to the kit foxes, raptors and other species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetate disturbed areas with trees and grass from on the site or adjacent areas; • Conduct employee education programs to inform workers about sensitive biological resources they may encounter and what they should do to minimize potential impacts. 	Implemented only if sensitive species are encountered.						
3.4-7 Monitoring (Special Status Animal Species): If pre-construction surveys detect	During construction.	As needed during construction.	Governing Entity.	Determination by qualified			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>listed or protected species along any of the project alternatives, while construction occurs, a biologist will need to be on-site to educate workers, monitor compliance, [ensure implementation of] best management practices and to identify and protect natural resources, including Special Status Species. The monitor will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to prevent disturbance of core avoidance areas. Any unauthorized take of Special Status species will be immediately reported to DFW by the monitor. The monitor will also notify the Project Coordinator who will stop work until corrective measures are implemented.</p> <p>The designated Project Coordinator and the designated monitor for this Project will need to be established if Agency decides to pursue mitigation and monitoring.</p>				biologist.			
CULTURAL RESOURCES:							
Cul 3.5-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Preferred/ Proposed Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend			

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<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the specialists shall provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.			resource finds by a qualified archaeologist	further actions that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable laws including CEQA.			
Cul 3.5-2 - The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbing activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources requires further study. The project proponent shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Tulare County Resource Management Agency and the project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the resource finds by a qualified archaeologist	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend further actions that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable			

Chapter 8: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

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<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
of the find. If the find is determined to be significant and the Tulare County Resource Management Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the project.				laws including CEQA.			
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC							
Trans 3.16-1 - Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency having jurisdiction to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any potentially dangerous condition to be encountered as a result thereof.	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Governing Entity established for constructing and operating the Wastewater System Services via specific contractual requirements and via on-going review of records kept by contractor to document compliance	Maintenance by contractor of documentary evidence of compliance. Such records to be provided to County of Tulare / Governing Entity upon request			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES							
TCR 17-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the property owner shall retain a qualified archaeologist / paleontologist to provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC / Local Tribe			
TCR – 17-2 Consistent with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15064.5, if human remains of Native American origin are discovered during Project construction, it is necessary to comply with State laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials,	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC / Local Tribe			

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Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Public Resources Code Sec. 5097). In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, the following steps should be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Tulare County Coroner/Sheriff must be contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and b. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. ii. The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. iii. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the 							

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<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code section 5097.98, or</p> <p>2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.</p> <p>a. The Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.</p> <p>b. The descendant fails to make a recommendation; or</p> <p>c. The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent.</p>							

Chapter 9

Report Preparation

PERSONS WHO PREPARED THIS REPORT

Key persons from the County of Tulare and the consulting firms that contributed to preparation of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR) are identified below:

Lead Agency: County of Tulare Resource Management Agency



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Chapter 10

References

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Matheny Tract Wastewater System Feasibility Study

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United States Census 2010

APPENDIX A

FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

County of Tulare

Matheny Tract Wastewater System

Technical Memorandum

Addendum to Project Feasibility Report

Tulare County, CA
September 2017

Prepared for:
County of Tulare
Resource Management Agency
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Abbreviations

DWWTP.....	Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant
EOPCC.....	Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost
PFR.....	Project Feasibility Report
PVC.....	polyvinyl chloride
RCP.....	reinforced concrete pipe
RWQCB.....	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SWRCB.....	State Water Resources Control Board
WWTF.....	Wastewater Treatment Facility

1 Introduction

In March 2016, a Project Feasibility Report was prepared to evaluate the alternatives available to improve or replace on-site septic systems for the Matheny Tract community in Tulare County, adjacent to the City of Tulare. The community, home to approximately 1,200 residents, is currently un-sewered and relies on individual septic systems at each residence for wastewater treatment and disposal.

The alternatives analyzed included:

- *On-Site Systems with a Septic Maintenance District*: provides replacement of the existing on-site septic systems with systems that denitrify wastewater before discharging it, and would provide for continuation of proper maintenance of the systems by creating a Septic Maintenance District.
- *Gravity Collection System, Consolidation with the City of Tulare*: provides construction of a wastewater collection system throughout the community with a main connection to the City of Tulare wastewater collection system and ultimate delivery to the City of Tulare Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant (DWWTP). This alternative assumes that the City of Tulare will ultimately own and operate the Matheny Tract collection system and main connection to the City of Tulare.
- *Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility*: provides for construction of a wastewater collection system similar to the one shown in Alternative 2; however, it would also provide for construction of a small independent Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) within or near the Matheny Tract.
- *No Project*: maintains the community in its current condition with no improvement to the existing septic systems.

Based on the analysis presented in the Project Feasibility Report (PFR), the selected alternative was *Gravity Collection System, Consolidation with the City of Tulare*. The selected alternative consists of construction of a wastewater collection system within the Matheny Tract, at least one lift station located along Pratt Street, a force main in Pratt Street with a connection to the existing 27-inch sewer trunk main at the intersection of Paige Avenue and Pratt Street. Implementation of this alternative is contingent upon reaching an agreement between the County and the City to accept the wastewater flows from the Matheny Tract. The City advised they would not allow connection of a domestic wastewater collection system, such as would be constructed within the Matheny Tract, to the industrial wastewater trunk main that exist in Pratt Street.

Following completion and adoption of the PFR, the City provided input that they were uncertain if the capacity of the sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue was sufficient and the City would need to perform an analysis of their collection system to determine if the capacity was available.

This memorandum summarizes the findings of the City of Tulare DWWTP and Collection System Capacity Analysis in relation to the PFR and selected alternative implementation. The City of Tulare DWWTP and Collection System Capacity Analysis is attached by reference to this memorandum and this memorandum shall be considered an addendum to the original, adopted PFR.

2 Collection System Evaluation Report

In June 2017, Carollo prepared a report entitled *City of Tulare Collection System Capacity Analysis* (Capacity Analysis) to evaluate the capacity of the City of Tulare's (City) wastewater collection system, in part to specifically identify if the system has capacity to convey the wastewater flows from the Matheny Tract to the DWWTP, if the DWWTP has capacity to treat the wastewater flows and, if not, what improvements would be necessary to provide the necessary capacity.

2.1 Report Findings

The capacity of the 27-inch sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue at Pratt Street was evaluated and found to be operating in a surcharge state in its current configuration without the addition of wastewater flows from Matheny Tract. Adding new flows to this main would worsen the operating condition.

The recommended improvements to resolve this condition include evaluation of two alternatives, (1) install a second¹ domestic sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street to the DWWTP or (2) limit the level in the DWWTP influent wet well. Ultimately, both alternatives are needed to fully correct the surcharge condition; however, with construction of the additional trunk main improvements, the flows from Matheny Tract could be accepted by the City without worsening their current operating condition. Three alternatives were evaluated in relation to constructing a new trunk main.

The alternatives evaluated include constructing a 24-inch trunk main, a 27-inch trunk main or a 42-inch trunk main¹. The purpose of each alternative is as follows:

- *Immediate Solution: The 24-inch trunk main would correct the existing deficiencies and provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract.*
- *Near-Term Solution: The 27-inch trunk main would also correct existing deficiencies, provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects.*
- *Long-Term Solution: The 42-inch trunk main would provide the same service in addition to providing capacity for future build-out flows.*

The necessary improvements to provide service to the Matheny Tract (near-term solution) is constructing the 27-inch trunk main which would correct the existing City wastewater collection system deficiencies, provide the necessary capacity to serve Matheny Tract and previously approved development projects.

Considering that the 27-inch main does not provide sufficient capacity for ultimate City build-out, it would be impractical for the City to construct it only to need another trunk main in the same corridor to accommodate future development. For this reason, the City intends to construct the master-planned 42-inch trunk main to provide a long-term solution for the wastewater conveyance.

¹ The secondary sewer trunk main would be in addition to the existing sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue, not a replacement of the existing main. Both mains would be in operation to convey wastewater to the DWWTP.

Despite the City's intention to construct the 42-inch main, the Matheny Tract is responsible for their proportionate share of the hypothetical second¹ 27-inch main, based on flow apportionment. This share equates to 4.5 percent of the 27-inch or 42-inch trunk main, \$315,810 and \$558,900, respectively (as shown in Table 14 of the Capacity Analysis). The remaining percentage of the improvement cost will be borne by the City. No modifications of the DWWTP are attributable to the Matheny Tract wastewater flows.

3 Selected Alternative Modifications

As previously discussed, the selected alternative included construction of a wastewater collection system within Matheny Tract with one sewer lift station and a force main connection to the City's wastewater trunk main in Paige Avenue.

The result of the Capacity Analysis will lead to modification of the selected alternative to include construction of a 42-inch sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue from K Street where it currently ends to the DWWTP. Additionally, since the original PFR was prepared, the preliminary design has been completed for the collection system. The preliminary design includes modifications to the originally described recommended alternative, also. The following sections detail the revised recommended alternative including these modifications.

3.1 Selected Alternative Analysis

The analysis presented in the PFR provided several criteria for evaluating and ultimately selecting the preferred alternative (Alternative No. 2 is the selected alternative). Those criteria are summarized below and revised (where applicable) to including updated information from both the Capacity Analysis and preparation of the preliminary design for the collection system. The advantages and disadvantages of each alternative, as presented in the PFR, remain mostly unchanged; however, the disadvantage stated for Alternative No. 2 in Table 5-6 of the PFR, "Reluctance of the City to provide wastewater service in this area" has partially been mitigated based on ongoing discussions between the City, County and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency
Matheny Tract Wastewater System
 Technical Memorandum, Addendum to Project Feasibility Report

Table 3-1: Comparison of Alternatives

Comparison Basis	Alt No. 1 Onsite Septic Systems with District	Alt No. 2 – Consolidation with the City of Tulare [1]		Alt No. 3 – Community Collection & Treatment System
		Alt No. 2a	Alt No. 2b	
Capital Cost [2]	\$19,465,400	\$20,766,300	\$26,168,300	\$16,481,400
Annual O&M Cost [2]	\$251,400	\$162,000	\$162,000	\$487,431
Present Worth Cost of O&M (20 year at 3% Interest)	\$3,740,197	\$2,410,151	\$2,410,151	\$7,251,735
Project + Present Worth Cost [2]	\$23,205,597	\$23,176,451	\$28,578,451	\$23,733,135
Monthly User Charge [3]	\$74	\$48		\$143
Construction Challenges				
Difficulty identifying existing onsite improvements, including location of existing septic systems for purposes of constructing new septic system improvements	X			
Possible interconnection of onsite wastewater infrastructure similar to the conditions found during the Pratt MWC Water System Improvement project	X	X		X
Identifying and purchasing property for constructing a WWTP				X
Critical Concerns				
Creation of a Special District	X			X
Consolidation Agreement with the City of Tulare		X		
Does not address state priorities regarding protection of groundwater and centralized wastewater treatment	X			X
Ongoing operation of a collection system and a WWTP				X
Does not address RWQCB priorities for consolidation of wastewater systems	X			X

Notes:

[1] Alternative No. 2a refers to construction of a 27-inch main in Paige Avenue and Alternative No. 2b refers to construction of a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue, as previously discussed.

