



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Carole Kendrick, Planning Manager
DATE: January 17, 2023
SUBJECT: Hold a Public Hearing and Adopt Addendum No. 1 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Expansion and Brine Pipeline (Capital Improvement Projects WW-04 and WW-05)

Description: A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Addendum to the previously approved Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Expansion and Brine Pipeline to analyze impacts for the Mesa Lift Station and Force Main Project (CIP Projects WW-04 and WW-05).

Background and Analysis:

The City owns and operates the Mesa Lift Station, which is located at the southeast corner of Potrero Boulevard/Castello Lane. The lift station conveys flows from the north reaches of the City's wastewater system to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This lift station handles all the sewer flows generated north of the State Route 60 and west of Interstate 10. The station currently has three (3) electrically driven sewage pumps installed and in service.

The Mesa Lift Station and Force Main Project consists of two (2) components; improvements to and continued operation of the existing Lift Station, and construction and operation of two (2) segments of a new 16-inch diameter Force Main in the southwestern portion of the City of Beaumont. Improvements to the Mesa Lift Station will be confined to the existing lift station footprint and includes the construction of an emergency vault, on-site piping, valving, upgrading electrical components within the existing cabinets, and four (4) new electrically driven sewage pumps.

The force main component of the proposed Mesa Lift Station and Force Main Project entails construction of approximately 9,353 linear feet of 16-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) force main. The alignment for the new 16-inch diameter force main is within the previously evaluated alignment of the 12-inch diameter brine pipeline constructed as part of the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The new force main will be constructed in two segments. The first segment will be installed from

the lift station site south in the Potrero Boulevard right-of-way (ROW), east in Western Knolls Avenue ROW, and connect to an existing 16-inch diameter force main. The second pipeline segment will be constructed from the existing 16-inch diameter force main in the easterly extension of the Prosperity Way ROW then south in the Nicholas Road ROW to connect to an existing 16-inch diameter force main in Fourth Street.

The *Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade/Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project* (Beaumont WWTP MND) and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) were approved by the Beaumont City Council on March 20, 2018, consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City approved a modified MMRP on March 15, 2019. The project evaluated in the Beaumont WWTP MND included two components: (1) the expansion and upgrade of the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and (2) the construction of a brine disposal pipeline from the Beaumont WWTP to the nearest connection point of the Inland Empire Brine Line located near the City of San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant.

Addendum No. 1 to the Beaumont WWTP MND analyzes the impacts associated with construction and operation of the Mesa Lift Station and Force Main Project, which proposes upgrades and improvements to the existing Mesa Lift Station and two segments of 16-inch diameter wastewater pipeline. The lift station site and proposed alignment of the force main is within the previously evaluated alignment for the brine pipeline component of the Beaumont WWTP Project. The purpose of the Lift Station and Force Main Project is to provide sufficient redundancy and storage to avoid wastewater backups and overflows from existing and future growth consistent with the Beaumont 2040 Plan.

State CEQA Guidelines 15164(b) states:

An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) lists the specific conditions that require preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration rather than an addendum. These include one or more of the following:

- (1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of*

new, significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or*
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

The City, as the CEQA Lead Agency, has reviewed the Lift Station and Force Main Project in light of the above requirements and determined that none of the above conditions requiring preparation of a subsequent or supplemental MND or EIR apply. Therefore, an addendum to the Beaumont WWTP MND is the appropriate environmental documentation for the Lift Station and Force Main Project.

Fiscal Impact:

City staff time to prepare this staff report is approximately \$500.

Recommended Action:

Hold a Public Hearing and Adopt Addendum No. 1 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Beaumont Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Expansion and Brine Pipeline (Capital Improvement Projects WW-04 and WW-05); and Direct staff to prepare a Notice of Determination to be filed with the Riverside County Clerk Recorder.

Attachments:

- A. Addendum No. 1 to the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mesa Lift Station and Force Main Project without appendices.
- B. Lift Station and Force Main Alignment