



REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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

Subject: Revised Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2008101138)

Project: Morro Bay–Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Lead Agency: City of Morro Bay

Date: October 13, 2009

The City of Morro Bay as the Lead Agency is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Morro Bay–Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project (proposed project). The proposed project would be implemented in conjunction with the Cayucos Sanitary District (CSD), which shall serve as a Responsible Agency under CEQA.

On October 28, 2008, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed project was distributed to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, and interested persons for a 30-day review period that ended November 26, 2008. A public scoping meeting was held during the review period on November 18, 2008. This Revised NOP is being circulated to inform the public that the City of Morro Bay has modified the proposed project from that described in the previous NOP.

The City of Morro Bay/Cayucos Sanitary District (MBCSD) proposes to upgrade the Morro Bay–Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to tertiary treatment. However, based on the results of a Flood Hazard Analysis conducted for the proposed project, the MBCSD is proposing to build a new treatment plant next to the existing treatment plant, in an area that is less prone to flooding. The existing treatment plant would be demolished after the new treatment plant is constructed and brought online. **Figure 1** (attached) provides a conceptual site plan of the proposed project.

The City of Morro Bay is soliciting the views of responsible agencies and interested persons as to the scope and content of the environmental resources and topics to be studied in the EIR. The City requests that comments on this Revised NOP be limited to new topics related to the project description modifications. The City will consider comments submitted in response to both NOPs when preparing the EIR.

COMMENT PERIOD

The Revised NOP is hereby released on October 13, 2009 and will be available for public review through November 11, 2009. In accordance with the time limits mandated by CEQA, comments to the Revised NOP must be received by the City of Morro Bay no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. We request that comments to this Revised NOP be received no later than November 11, 2009. Please send your comments to Mr. Bruce Ambo at the address shown below. Please include a return address and contact name with your comments.

Bruce Ambo, Director
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Copies of the NOP and project documents are available on the City Web Site (www.morro-bay.ca.us); at the Morro Bay Public Library (625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay); at City Hall (595 Harbor Street, Morro Bay); in the Public Services Department (955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay); and at the Wastewater Treatment office (160 Atascadero Road, Morro Bay). Copies are also available at the Cayucos Library (248 S. Ocean Avenue, Cayucos); Cayucos Sanitary District (200 Ash Street, Cayucos); and CSD Web Site (www.cayucossd.org).

PROJECT LOCATION

The existing WWTP is located at 160 Atascadero Road within the City of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County, California (see Figure 1).

EXISTING FACILITIES

The WWTP is owned 60 percent by the City of Morro Bay and 40 percent by the Cayucos Sanitary District (CSD). The WWTP is run through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Board, which is comprised of members from the City Council and the CSD Board. The WWTP is rated for an average dry weather flow of 2.06 million gallons per day (mgd), a peak seasonal dry weather flow of 2.36 mgd, and a peak wet weather flow of 6.6 mgd. The secondary treatment facilities have a design capacity of 0.97 mgd. Flows in excess of 0.97 mgd receive primary treatment only and the primary effluent is blended with the secondary effluent. The effluent blend is disinfected by chlorination and then dechlorinated before it is discharged to the Pacific Ocean via an outfall pipe that extends 2900 feet offshore into Estero Bay. In 2007, the WWTP treated an average measured daily flow of 1.09 mgd.

PROJECT NEED

As described in the previous NOP, the WWTP currently operates under a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 301(h) modified discharge permit, which allows the disinfected blend of primary and secondary treated effluent to be discharged through its ocean outfall. In accordance with Sections 301(h) and 402 of the CWA, the WWTP is operated under a modified NPDES Permit No. CA0047881 issued by the U.S. EPA and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The City and CSD ("MBCSD" collectively) have made a commitment to the Central Coast RWQCB to phase out the need for the 301(h) modified discharge permit by upgrading the WWTP to at least full secondary treatment.

With implementation of the proposed project, operation of the WWTP would meet future NPDES permit requirements as determined by the Central Coast RWQCB. The proposed project also would protect all beneficial uses and water quality objectives for Estero Bay as defined by the California Ocean Plan.

CHANGES TO THE PROJECT AS PREVIOUSLY NOTICED

The proposed project would upgrade the WWTP to tertiary treatment and enable it to discharge an average dry weather flow of 2.0 mgd of tertiary treated effluent to the ocean. The following modifications have been made to the project description:

- The existing onsite composting program at the WWTP would be discontinued.
- A new treatment plant would be constructed adjacent to the existing treatment plant.
- The existing treatment plant would be demolished once the new treatment plant is complete and brought online.