[2] The capital costs were updated for Alternatives No. 1 and 3 were updated based on current construction costs and an accurate number of connections determined during preliminary design. For purposes of comparing alternatives, the full capital cost of Alternative No. 2 has been utilized rather than the proportionate share attributable to Matheny Tract.

[3] The usage rates for Alternatives No. 1 and 3 increased due to a lesser number of connections determined during preliminary design. The usage rate for Alternative No. 2 is a reflection of the FY 17-18 City of Tulare Sewer Rate. This charge does not include loan repayment costs, if necessary.

Based on the information presented in Table 3-1, the updated ranking of the alternatives is provided below. As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative.

The preferred alternative is Alternative No. 2b, despite it not being the least expensive alternative. The reasons for this include the evaluation of other ranking criteria that continue to rank Alternative No. 2 as the preferred alternative and consistency with the City's Master Plan that shows a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue. Construction of a smaller main would necessitate the City removing and replacing the main or constructing a third main later, all of which are inefficient use of funds and would, overall, increase total cost of constructing a 27-inch main if replacement costs were considered (for purposes of this memorandum, evaluation of replacement costs has not been completed or included). For these reasons, Alternative 2a is not considered feasible, therefore Alternative 2b is the best ranked alternative and remains preferred.

Table 3-2: Ranking of Alternatives				
Comparison Category	Alternative Rating			
	Alt 1	Alt 2a	Alt 2b	Alt 3
Present Worth Cost	\$23,205,597	\$23,176,451	\$28,578,451	\$23,733,135
Present Cost Ranking	2	1	4	3
Monthly User Fees	2	1	1	3
Construction Challenges	2	1	1	2
Critical Concerns	3	1	1	4
Total Scoring	9	4	7	12

3.2 Project Description

The selected alternative includes construction of a wastewater collection system within the Matheny Tract, one lift station located near Pratt Street and Wade Avenue, a combination of 8-, 10- and 12-inch polyethylene vinyl chloride (PVC) gravity-flow sewer mains with manholes spaced at 350 feet, a lift station, a 4-inch high density polyethylene (HDPE) force main and a 27-inch or 42-inch sewer trunk main, pending City decision. It is anticipated the sewer trunk main will be reinforced concrete pipe (RCP).

3.3 Receptiveness of Agencies

The purpose of the Capacity Analysis was to verify what improvements are necessary to address the City's concerns regarding providing service to their existing customers without compromise with the addition of the Matheny Tract wastewater flows. This analysis and associated recommendations supports discussions between the City of Tulare, County of Tulare and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to reach an agreement on how the Matheny Tract Wastewater System project can proceed.

3.3.1 City of Tulare

The City of Tulare has indicated the City would be receptive to the project if the recommended improvements to their collection system are constructed in a manner that would not compromise the City's ability to serve its existing customers. With those recommendations finalized, the component of the project that would be the City's responsibility is the proportionate share of the 27-inch or 42-inch sewer trunk main (pending City decision) in Paige Avenue from K Street to the DWWTP. Discussions between the City, County of Tulare, and SWRCB can continue to identify possible funding mechanisms to fund both the Matheny Tract components of the project (discussed in more detail below) and the remaining City share of the sewer trunk main.

The City has indicated willingness to continue those discussions to come to a mutually advantageous agreement; however, the City has also indicated it is not willing to take on debt or financial obligation to provide service to the Matheny Tract. The City does not have funding reserved for the sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue now and will therefore be seeking financial assistance from the SWRCB or other funding sources to help fund its cost share to provide timely wastewater service to the Matheny Tract residents; however, other funding programs have not been identified.

3.3.2 County of Tulare

The County of Tulare is willing to work with the City and SWRCB to reach an equitable agreement with the intention of funding the Matheny Tract's project costs (both construction and non-construction) through a grant from the SWRCB. Neither the County nor the residents of Matheny Tract have the financial means to fund a project of this magnitude.

3.4 Project Cost Estimate

As mentioned above, the Matheny Tract Project would not be financially responsible for the entire cost of the sewer trunk main in Paige Avenue; they would be responsible for 4.5% of the cost to construct a 27-inch or 42-inch trunk main. The following Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, including O&M present worth, is shown below and includes the total estimated cost of the 27-inch and 42-inch mains in Paige Avenue for reference. A detailed Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (EOPCC) is included in the Appendix.

Table 3-3 shows a summary of the overall project cost, including all improvements to connect to the DWWTP for both the 27-inch and 42-inch options.

An agreement between the City, County and State would need to be reached on how the total cost of the trunk main would be paid before the Project could proceed.

Table 3-3: Total Project Cost Estimate		
Item Description	27-inch Alternative	42-inch Alternative
Matheny Tract Wastewater Collection System [1]	\$9,026,900	\$9,026,900
Capacity and Connection Fees [2]	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000
Contingency (20%)	\$1,805,400	\$1,805,400
Engineering & Construction Observation (15%)	\$1,354,000	\$1,354,000
Paige Avenue Trunk Main Total Cost [3]	\$7,018,000	\$12,420,000
Total Project Cost	\$20,766,300	\$26,168,300
Notes: [1] The collection system cost includes collection mains, a lift station and force main in Pratt Street to Paige Avenue. [2] The Capacity and Connection Fees are based on 284 services at \$5,500 per service. This fee would be payable to the City of Tulare upon completion of the project, as discussed in more detail in the PFR. [3] The Paige Avenue cost include contingency, engineering and construction observation components, as discussed in more detail in Appendix A and the Capacity Analysis.		

Table 3-4 shows a summary of the project cost separated by proportionate share attributable to the Matheny Tract and the remainder attributable to the City, including all improvements to connect to the DWWTP for both the 27-inch and 42-inch options.

Table 3-4: Project Cost Estimate with Proportional Share		
Item Description	27-inch Alternative	42-inch Alternative
Matheny Tract Wastewater Collection System [1]	\$9,026,900	\$9,026,900
Capacity and Connection Fees [2]	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000
Contingency (20%)	\$1,805,400	\$1,805,400
Engineering & Construction Observation (15%)	\$1,354,000	\$1,354,000
Paige Avenue Trunk Main (Matheny Proportional Share) [3]	\$315,810	\$558,900
Matheny Tract Proportional Share Subtotal	\$14,064,110	\$14,307,200
Paige Avenue Trunk Main (Remainder) [3]	\$6,702,190	\$11,861,100
Total Project Cost	\$20,766,300	\$26,168,300
Notes: [1] The collection system cost includes collection mains, a lift station and force main in Pratt Street to Paige Avenue. [2] The Capacity and Connection Fees are based on 284 services at \$5,500 per service. This fee would be payable to the City of Tulare upon completion of the project, as discussed in more detail in the PFR. [3] The Paige Avenue cost include contingency, engineering and construction observation components, as discussed in more detail in Appendix A and the Capacity Analysis.		

3.5 Project Schedule

The project schedule is provided below with an assumed start date of October 2017.

Table 3-5: Project Schedule Description	
Project Task	Notes
Conduct Community Outreach	Community outreach has been occurring and will continue.
Finalize Environmental Documents	The environmental documents will be adopted with adoption of this Technical Memorandum, anticipated by September 30, 2017.
Conduct Proposition 218 Election	The Prop 218 Election will begin once necessary agreements are in place.
Apply for Construction Funding	Construction Funding application submittal is anticipated by December 31, 2017. Receipt of funds could be more than a year depending on the funding agency and availability of funds.
Prepare Final Construction Documents	Draft Construction Documents are prepared to 90 percent level. Preparation of Final Construction Documents (including Paige Avenue improvements) will proceed once construction funding is received. This includes County legal counsel review time.
Construction Bidding	Timing provides for actual bidding activities, including bid advertisement, receipt and evaluation of bids, recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and approval to award construction contract.
Construction	Timing is based on construction of similar size and type of projects

Table 3-6: Project Timetable																					
Project Task	2017			2018												2019					
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Conduct Community Outreach																					
Finalize Environmental Documents																					
Conduct Proposition 218 Election [1]																					
Apply for Construction Funding																					
Prepare Final Construction Documents [1]																					
Construction Bidding																					
Construction [2]																					
Notes:																					
[1] Proposition 218 Election and Final Construction Documents can commence as soon as construction funding is received.																					
[2] Construction would extend beyond the limits of this schedule and is therefore not shown in its totality.																					

3.6 Permits Required for Implementation

The project will require permitting during the planning stage as well as construction permits. Table 3-7 lists the permits that will be required and what phase of the project they will be required during; this list may not be exhaustive depending on the timing of construction and permit requirements at that time.

Table 3-7: Selected Alternative Required Permitting		
Permit Name	Approving Agency	Project Phase
Extraterritorial Service Agreement	City of Tulare	Design
Railroad Crossing Agreement	Union Pacific Railroad	Design
CEQA/NEPA	County of Tulare	Design
Indirect Source Review	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Design
Railroad Crossing Agreement	Union Pacific Railroad	Design
Common Use Agreement	Tulare Irrigation District	Design
Report of Waste Discharge	Regional Water Quality Control Board	Design
Encroachment Permit	County of Tulare	Construction
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	SWRCB	Construction
Dust Control Plan	SJVAPCD	Construction

3.7 Key Issues

The key issues for the project are discussed below.

- *The Matheny Tract Community Acceptance*
 - The County has been conducted community outreach; however, additional community outreach will be conducted to ensure the community residents support the selected solution.
 - The property owners will be required to execute an agreement with the City and complete wastewater account setup prior to being connected to the proposed wastewater collection system.
- *City of Tulare Acceptance*
 - A letter of commitment backed by a City Council Resolution will be required prior to receiving funding and an agreement with each property owner will be required prior to approving construction of the improvements.
 - An agreement between the City and County will be required, detailing all the terms and conditions of sewer service provision, including the Paige Avenue Sewer Trunk Main improvements.
 - The Matheny Tract will not be annexed into the City through this project.
- *Obtain Construction Funding*
 - The selected alternative has a Matheny Tract Proportional capital improvement cost ranging between \$14.1M and 14.3M including Contingency, Engineering and Construction Services

(Inspection, Staking, Construction Engineer, etc.). The total capital improvement cost of the entire project ranges from \$20.8M to \$26.2M. This cost is further detailed in the Appendix.

- The SWRCB's Clean Water State Revolving Funding (CWSRF) financial assistance program for construction projects can provide a 100% grant, up to \$4M, for projects benefitting an SDAC with a wastewater rate between 1.5% and 2% of the community's MHI. The SWRCB may increase grant maximum with Board approval.
- A loan could be required on the remaining project costs. Terms would include repayment over 30 years at an interest rate of half the general obligation rate. If loan repayment is required it would necessitate creation of a Special Assessment District or a rate structure set by the governing entity providing a special assessment for the Matheny Tract residences and businesses. The special assessment cost has not been calculated due to uncertainty in amount of loan and interest rates. It is anticipated the County will seek full grant funding to avoid this assessment, necessitating special approval by the SWRCB.

Appendix

Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

**ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST
PRELIMINARY**

**MATHENY TRACT WASTEWATER STUDY
ALTERNATIVE NO. 1
ONSITE SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITH MAINTENANCE DISTRICT**

9/7/2017

ITEM NO.	QTY	BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Construction Costs				
1	1	Mobilization, Demobilization, Bonds and Insurance	\$200,000 / LS	\$200,000
2	1	Fugitive Dust Control	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
3	1	Worker Protection	\$50,000 / LS	\$50,000
4	1	Prepare and Implement SWPPP	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
5	284	Construct New Septic Systems	\$42,500 / EA	\$12,070,000
6	284	Abandon Existing Septic Systems	\$4,200 / EA	\$1,192,800
7	14,200	4" Service Line From House to New Tank	\$55 / LF	\$781,000
8	1	Miscellaneous Facilities & Operations	\$50,000 / LS	\$50,000
9	1	Permitting	\$15,000 / LS	\$15,000
Subtotal				\$14,418,800
Non-Construction Costs				
Contingency - 20%				\$2,883,800
Engineering & Construction Observation - 15%				\$2,162,800
Matheny Tract Project Capital Cost Total [1]				\$19,465,400

**ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST
PRELIMINARY**

**MATHENY TRACT WASTEWATER STUDY
ALTERNATIVE NO. 2
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND CONSOLIDATION WITH CITY OF TULARE**

9/7/2017

ITEM NO.	QTY	BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Construction Costs				
1	1	Mobilization, Demobilization, Bonds and Insurance	\$275,000 / LS	\$275,000
2	1	Traffic Control	\$150,000 / LS	\$150,000
3	1	Fugitive Dust Control	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
4	1	Worker Protection	\$50,000 / LS	\$50,000
5	1	Prepare and Implement SWPPP	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
6	1	Permitting	\$25,000 / LS	\$25,000
7	21,570	8-Inch SDR-26 PVC Sewer Main	\$70 / LF	\$1,509,900
8	919	10-Inch SDR-26 PVC Sewer Main	\$80 / LF	\$73,520
9	3,083	4-Inch HDPE Sewer Force Main	\$70 / LF	\$215,810
10	75	48" Sewer Manhole	\$12,000 / EA	\$900,000
11	5	48" Sewer Drop Manhole	\$12,000 / EA	\$60,000
12	2	Air Release Valve	\$4,000 / EA	\$8,000
13	85	Bore & Jack 4" Carrier Pipe w/8" Casing - Pratt Street	\$650 / LF	\$55,250
14	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Wade Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
15	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Beacon Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
16	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Addie Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
17	1	Lift Station	\$500,000 / EA	\$500,000
18	1	Electrical Controls and Lighting	\$200,000 / EA	\$200,000
19	282	4" Sewer Service	\$4,300 / EA	\$1,212,600
20	2	6" Sewer Service	\$5,500 / EA	\$11,000
21	284	Abandon Existing Septic Systems	\$4,400 / LF	\$1,249,600
22	284	Temporary Trench Resurfacing (Services)	\$33 / EA	\$9,372
23	284	Permanent Trench Resurfacing (Services)	\$33 / EA	\$9,372
24	314,000	Temporary Trench Resurfacing (Mains)	\$1.50 / LF	\$471,000
25	314,000	Permanent Trench Resurfacing (Mains)	\$6 / LF	\$1,884,000
Subtotal				\$9,026,900
Non-Construction Costs				
Capacity & Connection Fees (284 services @ \$5,500 each)				\$1,562,000
Contingency - 20%				\$1,805,400
Engineering & Construction Observation - 15%				\$1,354,000
Matheny Tract Project Capital Cost Total [1]				\$13,748,300
Paige Avenue Infrastructure Alternatives				
Alternative	Alternative Total Cost		Matheny Share	
24-inch RCP Sewer Trunk Main [2]	\$6,238,000		4.7%	\$293,186
27-inch RCP Sewer Trunk Main [2]	\$7,018,000		4.5%	\$315,810
42-inch RCP Sewer Trunk Main [2]	\$12,420,000		4.5%	\$558,900

Notes:

- [1] The Matheny Tract Project Capital Cost Total includes all improvements up to but not including the Paige Avenue improvements. Based on the Paige Avenue Alternative selected, the total project cost varies.
- [2] Paige Avenue infrastructure alternatives costs taken from Capacity Analysis, Table 14 and include a 20% construction contingency and 30% engineering, construction management and program implementation.

**ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST
PRELIMINARY**

**MATHENY TRACT WASTEWATER STUDY
ALTERNATIVE NO. 3
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND
LOCAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

9/7/2017

ITEM NO.	QTY	BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Collection System				
1	1	Mobilization, Demobilization, Bonds and Insurance	\$275,000 / LS	\$275,000
2	1	Traffic Control	\$150,000 / LS	\$150,000
3	1	Fugitive Dust Control	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
4	1	Worker Protection	\$50,000 / LS	\$50,000
5	1	Prepare and Implement SWPPP	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
6	1	Permitting	\$25,000 / LS	\$25,000
7	21,570	8-Inch SDR-26 PVC Sewer Main	\$70 / LF	\$1,509,900
8	919	10-Inch SDR-26 PVC Sewer Main	\$80 / LF	\$73,520
9	3,083	4-Inch HDPE Sewer Force Main	\$70 / LF	\$215,810
10	75	48" Sewer Manhole	\$12,000 / EA	\$900,000
11	5	48" Sewer Drop Manhole	\$12,000 / EA	\$60,000
12	2	Air Release Valve	\$4,000 / EA	\$8,000
13	85	Bore & Jack 4" Carrier Pipe w/8" Casing - Pratt Street	\$650 / LF	\$55,250
14	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Wade Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
15	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Beacon Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
16	50	Bore & Jack 8" Carrier Pipe w/16" Casing - Addie Avenue	\$650 / LF	\$32,500
17	1	Lift Station	\$500,000 / EA	\$500,000
18	1	Electrical Controls and Lighting	\$200,000 / EA	\$200,000
19	282	4" Sewer Service	\$4,300 / EA	\$1,212,600
20	2	6" Sewer Service	\$5,500 / EA	\$11,000
21	284	Abandon Existing Septic Systems	\$4,400 / LF	\$1,249,600
22	284	Temporary Trench Resurfacing (Services)	\$33 / EA	\$9,372
23	284	Permanent Trench Resurfacing (Services)	\$33 / EA	\$9,372
24	314,000	Temporary Trench Resurfacing (Mains)	\$1.50 / LF	\$471,000
25	314,000	Permanent Trench Resurfacing (Mains)	\$6 / LF	\$1,884,000
Subtotal Collection System				\$9,026,900
Treatment & Disposal				
1	1	Mobilization, Demobilization, Bonds and Insurance	\$125,000 / LS	\$125,000
2	1	Traffic Control	\$10,000 / LS	\$10,000
3	1	Fugitive Dust Control	\$15,000 / LS	\$15,000
4	1	Worker Protection	\$30,000 / LS	\$30,000
5	1	Prepare and Implement SWPPP	\$15,000 / LS	\$15,000
6	1	Influent Lift Station & Meter	\$42,500 / LS	\$42,500
7	1	Headworks Screen & Grit Removal	\$21,500 / LS	\$21,500
8	1	Headworks Structure	\$37,000 / LS	\$37,000
9	1	Equipment Package (Biolac)	\$475,000 / LS	\$475,000
10	200	Aeration Basin Concrete	\$1,100 / CY	\$220,000
11	1,400	Aeration Basin Excavation	\$16 / DY	\$22,400
12	250	Clarifier Concrete	\$1,100 / CY	\$275,000
13	480	Clarifier Excavation	\$16 / CY	\$7,680
14	1	Yard Piping	\$63,500 / LS	\$63,500

ITEM NO.	QTY	BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL
15	400	Blower & Generator Building	\$110 / SF	\$44,000
16	600	Office/Lab	\$265 / SF	\$159,000
17	1	Sludge Drying Beds	\$42,500 / LS	\$42,500
18	12,000	Site Grading and Finish	\$21 / SF	\$252,000
19	3	Groundwater Monitoring Wells	\$16,000 / EA	\$48,000
20	1	Electrical and Instrumentation	\$164,400 / LS	\$164,400
21	1	Backup Generator	\$80,000 / LS	\$80,000
22	64,500	Evaporation - Percolation Ponds	\$16 / CY	\$1,032,000
Subtotal Treatment & Disposal				\$3,181,500
Subtotal				\$12,208,400
Non-Construction Costs				
Contingency - 20%				\$2,441,700
Engineering & Construction Observation - 15%				\$1,831,300
Matheny Tract Project Capital Cost Total [1]				\$16,481,400

APPENDIX B
CEQA NOTICING

APPENDIX B.1
NOA FOR RDEIR
OPR/SCH SUBMITTAL



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD

VISALIA, CA 93277

PHONE (559) 624-7000

FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Notice of Availability of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project (SCH# 2017011028)

Attn: State Clearinghouse:

Enclosed are the following items included as part of Tulare County's NOA submittal for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project:

- 1 copy of the Notice of Completion;
- 1 Shortened Review Period Request Form with Attached Letter;
- 15 copies of the State Clearinghouse Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal;
- 15 copies of the RDEIR Executive Summary; and
- 15 CD's containing the Metheny Tract Wastewater System Project RDEIR.

As indicated in a conversation with Ms. Christine Asiata (OPR/SCH), a shortend 30-day review period has been approved and will commence on October 24, 2017 and end on November 22, 2017.

If you have questions or need additional materials, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

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 #2017011028**Project Title:** Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project**Lead Agency:** Tulare County Resource Management Agency**Contact Person:** Hector Guerra, Chief Env. Planner**Mailing Address:** 5961 S. Mooney Blvd.**Phone:** 559-624-7121**City:** Visalia**Zip:** 93277-9394**County:** Tulare County**Project Location:** County: TulareCity/Nearest Community: Matheny TractCross Streets: Canal St & Beacon Ave. and Matheny Ave & Prine Dr.Zip Code: N/ALat./Long: 36°10'20.90" N / 119°20'55.95" W and 36°10'01.11" N / 119°21'14.90" WTotal Acres: N/AAssessor's Parcel No: Various Section: 22, 23, 27 Township 20S Range 24E Base: M.D.B. & E.Within 2 Miles: State Hwy: SR 99 Airports: Mefford Field Railways: Union PacificWaterways: Tulare Irrigation Canal; Elk Bayou Ditch; Oakland Colony Ditch; Tulare CanalSchools: Valley High, Mulcahy Middle, Roosevelt Elementary, Lincoln Elementary; Cypress School

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR **NEPA:** ☐ NOI **Other:** ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI
☐ Mit Neg Dec ☒ Other: Recirculated Draft EIR ☐ Other _____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Dev. ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Sub.) ☒ Other: Feasibility Study.

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ ☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ 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 _____ MGD _____
☐ Recreational: _____ ☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ 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
☒ Archaeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☐ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducing
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☐ Solid/Waste ☒ Land Use
☐ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: Utilities
☒ Other: Tribal Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:Land Use: Community of Matheny Tract, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties

Zoning: As indicated in the City of Tulare Zone Map, forty -three (43) parcels within the City Limits south of Paige Avenue between Pratt Street and "K" Street are zoned M-2 (Heavy Industrial, totaling 298.14 acres) and one is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial, 2.06 acres). While lands north of Paige Avenue between Pratt Street and "K" Street, (from west to east) are zoned as follows: one R-1-6 (Suburban residential, totaling 38.11 acres; 3.1 to 7 dwelling units per acre), two R-1-5 (Suburban residential, totaling 38.41 acres; 3.1 to 7 dwelling units per acre), two M-2 (Heavy Industrial, totaling 59.81 acres), and two M-1 (Light Industrial, totaling 6.1 acres).