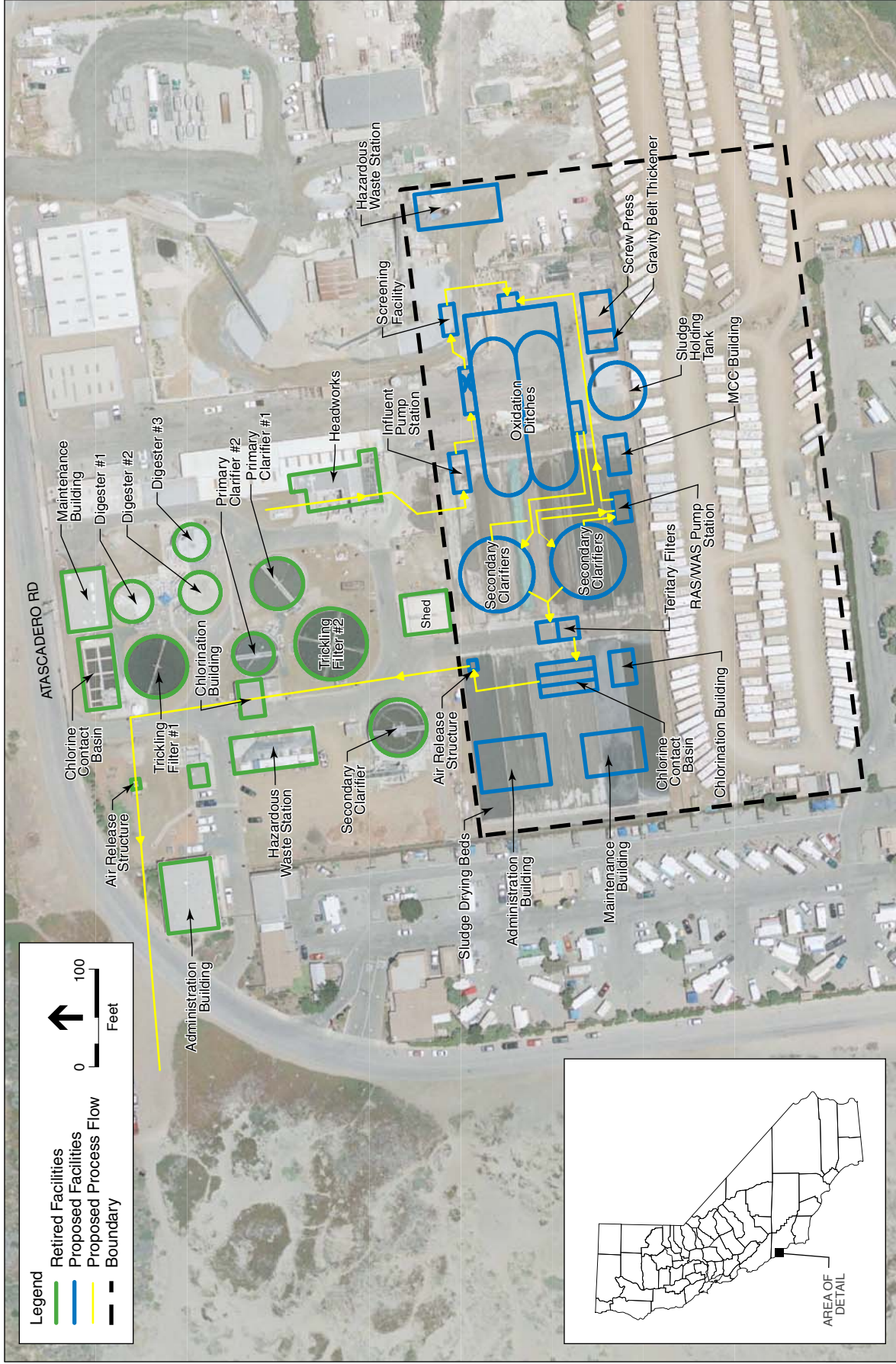
The proposed physical improvements associated with the modified project include construction of the following facilities: administration building, maintenance building, influent pumping station, screening facility, oxidation ditches, RAS/WAS pumping station, tertiary filters, secondary clarifiers, solids handling facilities, chlorination building, hazardous waste station, and chlorine contact basin. The proposed configuration of facilities is shown in Figure 1. The exact location of each facility is subject to change during project design within the delineated project boundary.

Pending completion of all environmental compliance, permitting, and final design documentation, construction of the proposed project is expected to begin in January 2012 and be completed by January 2014.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR

The EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from construction and operation of the proposed project, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The EIR also will discuss alternatives to the proposed project including the No Project Alternative and discuss potential growth inducing effects of the proposed project. The EIR will identify mitigation measures if necessary to minimize potentially significant impacts of the proposed project. As described in the previous NOP, in accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess potential impacts of the proposed project to the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology, Groundwater and Water Quality
- Land Use and Recreation
- Noise
- Traffic and Transportation
- Utilities and Public Services



Morro Bay Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant Revised NOP . 208013
Figure 1
 Proposed Conceptual Site Plan

SOURCE: Carollo, 2009.