General Plan Designation: Tulare County: Matheny Tract Urban Area Boundary; City of Tulare: Suburban Residential, Light Industrial, and Heavy Industrial

Project Description:

The Matheny Tract community is not currently sewerred, having on-site septic systems to provide wastewater treatment on each lot. The average lot size in the community is approximately 0.5 acres; however, many lots have been split in half or have more than one residence on a single property. Due to the splitting of lots or construction of multiple dwellings on one lot, the effective lot size of many properties is less than 12,500 square feet, the minimum lot size the County allows for on-site septic systems.

The project analyzed in this recirculated draft Technical Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) are the Alternatives provided in the "Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare
- Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

However, based on new, additional information, two additional Alternatives are be considered in the Recirculated DEIR that were not previously considered:

- Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.); and
- Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.)

All the other components of the initial DEIR's Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare) remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main at Paige Avenue.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X." If the document has already been sent to the agency, denote that with an "s."

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # 5 (attn: Doug Patteson)
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of (Public School Construction)	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry & Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>City of Tulare</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County RMA – Flood Control</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County Association of Governments</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County RMA – Fire</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County LAFCO</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County RMA – Planning</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Tulare County RMA – Public Works</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Southern California Edison</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Southern California Gas Company</u>

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

Starting Date: October 24, 2017

Ending Date: November 22, 2017

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: N/A
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

Applicant: County of Tulare-RMA
Address: 5961 So. Mooney Blvd.
City/State/Zip: Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 624-7000

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Hector Guerra
Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner

Date: 10/19/17

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Reed Schenke
Reed Schenke, RMA Director / Environmental Assessment Officer

Date: 10/19/17

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



Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

c: file

Shortened Review Request Form

(To be filled out and signed by the **Lead Agency** and submitted with DEIR or Negative Declaration to SCH)

To: State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: **Tulare County Resource Management Agency**
Lead Agency **5961 S. Mooney Blvd.**
Address **Visalia, CA 93277**
Phone #: **(559) 624-7121**

SCH # **2017011028** Contact: **Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner**

Project Title: **Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project**

Project Location: **unincorporated community of Matheny Tract** **Tulare**
City *County*

Explain "exceptional circumstances" (CEQA, Section 15205(d)) for requesting a shortened review. Identify which of the 5 criteria in Appendix K are met for this project.

The County is requesting a 30-day review period of the DEIR commencing October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21091(e), CEQA Section 15205(d) Criterion 2, of Appendix K, to wit:

"The public project applicant is under severe time constraints with regard to obtaining financing or exercising options which cannot be met without shortening the review period."

The project must "close-out" by January 31, 2018 to meet CWSRF SCG funding agreement stipulations. As new, additional information changed consideration of alternatives to the project by including two previously unconsidered alternatives, the County is compelled by CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5 to recirculate a revised EIR. The shortened review period would allow RMA staff to provide written responses to any commenting public agency within 10-days of certification as required by CEQA section 15088(b). The shortened review period will allow the project to continue through the Recirculated DEIR review, public noticing, final EIR, and public hearing processes before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at their December 19, 2018 meeting.

List responsible and trustee state agencies with contact person, phone number and date of consent for the shortened review, as well as any agencies that have commented on the project (attach additional pages, if necessary):

David Deel, Caltrans District 6, (559) 448-7396, 10/17/17; Cedric Irving SWRCB, (916) 345-6983, 10/17/17;

Brian Clements SJVUAPCD, (559) 230-6000, 9/26/17; Renee Robison, CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife Region 4, (559) 243-4014, 10/18/17

As designated representative for the lead agency, I verify, in their behalf, that there is no "statewide, regional, or areawide significance" to this project.

Length of review being requested: 30 days

10/23/17
Today's Date

Hector Guerra
Print Name


Signature

Revised 2006

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 #: 20170811028

Project Title: Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency

Contact Name: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner

Email: hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us Phone Number: (559) 624-7121

Project Location: Matheny Tract, Tulare County

City

County

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

The project analyzed in this recirculated draft Technical Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) are the Alternatives provided in the "Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project: Alternative 1 - On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District; Alternative 2 - Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare; Alternative 3 - Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility; and Alternative 4 - No Build/No Project. However, based on new, additional information, two additional Alternatives are being considered in the Recirculated DEIR that were not previously considered: Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.); and Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.) All the other components of the initial DEIR's Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare) remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main at Paige Avenue.

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: Potential impacts to four special status plant species, San Joaquin kit fox, raptors and migratory birds, and other animals. Mitigation measures include pre-construction surveys, pre-construction employee education program, construction monitoring, avoidance measures, relocation/revegetation, and compensation.

Cultural (Archaeological, Paleontological, Historical) and Tribal Cultural Resources: Potential impacts from resources being unearthed as a result of project-related ground excavation. Mitigation measures include ceasing activities and establishing buffer areas until appropriate authorities are notified and appropriate measures are identified.

Transportation/Traffic: Potential impacts to motorist/pedestrian safety. Mitigation measures include use of fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs for adequate warning to the public.

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

There are no areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency.

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

Air Resources Board
Caltrans District #6
Central Valley Flood Protection Board
California Department of Conservation
Fish and Wildlife Region 4
Native American Heritage Commission
Office of Historic Preservation
Public Utilities Commission
Regional WQCB # 5 (Attn: Doug Patteson)
Resources Agency
SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
SWRCB: Water Quality
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Department of Water Resources
City of Tulare
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Southern California Edison
Southern California Gas Company
Tulare County Association of Governments
Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency
Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission
Tulare County RMA - Fire
Tulare County RMA - Flood Control
Tulare County RMA - Planning
Tulare County RMA - Public Works

Executive Summary

This Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR) concludes that the proposed Plainview Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project (“Project” or “Proposed Project”) would result in **No Substantial Impact** on the environment. The project analyzed in this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is Alternatives 5 and 6 provided in the *“Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017”* (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The Project would result in the construction of a wastewater main along Pratt Street/Road 96 (and lift station(s)) which will connect to an existing City of Tulare (City) wastewater trunk line (at Paige Avenue/Avenue 216); and construction of collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract. These collection lines would then inter-tie to the mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City’s wastewater trunk line and subsequently to the City’s wastewater treatment plant approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract.

The Recirculated DEIR has been prepared consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Its intent is to inform the public and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors of the potential environmental impacts the proposed Project could have on resources as specified in the CEQA Guidelines. This EIR, in its entirety, addresses and discloses potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts in the following resource areas:

Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources
Air Quality	Biological Resources
Cultural Resources	Geology and Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology and Water Quality	Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources	Noise
Population and Housing	Public Services
Recreation	Transportation/Traffic
	Utilities and Service Systems

Mandatory Findings of Significance

Although the Mandatory Findings of Significance is not a resource per se, it is required as it essentially provides a summary conclusion of the Project’s potential on Long Term Impacts; Cumulative Impacts; and Impacts to Species, Historical Resources, and on Human Beings. It is at this discussion where the EIR concludes that there would be no significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of this Project.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that local government agencies, prior to taking action on projects over which they have discretionary approval authority, consider

the environmental consequences of such projects. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a public disclosure document designed to provide local and state governmental agency decision makers with an objective analysis of potential environmental consequences to support informed decision-making. The initial Draft EIR (State of California Clearinghouse # 2017011028) and this Recirculated DEIR have been prepared by Tulare County in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15120 through §15131 and §15161 regulating EIRs to evaluate the environmental consequences of the Project, to discuss alternatives to the proposed Project, and to propose mitigation measures that will offset, minimize or avoid identified significant environmental impacts. This document focuses on issues determined to be potentially significant as discussed in the Initial Study and the public scoping process completed for this Project,

A Notice of Preparation stating the County's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on this project and requesting comments on the scope of the EIR as issued on January 13, 2017. The NOP announced that the County intended to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project and would conduct a Public Scoping Meeting. The NOP described the Project and issues to be addressed in the EIR and welcomed written responses to the NOP. It also announced the date, time and location of the Public Scoping Meeting, indicating that any interested party was invited to attend and express comments and concerns and ask questions about the Project and discuss potential environmental impacts that could result. On February 9, 2017, the RMA requested that OPR/SCH extend the comment period by 37-days to March 30, 2017. In addition to newspaper notification, and agencies notification, the NOP was also made available at the County's website at:

<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning/environmental-planning/notice-of-preparation-nop/matheny-tract-wastewater-system-nop-pdf/>

The Public Scoping Meeting was held during the initial 30-day NOP comment period on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 1:30 PM, in the Conference Room "L" of the Resource Management Agency at 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California to solicit input on the scope of the EIR. No agencies or other interested parties attended.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project analyzed in this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is the Alternatives provided in the "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Track Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project (Project) and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Alternative 1: | On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District |
| Alternative 2: | Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare |
| Alternative 3: | Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility |

Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

Following receipt of additional alternatives from the City of Tulare, this RDEIR was prepared to consider Alternatives 5 and 6 as follows

Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows.

Construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract and connection to collection lines in the various County rights-of-way abutting the homes and businesses would occur. These collection lines would then inter-tie to main lines that would deliver the wastewater to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant located near the intersection Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 (approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract). The wastewater main line would be constructed within the Pratt Street/Road 96 right-of-way extending from Matheny Tract to the City of Tulare's sewer trunk pipeline (at the intersection of Paige Avenue/Avenue 216). Depending on precise engineering designs, at least one lift station (or other appurtenant structures) may also be required. Pipelines would be installed via open-cut trenching; trenches would be closed upon completion of construction. Roadways would be repaved/resurfaced as needed and specified by the County of Tulare.

PROJECT LOCATION

The unincorporated Matheny Tract community is located less than 0.5 miles south of the City of Tulare in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. The initial Draft EIR was prepared using the Preferred Alternative as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the "Preferred/Proposed Project" as "the Project". As provided in this Recirculated DEIR, the Project retains the intent to connect to the City of Tulare's wastewater (sewer) collection system near Paige Avenue (Avenue 216) and Pratt Street (Road 96); however, Alternatives 5 and 6 are included for consideration.

The Project site is located approximately 60 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 25 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Matheny Tract comprises of a relatively flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Matheny Tract sits at an approximate elevation of 263 feet above mean sea level.¹

¹ Final Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System Tulare County, California. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group February 2016

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and "I" Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to "I" Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface; these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project is within the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, the north half of the southwest corner of Section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. It can be found within the Tulare United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

North Matheny (Canal Street and Beacon Avenue):

Latitude: 36°10'20.90" N

Longitude: 119°20'55.95" W

South Matheny (Matheny Avenue and Prine Drive):

Latitude: 36°10'01.11" N

Longitude: 119°21'14.90" W

As a whole community, Matheny Tract is approximately 0.5 miles west of State Route (SR) 99, two miles south of SR 137, and approximately three miles southeast of SR 63.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

Matheny Tract is unsewered and relies on individual on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal. The average lot size indicates adequate space for septic systems with a community water system; however, as noted above there are many lots with more than one dwelling and which may have more than one septic system onsite or have insufficient space to support efficient and effective septic effluent leaching. Additionally, many parcels have been divided, multiple times in some cases, to sizes as small as 6,000 square feet. Nearly 15% of the lots are now less than 12,500 square feet, which is the County of Tulare minimum lot size (see Tulare County Code 7-01-1350) for septic systems with a community water system

According to the 2010 Census data the population of the Matheny Tract is 1,212 people; however the American Community Survey (ACS) updates the housing estimates annually. The following table shows the data from the last three ACS 5-year estimates (prior population data is not available). Based on the population estimates shown above [Table 2-1: Community Population of the Report] and the building moratorium, it is not anticipated that population will

grow in the future. For the purposes of this project, it is assumed the population will remain at or near 1,200 individuals. The average household size was shown in the 2010 US Census as 3.79 persons.

The two major components of the Project are generally construction of the wastewater main line within the Pratt Street/Road 96 right-of-way extending from Matheny Tract to the City of Tulare's sewer trunk pipeline (and at least one lift station or other appurtenant structures) and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract and connection to collection lines in the various County rights-of-way abutting the homes and businesses. These collection lines would then inter-tie to the mainline leading to the City of Tulare's trunk line along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216. As indicated earlier, implementation of Alternatives 5 or 6 would result in a 27- or 42-inch diameter pipeline that would ultimately convey wastewater to the City of Tulare's WWTP.

Construction-related activities of the Project are anticipated to take place 8 hours a day for a total of 276 working days (approximately 9-12 months depending upon weather, holidays, and weekend work). It is anticipated that the Project's construction-related activities would require approximately eight (8) construction workers, depending on daily activities, resulting in an average of approximately 16 to 32 construction vehicle trips per day. Location of the pipeline will require construction activities in the middle of the road with equipment located on one side of the trench and materials and trench spoils on the other side of the trench. This will require continual traffic control around trenching activities. It is anticipated that two-way traffic will be maintained throughout most of the construction period. Construction-related activities of the Project would require temporary staging and storage areas for the materials and equipment.

Permits and approvals would require coordination with two regional agencies, Caltrans and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (Air District). Construction within road rights-of-way would require encroachment permits from Caltrans or the County of Tulare, dependent upon the specific right-of-way in question. The Air District has regulations in place to minimize the release of criteria pollutant emissions, specifically oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), during construction-related activities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS

Project Objectives

The following objectives are desirable if the Project is constructed as presented in the "Project Description".

Objective 1: Connection to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility

Benefit: Construct a system capable of accessing the City of Tulare wastewater treatment facility which would provide adequate on-site wastewater removal and treatment

services for Matheny Tract; (provide an average daily flow of 110,000 gpd to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses.).

Objective 2: *Abandonment of on-site septic tank/leach line systems*

Benefit: Eventual abandonment of the existing individual residential on-site septic tank/leach line systems located within Matheny Tract.

Objective 3: *Beneficial Environmental Impacts*

Benefit: Provide a system that has the least potential to result in adverse environmental impacts and would provide an environmental benefit by eliminating wastewater discharge from on-site system tanks into the ground.

Objective 4: *Avert a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility*

Benefit: Avoid construction of a stand-alone wastewater treatment facility (including percolation ponds) in Matheny Tract. This would be the most expensive Alternative to the Project and would likely result in an economic and unaffordable hardship to Matheny Tract's residents.

Objective 5: *Protect groundwater supply*

Benefit: Treat collected wastewater so as to remove constituents, such as BOD, suspended solids, nitrogen, and waterborne bacteria and viruses, to a greater extent, thereby improving subsurface water quality in the receiving groundwater basin relative to current environmental conditions.

Objective 6: *Cost-Efficiency*

Benefit: Provide the most cost-effective, safe, and reliable means to collect and treat wastewater to Title 22 standards.

Objective 7: *Affordable and Effective*

Benefit: Implement an as affordable fees schedule to efficiently and effectively maintain and operate the wastewater system to enhance the quality of life for Matheny Tract residents.

Tulare County Objectives

The Project's purpose is consistent with a summary of key 2030 Tulare County General Plan Policies, 2015-2030 Tulare County Housing Element Policies, and Action Program 9 – Housing Related Infrastructure Needs as stated below:

Key General Plan Policies

This RDEIR incorporates applicable General Plan Policies included as part of each resource discussion in Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR. Following is a summary of the 114 General Plan Policies the Project would support:

AG-1.7 Preservation of Agricultural Lands - The County shall promote the preservation of its agricultural economic base and open space resources through the implementation of resource management programs such as the Williamson Act, Rural Valley Lands Plan, Foothill Growth Management Plan or similar types of strategies and the identification of growth boundaries for all urban areas located in the County.

AG-1.10 Extension of Infrastructure into Agricultural Areas - The County shall oppose extension of urban services, such as sewer lines, water lines, or other urban infrastructure, into areas designated for agriculture use unless necessary to resolve a public health situation. Where necessary to address a public health issue, services should be located in public rights-of-way in order to prevent interference with agricultural operations and to provide ease of access for operation and maintenance. Service capacity and length of lines should be designed to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into urban/suburban uses.

AQ-1.3 Cumulative Air Quality Impacts - The County shall require development to be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that would minimize cumulative air quality impacts. Applicants shall be required to propose alternatives as part of the State CEQA process that reduce air emissions and enhance, rather than harm, the environment.

AQ-1.4 Air Quality Land Use Compatibility - The County shall evaluate the compatibility of industrial or other developments which are likely to cause undesirable air pollution with regard to proximity to sensitive land uses, and wind direction and circulation in an effort to alleviate effects upon sensitive receptors.

AQ-1.7 Support Statewide Climate Change Solutions - The County shall monitor and support the efforts of Cal/EPA, CARB, and the SJVAPCD, under AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Section 38501 et seq.), to develop a recommended list of emission reduction strategies. As appropriate, the County will evaluate each new project under the updated General Plan to determine its consistency with the emission reduction strategies.

ERM-1.1 Protection of Rare and Endangered Species - The County shall ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive wildlife and plant life, including those species designated as rare, threatened, and/or endangered by State and/or Federal government, through compatible land use development.

ERM-1.2 Development in Environmentally Sensitive Areas - The County shall limit or modify proposed development within areas that contain sensitive habitat for special status species and direct development into less significant habitat areas. Development in natural habitats shall be controlled so as to minimize erosion and maximize beneficial vegetative growth.

PFS-3.4 Alternative Rural Wastewater Systems - The County shall consider alternative rural wastewater systems for areas outside of community UDBs and HDBs that do not have current systems or system capacity. For individual users, such systems include elevated leach fields, sand filtration systems, evapotranspiration beds, osmosis units, and holding tanks. For larger generators or groups of users, alternative systems, including communal septic tank/leach field systems, package treatment plants, lagoon systems, and land treatment, can be considered.

HS-1.2 Development Constraints - The County shall permit development only in areas where the potential danger to the health and safety of people and property can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

HS-4.4 Contamination Prevention - The County shall review new development proposals to protect soils, air quality, surface water, and groundwater from hazardous materials contamination.

WR-2.1 Protect Water Quality - All major land use and development plans shall be evaluated as to their potential to create surface and groundwater contamination hazards from point and non-point sources. The County shall confer with other appropriate agencies, as necessary, to assure adequate water quality review to prevent soil erosion; direct discharge of potentially harmful substances; ground leaching from storage of raw materials, petroleum products, or wastes; floating debris; and runoff from the site.

WR-2.2 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement - The County shall continue to support the State in monitoring and enforcing provisions to control non-point source water pollution contained in the U.S. EPA NPDES program as implemented by the Water Quality Control Board.

PFS-1.8 Funding for Service Providers - The County shall encourage special districts, including community service districts and public utility districts to:

1. Institute impact fees and assessment districts to finance improvements,
2. Take on additional responsibilities for services and facilities within their jurisdictional boundaries up to the full extent allowed under State law, and

3. Investigate feasibility of consolidating services with other districts and annexing systems in proximity to promote economies of scale, such as annexation to city systems and regional wastewater treatment systems.

PF-6.4 UDBs and Interagency Coordination - The County shall use UDBs to provide a definition of an urban area for other planning programs, such as:

1. The area within the UDB should be considered as the same area for which water and sewer system planning may be needed and to be a consideration in the determination of an area required to adequately assess the availability and sufficiency of water supplies.

HS-8.18 Construction Noise - The County shall seek to limit the potential noise impacts of construction activities by limiting construction activities to the hours of 7 am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday when construction activities are located near sensitive receptors. No construction shall occur on Sundays or national holidays without a permit from the County to minimize noise impacts associated with development near sensitive receptors.

2015-2030 Tulare County Housing Element Policies

Policy 2.21 Require all proposed housing within the development boundaries of unincorporated communities is either (1) served by community water and sewer, or (2) that physical conditions permit safe treatment of liquid waste by septic tank systems and the use of private wells.

Action Program 9 – Housing Related Infrastructure Needs

Provide vital information used for planning and development purposes, target expansion or repair of infrastructure and municipal services to areas with the most need and secure Federal and State funding for housing-related infrastructure. Provide technical assistance to PUDs, CSDs, and Mutual to fund infrastructure improvement and expansion, ensure safe and adequate water and liquid waste disposal, and have an equitable balance of fees between new and existing residents.

PFS-2.5 New Systems or Individual Wells - Where connection to a community water system is not feasible per PFS-2.4: Water Connections, service by individual wells or new community systems may be allowed if the water source meets standards for quality and quantity.

Lastly, all one hundred fourteen (114) Policies are listed in Chapter 7.

Project Benefits Statement

As implementation of Alternatives 5 and 6 would be components of original Project, the overall Project would provide the following public and private benefits to Tulare County:

- 1) Collect an average daily flow of approximately 110,000 mgd in domestic wastewater and convey it (via a yet to be determined diameter pipeline along Paige Avenue/Avenue 216) to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant for treatment and disposal to meet the wastewater disposal requirements of existing residents, local businesses;
- 2) Reduce and/or remove the threat of potential groundwater contamination caused by seepage of wastewater from failing and improperly operating septic systems into the underground water supply in the Community and surrounding areas;
- 3) Design and construct a wastewater system capable of adequately servicing the existing land uses and planned growth within the Matheny Tract Urban Development Boundary; and
- 4) Operate and maintain a wastewater system as affordably and cost effectively as possible for the users of the system in Matheny Tract.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS

Chapter 1 Introduction

This Chapter provides an overview of the purpose and use of an EIR and the EIR process and describes this review and recirculation of the previously prepared DEIR. The County of Tulare is proposing a Project for the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract that would connect to the existing City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant, and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract. These collection lines which would then inter-tie to the mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City's wastewater trunk line and subsequently to the City's wastewater treatment plant approximately 0.5 miles north of Matheny Tract. The community is unsewered and relies on individual on-site septic systems for wastewater disposal.

The unincorporated Matheny Tract community is located less than 0.5 miles south of the City of Tulare in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. Matheny Tract. The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (North Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and "I" Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. Adjacent to "I" Street, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks are elevated approximately 10-feet above natural ground surface; these railroad tracks serve as a physical boundary between the City of Tulare and the Matheny Tract.

The southern portion (South Matheny) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction. The Matheny Tract is bordered by agriculture lands to the west, north and south; agriculture land also lies between the northern and southern portions of the community.

The Project is within the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 22, the north half of the southwest corner of Section 23, and the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 27,

Township 20 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. Matheny Tract is a community primarily comprised of rural residential properties with single-family dwelling units. The area has paved roads which are owned and maintained by the County of Tulare and provide sufficient circulation throughout the community. Of the 302 parcels included in this project, all but 17 are zoned R-A-M (Rural Residential, Special Mobile home Zone) (see Table 2-2 in Chapter 2 Project Description).

Local Regulatory Context: The Tulare County General Plan Update 2030 was adopted on August 28, 2012. As part of the General Plan, an EIR and background report were prepared. The General Plan background report contained contextual environmental analysis for the General Plan. The 2015 -2023 Tulare County Housing Element was adopted on November 17, 2015, and certified by State of California Department of Housing and Community Development on December 9, 2015.

Identification of Potentially Significant Impacts: Indicates that the EIR must identify potentially significant impacts consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15002 (h).

Consideration of Significant Impacts: Indicates that the EIR must consider significant impacts consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2.

Mitigation Measures: Indicates that the EIR is required to contain mitigation measures consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4.

Environmental Review Process: Summarizes steps taken prior to release of the draft EIR such as the Notice of Preparation, Scoping Meeting, and comments received from persons and/or agencies in response to the Notice of Preparation.

Chapter 2 Project Description, Objectives, and Environmental Setting

As noted earlier, the County of Tulare is proposing a Project for the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract that would connect to the existing City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant, and construction of wastewater collection laterals from each home or business within Matheny Tract, and connection to collection lines which would then inter-tie to mainline that would deliver the wastewater to the City of Tulare wastewater treatment plant.

In summary, Chapter 2 contains the following:

- **Project Location:** In addition to the location noted earlier, Alternatives 5 and 6 are located within Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 in/near the southwest quadrant of the City of Tulare, in Tulare County, California.
- **Vicinity of Project Site:** Generally, the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor, as shown in Figure 2-2.
- **Surrounding Land Uses:** Predominantly Agriculture.

- Project Setting (baseline conditions information pertinent to the proposed Project): Describes the existing septic tank/leach field systems, community water supply, existing water distribution system, water supply and wells, and required approvals/permits.
- Regulatory Setting: Applicable statutes, rules, regulations, standards, policies, etc. of the County of Tulare, local or special districts, utilities, and State and Federal governments.
- Project Objectives: (See page ES-5 and 6)

Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines include a Checklist of resources that must be addressed in an EIR. These resources are listed on page ES-1. There are 18 specific Resources and Mandatory Findings of Significance discussed in Chapter 3. It is noted that this RDEIR incorporates by reference the resources discussion contain in Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR. As such, this Chapter provides a comprehensive yet brief discussion in Tables 3-1; 3-2; and 3-3. The reader is guided to the resources discussions in separate sections of Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR where each section is structured as follows:

- Summary of Findings;
- Introduction, including Thresholds of Significance;
- Environmental Settings;
- Regulatory Settings such as applicable Federal, State, and Local laws, statutes, rules, regulations, and policies;
- Impact Evaluation including Project Impacts, Cumulative Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Conclusion;
- Definitions and Acronyms; and
- References.

Some resources required expertise to evaluate the Project's potential for impacts. As such, qualified experts prepared studies, evaluations, assessments, modeling, etc. (studies) to quantify and/or qualify potential resource impacts. The studies are contained in Appendices "A" through "H" in the initial Draft EIR and are incorporated herein by reference.

Chapter 4 Summary of Cumulative Impacts

A critically important component of an EIR is the Cumulative Impacts discussion. Chapter 4 discusses a Cumulative Impact Analysis under CEQA. Including Past, Present, Probable Future Projects; and a Summary of Cumulative Impacts. Whereas a project in and of itself may not result in an adverse environmental impact, its cumulative effects may. Therefore the CEQA Guidelines require a discussion of cumulative impacts per Section 15130. The Discussion of Cumulative Impacts defines cumulative impacts per Section 15355 - "Cumulative impacts" refers to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Tulare County, including the portion of the project near/within the City of Tulare, is the geographic extent for most impact analysis. This geographic area is the appropriate extent because of the following reasons:

1. The proposed Project is in Tulare County and County of Tulare is the Lead Agency; and
2. Tulare County General Plan polices applies to the proposed Project.

The basis for other resource specific cumulative impact analysis includes:

- For Aesthetics, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, and Land Use/Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Services Systems it is Tulare County and City of Tulare;
- For Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions it is the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin;
- For Agriculture, Mineral Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources it is County of Tulare County;
- For Biological Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley;
- For Cultural Resources it is the San Joaquin Valley; and
- For Hydrology it is the Tulare Lake Basin (including the City of Tulare).

The Summary of Cumulative Impacts section discusses mitigable and immitigable impacts. Checklist Item criteria that would result in no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation are discussed in the Chapter 3 and are not reiterated in Chapter 4. As noted in Chapter 4, there are no Significant and Unavoidable Impacts; and Less Than Significant Impacts Cumulative Impacts are summarized in Table 4-2. There are a number of cumulative impacts that do not need mitigation; these impacts are discussed in Table 4-2 (Checklist Items with Less Than Significant Impacts). Chapter 8 contains a complete list of Mitigation Measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Project.

Chapter 5 Alternatives

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 requires that a reasonable range of Alternatives to the proposed Project be discussed in the EIR. The proposed Project site is the superior location. The conclusion contained in Chapter 5 is based on the criteria established for the site, an evaluation of a reasonable potential site, and the six reasonable Alternatives, of which four Alternatives are carried-over from the initial DEIR. The four original Alternatives evaluated are:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and Consolidation with the City of Tulare (*Preferred Alternative*)

Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Conventional Wastewater System (that is, a new collection system and wastewater treatment facility for Matheny Tract)

Alternative 4: No project

Two Additional Alternatives are:

Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.

Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline which would result in the construction of a new 42-inch trunk main pipeline to serve Matheny Tract, provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare, and to provide capacity for future build-out flows

The proposed Alternatives were analyzed based on five evaluation criteria which include each of the objectives of the Project and the assessment of the potential environmental impacts. Each Alternative considered did not meet all the evaluation criteria, as identified in Table 5-3 (Alternatives Evaluation), contained in Chapter 5. The following is a summary of the Alternatives contained in the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report (Appendix "D" of this DEIR):

Alternative 1: - On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District. As indicated in the Feasibility Report, There are no known significant environmental impacts associated with the construction of the treatment facilities. Construction problems may include locating the new septic tanks within each property in Matheny Tract that meets access and visual sight requirements. The unknown location and condition of existing septic tanks dictates the assumption of needing new septic tanks. Formation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District would provide for some mitigation of failing septic tank systems through pumping and rehabilitation if appropriate. Advantages to this process include the simplicity of the treatment process. Disadvantages include the requirement for septic tanks within each property served (with an access easement and visual sight lines to the electrical control panel), and the need to add an anoxic tank to achieve denitrification. As noted earlier, the reliance upon on-site systems in an area with soils that are not favorable to on-site systems and small residential lots has the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts. As such, Alternative 1 is not superior to the Preferred Alternative and is not considered a viable Alternative.

Alternative 3: – Gravity Collection System with conventional treatment (that is, a new collection system and wastewater treatment facility in Matheny Tract). Construction of a New Matheny Tract Wastewater Treatment Facility could potentially meet all of the Project objectives, but would not attain all the Alternatives Evaluation Criteria, in particular, providing a

system as affordable as possible for the community with the least environmental impact. As a low-income community, the residents would not likely have the resources to afford paying through user fees for the amortized costs of a constructing a complete new wastewater treatment plant infrastructure. Further, this Alternative would result in more significant impacts to air quality, agricultural, biological, cultural, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise resources compared to the Preferred Alternative resulting from development of an additional acreage (+/- 20.0 acres) and the establishment of support staff (for example, a business office to support operations and maintenance). Therefore, this Alternative would not meet the criteria as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Alternative 4 – No Project Alternative. The No Project Alternative would avoid all potential construction- and operations-related impacts related to agricultural land conversion, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and traffic resulting from the Preferred Alternative and each of the other Alternatives identified earlier. However, the No Project Alternative would not meet the Evaluation Criteria of eliminating the potentially significant public health-related impacts the community is currently experiencing. Therefore, the consideration of the No Project alternative being the environmentally superior alternative would require the judgment of whether in balance, eliminating or avoiding certain impacts is of greater benefit environmentally than avoiding certain other impacts. The No Project Alternative, while avoiding most impacts related to the physical environment resulting from the Project, would not avoid, resolve, or remedy the existing or future potential impacts related to human health from unsanitary conditions and/or water quality contamination by the continued use of individual septic tanks and leach fields. Therefore, this Alternative would not meet the criteria as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

As discussed in Alternatives 1 and 3, each of the Alternatives could result in more adverse environmental impacts as specified on the CEQA resources checklist. Therefore, the proposed Project is the environmentally superior alternative.

Environmental impacts associated with each of the alternatives presented compared to the Preferred Alternative are shown in **Table 5-2 Impacts of Alternatives Compared to Preferred Alternative Connection to City of Tulare WWTP** while **Table 5-3** is a matrix comparing each Alternative's and the Preferred Alternative's abilities to achieve the Evaluation Criteria.

As discussed in Alternatives 1 through 4, each of the Alternatives could result in more adverse environmental impacts as specified on the CEQA resources checklist. However, Alternatives 5 and 6 would result in similar impacts as original Alternative 2. Therefore, the proposed Project is the environmentally superior alternative. As indicated in the PFR Addendum, "Based on the information presented in Table 3-1 [Table 2-1 in the RDEIR], the updated ranking of the alternatives is provided below. As the ranking indicates, Alternative No. 2 (with either size main), the previously selected alternative, continues to be the preferred alternative.

The preferred alternative is Alternative No. 2b, despite it not being the least expensive alternative. The reasons for this include the evaluation of other ranking criteria that continue to

rank Alternative No. 2 as the preferred alternative and consistency with the City's Master Plan that shows a 42-inch main in Paige Avenue. Construction of a smaller main would necessitate the City removing and replacing the main or constructing a third main later, all of which are inefficient use of funds and would, overall, increase total cost of constructing a 27-inch main if replacement costs were considered (for purposes of this memorandum, evaluation of replacement costs has not been completed or included). For these reasons, Alternative 2a is not considered feasible, therefore Alternative 2b is the best ranked alternative and remains preferred."²

Chapter 6 Economic, Social, & Growth Inducing Impacts

This Chapter discusses the Economic, Social, and Growth Inducing effects of the Project. It contains Table 6-1 which provides the CEQA requirements and a summary of the impact analysis as follows:

- Economic Effects - The proposed Project will not result in negative impacts to the region. It may result in an increase in economic benefits to the region since the Project consists of the quarrying of aggregates for road base and concrete mixing. That will meet demand.
- Social Effects - The Project will not result in a disproportionate effect on minority populations, low income populations, or Native Americans. The proposed Project would not create nor pose any adverse environmental justice issues.
- Growth Inducing Effects - The Project will not result in significant growth inducing impacts, as it will not result in significant new permanent jobs. Therefore, the Project does not need to rely on the available housing stock to accommodate permanent employees associated with the Project. The Project will not result in new housing; therefore growth inducing impacts will be less than significant.

The overall conclusion contained in Chapter 6 is implementation of the proposed Project will result in ***Less Than Significant*** environmental impacts, either individually or cumulatively, caused by either economic, social, or growth inducing effects.

Chapter 7 Unmitigable Impacts

This discussion provides determinations consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126.2 (b) Environmental Effects That Cannot Be Avoided, 15126.2 (c) Irreversible Impacts, and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

This Project will not result in significant and unavoidable impacts. All impacts have been found to be less than significant, or have been mitigated to a level considered less than significant.

² Matheny Tract Wastewater System Technical Memorandum, Addendum to Project Feasibility Report. Page 5. Prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, September 2017.

Based on the analysis contained in the No Environmental Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided and the No Irreversible Impact sections contained in Chapter 7, a Statement of Overriding Considerations is not necessary. The Project's merits and objectives are discussed in the Project Description and are found to be consistent with the intent of the County of Tulare and its 2030 General Plan. As noted earlier, there are one hundred fourteen (114) General Plan Policies that apply to this Project. Chapter 3 refers the reader to Chapter 3 of the initial Draft EIR as this document provides a complete list of applicable policies for the specific Resource item discussed. Thus, the Project's benefits would outweigh any unavoidable and immitigable impacts to warrant a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Chapter 8 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

A summary of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is contained at the end of this Executive Summary [as Table 8-1] and in its entirety in Chapter 8. CEQA Section 21081.6 requires adoption of a reporting or monitoring program for those measures placed on a project to mitigate or avoid adverse effects on the environment. The mitigation monitoring and reporting program is required to ensure compliance during a project's implementation. Consistent with CEQA requirements, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program contained in this EIR include the following elements:

- **Action and Procedure.** The mitigation measures are recorded with the action and procedure necessary to ensure compliance. In some instances, one action may be used to verify implementation of several mitigation measures.
- **Compliance and Verification.** A procedure for compliance and verification has been outlined for each action necessary. This procedure designates who will take action, what action will be taken and when, and to whom and when compliance will be reported.
- **Flexibility.** The program has been designed to be flexible. As monitoring progresses, changes to compliance procedures may be necessary based upon recommendations by those responsible for the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. As changes are made, new monitoring compliance procedures and records will be developed and incorporated into the program.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS & MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Based on the disturbed condition of the majority of the sites, reasonable inferences were made that it was unlikely that any of the sensitive species listed would actually occur onsite. However, this Project does not preclude the opportunity for special status species from accessing or traveling through the site prior or post construction phases; including areas contained in Alternative 6 (i.e., the Paige Avenue/Avenue 216 corridor). Historically, there have been records of special status species in the vicinity of the proposed Alternatives. Within the context of CEQA, potential impacts could result in significant impacts (especially in the event Alternative 3 (standalone Matheny Tract Community Wastewater Treatment Facility) is chosen), implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-1 through 3.4-7 would reduce potential impacts to <i>Less Than Significant</i> .							
Plant Species							
Impact: Four (4) special status species are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project action area. As shown in the CNDDDB results (Appendix "B"), the presence of Swainson's hawk was indicated within 10 miles of the site in the last 10 years. No evidence is available to suggest that other raptor species are within the vicinity of the Project site (for example, through CNDDDB information and existing uses; such as residential uses, commercial uses, roadways, etc., and the absence of suitable trees for nesting).		.					
Bio 3.4-1 Avoidance: Special Status plant species: No impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, however, as a measure to ensure that no species occur in these areas prior to construction, if either Alternatives 2 or 3 are selected, pre-construction surveys shall be required before construction. Surveys should be	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless pre-construction survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Field survey by a qualified Biologist.			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
timed to coincide with flowering periods for species that could occur (March-May).		mitigation should occur as recommended following coordination with Governing Entity.					
Bio 3.4-2., Minimization (Special Status Plant Species): Because no impacts to Special Status plant species are anticipated, no minimization is required, but see Mitigation Measure 3.4-1 as well. If pre-construction surveys detect special status plant species, transplantation, project modification and/or compensation shall be employed.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist.			
Bio 3.4-3. Compensation (Special Status plant species): No compensation is anticipated as part of the Alternatives. If Special Status plant species are detected during pre-construction surveys in the action areas or impact footprints, compensation for impacts shall be required to compensate for impacts.	Prior to construction-related activities.	As needed if special status species are detected.	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Qualified biologist working with USFS and/or CFW			
Bio 3.4-4. Monitoring (Special Status plant species): No monitoring is required. If pre-construction surveys detect plant species along the alignments/action areas, or impact footprints, but can be avoided, construction monitoring shall be required to ensure avoidance of those sensitive areas.	During construction-related activities.	On-going during construction-related activities	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services.	Construction manager with oversight by qualified biologist.			
Animal Species							
Bio 3.4-5. Avoidance (Special Status Animal Species): Impacts to all kit fox dens, potential	Prior to start of construction.	Once within 30 days of construction, unless	Governing Entity established for	Field survey by a qualified			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
raptor nests and other animals located along the alignments shall be avoided.		pre-construction survey results in new recommendation for further study and mitigation. Then mitigation should occur as recommended following coordination with Governing Entity.	operating the Wastewater System Services.	Biologist.			
Bio 3.4-6. Minimization (Special Status Animal Species): Minimization measures assume that some level of impact will occur (that some level of disturbance occurs). Under this approach, the Agency shall consult with DFW/USFWS. As the Agency initiates this process they can offer to perform the following measures as part of their permitting process with the agencies in order to help minimize impacts to the kit foxes, raptors and other species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetate disturbed areas with trees and grass from on the site or adjacent areas; • Conduct employee education programs to inform workers about sensitive biological resources they may encounter and what they should do to minimize potential impacts. 	Implemented only if sensitive species are encountered.						
3.4-7 Monitoring (Special Status Animal Species): If pre-construction surveys detect	During construction.	As needed during construction.	Governing Entity.	Determination by qualified			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>listed or protected species along any of the project alternatives, while construction occurs, a biologist will need to be on-site to educate workers, monitor compliance, [ensure implementation of] best management practices and to identify and protect natural resources, including Special Status Species. The monitor will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to prevent disturbance of core avoidance areas. Any unauthorized take of Special Status species will be immediately reported to DFW by the monitor. The monitor will also notify the Project Coordinator who will stop work until corrective measures are implemented.</p> <p>The designated Project Coordinator and the designated monitor for this Project will need to be established if Agency decides to pursue mitigation and monitoring.</p>				biologist.			
CULTURAL RESOURCES:							
Cul 3.5-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Preferred/ Proposed Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the resource finds by	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend further actions			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
specialists shall provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.			a qualified archaeologist	that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable laws including CEQA.			
Cul 3.5-2 - The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbing activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources requires further study. The project proponent shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Tulare County Resource Management Agency and the project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the find is determined to be significant and the Tulare County Resource	During Construction	Daily or as needed throughout the construction period if suspicious resources are discovered	Governing Entity established for operating the Wastewater System Services via field evaluation of the resource finds by a qualified archaeologist	A qualified archaeologist shall document the results of field evaluation and shall recommend further actions that shall be taken to mitigate for unique resource or human remains found, consistent with all applicable laws including CEQA.			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
Management Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the project.							
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC							
Trans 3.16-1 - Fences, barriers, lights, flagging, guards, and signs will be installed as determined appropriate by the public agency having jurisdiction to give adequate warning to the public of the construction and of any potentially dangerous condition to be encountered as a result thereof.	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Governing Entity established for constructing and operating the Wastewater System Services via specific contractual requirements and via on-going review of records kept by contractor to document compliance	Maintenance by contractor of documentary evidence of compliance. Such records to be provided to County of Tulare / Governing Entity upon request			
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES							
TCR 17-1 - In the event that historical, archaeological or paleontological resources are	During Construction	On-going during construction-related	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
discovered during site excavation, the County shall require that grading and construction work on the Project site be immediately suspended until the significance of the features can be determined by a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist. In this event, the property owner shall retain a qualified archaeologist / paleontologist to provide recommendations for measures necessary to protect any site determined to contain or constitute an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a unique paleontological resource or to undertake data recover, excavation analysis, and curation of archaeological or paleontological materials. County staff shall consider such recommendations and implement them where they are feasible in light of Project design as previously approved by the County.	activities	activities		/ Local Tribe			
TCR – 17-2 Consistent with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15064.5, if human remains of Native American origin are discovered during Project construction, it is necessary to comply with State laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Public Resources Code Sec. 5097). In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any	During Construction activities	On-going during construction-related activities	County of Tulare / Contractor	County of Tulare / NAHC / Local Tribe			

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</p>							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
<p>human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, the following steps should be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Tulare County Coroner/Sheriff must be contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and b. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. ii. The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. iii. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code section 							

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Table 8-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program							
Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Timing / Frequency	Action Indicating Compliance	Monitoring Agency	Person Responsible for Monitoring / Reporting	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
5097.98, or 2. Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall reburial the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. a. The Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify a most likely descendent or the most likely descendent failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission. b. The descendant fails to make a recommendation; or c. The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent.							

Chapter 9 EIR Preparation

Key persons from the County of Tulare and the consulting firms that contributed to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) are identified.

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report
Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

The sitting Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Tulare County Resource Management Agency RMA Director (Reed Schenke), Associate RMA Director/Economic Development and Planning Director (Michael Washam), Chief Environmental Planner (Hector Guerra) are noted.

This EIR also relied on the expertise of the consulting firm Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group in preparing the “Matheny Tract “Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report”, which is included as Appendix “D” of this EIR.

APPENDIX B.1
NOA FOR RDEIR
NEWSPAPER NOTICE

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH # 2017011028

Project Title:

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project (State Clearinghouse # 2017011028).

Project Location:

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (Matheny North) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and I Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. The southern portion (Matheny South) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction.

Project Description:

The project consists of a new wastewater system for the Matheny Tract community. The proposed project includes the construction of: a new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract; one (or more) lift stations (including new points of electric service); sewer laterals from each property with connection to each existing residence; and construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street from Matheny Tract to connect to the City of Tulare's yet to be determined 27- or 42-inch diameter sized sewer main at Paige Avenue (Avenue 216) and Pratt Street (Avenue 96). Additional project-related components include in-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields.

Nature of the Recirculated DEIR:

The Matheny Tract community is not currently sewered. As such, each parcel uses on-site septic systems to provide wastewater disposal.

The project analyzed in this recirculated draft Technical Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) are the Alternatives provided in the *“Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017”* (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Tract Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare
- Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

However, based on new, additional information, two additional Alternatives are to be considered in the Recirculated DEIR that were not previously considered:

- Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.); and
- Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to

serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.)

All the other components of the initial DEIR's Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare) remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main in Paige Avenue. Therefore, the focus of the Recirculated DEIR is Alternatives 5 and 6.

EIR Availability:

A copy of the Recirculated DEIR, as well as the Matheny Tract Wastewater System – Feasibility Study, are available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

A copy of the DEIR and Feasibility Study (on disk) may also be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Tulare Branch Library
475 North Main Street
Tulare, CA 93274

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tipton Branch Library
301 East Woods
Tipton, CA 93272

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 pm – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Recirculated DEIR can be found at Tulare County Web Site:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

Contact for More Information: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121 (para Espanol llame Timothy Bailey (559) 624-7101).

The Recirculated DEIR has a shortened review period of **30** days, starting on **October 24, 2017** and ending **November 22, 2017**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the DEIR should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the Recirculated DEIR established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at a date to be determined later. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Reed Schenke,
Director, Resource Management Agency

TO BE PUBLISHED ONCE ONLY ON: October 24, 2017

SEND BILL AND TEAR SHEET TO:

TUL CO RESOURCE MGMT.

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD.

VISALIA, CA 93277-9394

SEND TO: Visalia Times Delta

APPENDIX B.3
NOA FOR RDEIR
AGENCY / TRIBAL NOTICE (RDEIR)

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH # 2017011028

Project Title:

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project to allow the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract to connect its wastewater system to the City of Tulare's wastewater trunk line. In addition, each individual septic system within Matheny Tract would be properly abandoned. (State Clearinghouse # 2017011028).

Project Location:

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (Matheny North) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and I Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. The southern portion (Matheny South) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction.

Project Description:

The project consists of a new wastewater system for the Matheny Tract community. The proposed project includes the construction of: a new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract; one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service; sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence; and construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue to accommodate connection to the City of Tulare's existing 27-inch diameter sewer main at Paige Avenue and K Street. Additional project-related components include: the in-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields.

Nature of the Recirculated DEIR:

The Matheny Tract was originally developed in the 1960s as two tracts, the first on the northeast corner of Addie Avenue and Road 96 (Pratt Street) and the second south of the West Oakland Colony Ditch and east of Road 96. The northern portion of the community was developed with predominantly 1-acre or near-1-acre parcels, while the southern portion was developed with mostly 0.5-acre parcels.

The Matheny Tract community is not currently sewered, having on-site septic systems to provide wastewater treatment on each lot. The average lot size in the community is approximately 0.5 acres; however, many lots have been split in half or have more than one residence on a single property. Due to the splitting of lots or construction of multiple dwellings on one lot, the effective lot size of many properties is less than 12,500 square feet, the minimum lot size the County allows for on-site septic systems.

The project analyzed in this recirculated draft Technical Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) are the Alternatives provided in the "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Track

Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare
- Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

However, based on new, additional information, two additional Alternatives are be considered in the Recirculated DEIR that were not previously considered:

- Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.); and
- Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.)

All the other components of the initial DEIR's Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare) remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main in Paige Avenue. Therefore, the focus of the Recirculated DEIR is Alternatives 5 and 6.

Project Benefits:

The objective of the project is to provide the community with a viable, sustainable solution for its wastewater disposal needs.

The expected benefits of the project include the following:

1. Eliminating the continuation of groundwater contamination due to septic system usage
2. Provide assistance to a Disadvantaged Community
3. End reliance on aging and failing individual septic systems
4. Eliminate individual exposure to major repair costs
5. Establish affordable and stable wastewater disposal charges

Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:

The Project's potentially significant environmental impacts as a result of the Recirculated DEIR include: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures are recommended, where feasible, to mitigate potentially significant impacts.

EIR Availability:

A copy of the Recirculated DEIR, as well as the Matheny Tract Wastewater System – Feasibility Study, are available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South

Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

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Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 pm – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Recirculated DEIR can be found at Tulare County Web Site:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

Contact for More Information: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121 (para Espanol llame Timothy Bailey (559) 624-7101).

The Recirculated DEIR has a shortened review period of **30** days, starting on **October 24, 2017** and ending **November 22, 2017**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the DEIR should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the Recirculated DEIR established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at a date to be determined later. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Reed Schenke,
Director, Resource Management Agency



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD
VISALIA, CA 93277
PHONE (559) 624-7000
FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Delia Dominguez, Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, Ca 93305

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Chairperson Dominguez,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

New project-related information was identified during the 45-day DEIR review period, and as such, the County has incorporated this information into the DEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5, the County is recirculating the DEIR for a shortened 30-day review period, as approved by the Office of Planning and Research, beginning October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017.

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (returned on January 10, 2017), indicated negative results for the project area and the NAHC recommended consultation with your Tribe. These results are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent SLF search was requested on September 28, 2017. As results of the subsequent SLF are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

California Historical Resources Information System Search

A California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search for the project area was requested through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) on January 6, 2017. Results of the CHRIS search (dated January 19, 2017) indicate that there are no recorded cultural resources within the project area and it is not known if any exist there. The search also indicates that there is one recorded resource, the Tulare Irrigation Canal, within a one half mile radius. There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks. Results of the CHRIS search are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent CHRIS search was requested on October 16, 2017. As the results of the subsequent request are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

Notice of Availability

The NOA for the RDEIR is enclosed. The NOA and RDEIR will be made available on the County website beginning October 24, 2017, at:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information. If you need immediate assistance and I am unavailable, please contact Jessica Willis, Planner IV, by phone at (559) 624-7122, or by email at jwillis@co.tulare.ca.us.

Sincerely,



for Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD

VISALIA, CA 93277

PHONE (559) 624-7000

FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Rueben Barrios Sr., Chairperson
P. O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Chairperson Barrios,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

New project-related information was identified during the 45-day DEIR review period, and as such, the County has incorporated this information into the DEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5, the County is recirculating the DEIR for a shortened 30-day review period, as approved by the Office of Planning and Research, beginning October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017.

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (returned on January 10, 2017), indicated negative results for the project area and the NAHC recommended consultation with your Tribe. These results are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent SLF search was requested on September 28, 2017. As results of the subsequent SLF are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

California Historical Resources Information System Search

A California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search for the project area was requested through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) on January 6, 2017. Results of the CHRIS search (dated January 19, 2017) indicate that there are no recorded cultural resources within the project area and it is not known if any exist there. The search also indicates that there is one recorded resource, the Tulare Irrigation Canal, within a one half mile radius. There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks. Results of the CHRIS search are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent CHRIS search was requested on October 16, 2017. As the results of the subsequent request are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

Notice of Availability

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<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information. If you need immediate assistance and I am unavailable, please contact Jessica Willis, Planner IV, by phone at (559) 624-7122, or by email at jwillis@co.tulare.ca.us.

Sincerely,



for

Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD
VISALIA, CA 93277
PHONE (559) 624-7000
FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Cultural Department
Hector Franco, Director
P. O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Mr. Franco,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

New project-related information was identified during the 45-day DEIR review period, and as such, the County has incorporated this information into the DEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5, the County is recirculating the DEIR for a shortened 30-day review period, as approved by the Office of Planning and Research, beginning October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017.

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (returned on January 10, 2017), indicated negative results for the project area and the NAHC recommended consultation with your Tribe. These results are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent SLF search was requested on September 28, 2017. As results of the subsequent SLF are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

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Thank you for your consideration on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information. If you need immediate assistance and I am unavailable, please contact Jessica Willis, Planner IV, by phone at (559) 624-7122, or by email at jwillis@co.tulare.ca.us.

Sincerely,



for
Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
Cultural Department
Shana Powers, Cultural Specialist
P. O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Ms. Powers,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

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Sincerely,



for Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Table Mountain Rancheria
Leanne Walker-Grant, Chairperson
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA, 93626

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Chairperson Walker-Grant,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

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Sincerely,



for Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Table Mountain Rancheria
Bob Pennell, Cultural Resource Director
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA, 93626

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Mr. Pennell,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

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Sincerely,



 Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD

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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Michael Mirelez, Cultural Resource Coordinator
P. O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Mr. Mirelez,

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

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Sincerely,



for Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Chairperson Peyron,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

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Sincerely,



 Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
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Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Tule River Indian Tribe
Joseph Garfield, Council Member
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Council Member Garfield,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

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Notice of Availability

The NOA for the RDEIR is enclosed. The NOA and RDEIR will be made available on the County website beginning October 24, 2017, at:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information. If you need immediate assistance and I am unavailable, please contact Jessica Willis, Planner IV, by phone at (559) 624-7122, or by email at jwillis@co.tulare.ca.us.

Sincerely,



for Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Attachment: Notice of Availability



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD

VISALIA, CA 93277

PHONE (559) 624-7000

FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam

Reed Schenke

Sherman Dix

Economic Development and Planning

Public Works

Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Tule River Indian Tribe
Environmental Department
Kerri Vera, Director
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Ms. Vera,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

New project-related information was identified during the 45-day DEIR review period, and as such, the County has incorporated this information into the DEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5, the County is recirculating the DEIR for a shortened 30-day review period, as approved by the Office of Planning and Research, beginning October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017.

Sacred Lands File Search

A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (returned on January 10, 2017), indicated negative results for the project area and the NAHC recommended consultation with your Tribe. These results are included in Appendix "C" of the RDEIR. A subsequent SLF search was requested on September 28, 2017. As results of the subsequent SLF are pending, the results will be made available to your tribe if written request is submitted to the County during the 30-day public review/comment period; otherwise, the results will be made available upon the release of the Final RDEIR.

California Historical Resources Information System Search

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Thank you for your consideration on this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information. If you need immediate assistance and I am unavailable, please contact Jessica Willis, Planner IV, by phone at (559) 624-7122, or by email at jwillis@co.tulare.ca.us.

Sincerely,



 Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD
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FAX (559) 730-2653

Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Tule River Indian Tribe
Felix Christman, Tribal Archaeological Monitor
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Mr. Christman,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

Pursuant to CEQA § 21091 the County circulated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project for a 45-day review period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on August 14, 2017. Appendix C of the DEIR included the results of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and the results of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search. The County did not receive written comments from your Tribe within the 45-day DEIR review period.

New project-related information was identified during the 45-day DEIR review period, and as such, the County has incorporated this information into the DEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5, the County is recirculating the DEIR for a shortened 30-day review period, as approved by the Office of Planning and Research, beginning October 24, 2017, and ending on November 22, 2017.

Sacred Lands File Search

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Sincerely,



Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
Environmental Planning Division
(559) 624-7121
hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

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Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Chairperson Woodrow,

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (County) previously submitted a Project Notification and Notice of Preparation, dated January 12, 2017, requesting consultation with your Tribe pursuant to the provisions of AB 52. The County did not receive a written response for consultation from your Tribe within the 30-day consultation request period.

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for Hector Guerra
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Environmental Planning Division
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Michael Washam	Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke	Public Works
Sherman Dix	Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2017

Wuksache Tribe
John Sartuche
1028 East "K" Street
Visalia, CA 93292

RE: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)
for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report

Dear Mr. Sartuche,

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Sincerely,



 Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner
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