

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY and ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

FOR

SHELTER COVE RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1 WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT

May 2016

Lead Agency:
Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District #1

Lead Agency Contact:
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LACO Project No. 8022.08

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I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Date: May 2016

Project Title: Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District #1 Water Recycling and Reuse Project

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Location: **The project will occur partially within the existing wastewater treatment plant located on the southeast side of Lower Pacific Drive. A new recycled water distribution station will be developed south west of the existing wastewater treatment plant. New piping and storage tanks will be located south of the wastewater treatment plant in the existing golf course area (see Figure 1).**

Coastal Zone: Yes

Affected Parcel(s): Assessor Parcel Number(s) 111-181-002-000, 111-181-004-000, and 111-181-005-000

Humboldt County General Plan Land Use Designation: Public Facilities (see Figure 2)

Humboldt County Zoning Designation: Public Facilities (Urban) (PF1), with Airport Safety Review (AP) and Design Review (D) Combining Zones (see Figure 2)

Anticipated Permits and Approvals:

- 1) Coastal Development Permit from the County of Humboldt; Water Recycling Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board; Building and/or grading permits from the County of Humboldt

CEQA Requirement:

The proposed project is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency is Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District #1. The purpose of this Initial Study (IS) is to provide a basis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration. This IS is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Div 13, Sec 21000-21177) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sec 15000-15387).

CEQA encourages lead agencies and applicants to modify their projects to avoid significant adverse impacts (CEQA Section 20180(c) (2) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b) (2)).

Section 15063(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that an IS shall contain the following information in brief form:

- 1) A description of the project including the project location
- 2) Identification of the environmental setting
- 3) Identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix, or other method, provided that entries on a checklist or other form are briefly explained to provide evidence to support the entries
- 4) Discussion of means to mitigate significant effects identified, if any
- 5) Examination of whether the project would be consistent with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls
- 6) The name of the person or persons who prepared and/or participated in the Initial Study

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District #1 (RID) proposes to expand its recycled water program and reduce water demands on the distribution system. The expansion will provide for the production of more recycled water to be used for:

- fire protection services
- distribution to authorized public users
- irrigation of the community golf course

The RID wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has an existing tertiary treatment system consisting of pumps and filters that have the ability to produce roughly 40,000 gallons per day (GPD) of recycled water. During the late spring, summer and early fall months, the tertiary treated water is pumped to a pond for storage and for application to the golf course putting greens. The recycled water is dosed with a polymer (ProPac 9890) as a coagulant, then pumped to sand filters, and finally directed to a pond located near the golf course for storage. The water is then pumped from the pond to irrigate the golf course's putting greens at night.

The remainder of treated wastewater that is not recycled is discharged into the Pacific Ocean.

Currently, Shelter Cove residents with irrigation needs use treated potable domestic water delivered by the RID. It is estimated that 10% of the potable water supply is used for irrigation purposes. California law (Water Code Section 13550(a)) identifies the use of potable domestic water for landscaped areas as a waste or unreasonable use of water (if recycled water is available) and strongly encourages replacement with recycled water where feasible.

In addition to providing irrigation water for the golf course and other public property and supplying water for domestic irrigation, the recycled water will also increase the available supply for fire suppression activities. Shelter Cove neighborhoods are in "High" or "Medium" fire hazard areas based on CALFire's hazard mapping (Humboldt County Planning and Building, 2015), and the increased supply of water will help to increase safety and decrease risk posed to the community from fire.

As required by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, recycled water will comply with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and the California Department of Public Health recommendations pursuant to Water Code Section 13523. The existing recycled water program is used to spray irrigate the RID's nine hole golf course. The proposed recycled water system will use the existing tertiary filtration treatment system to filter water before being disinfected and stored in the dedicated recycled water tanks. This system treats water to meet the standards in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)/RID's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (LACO Associates, 2015a), NPDES Permit Order No. R1-2015-0017 adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on May 7, 2015. The NPDES Permit requires that:

- The median value of total coliform bacteria measured in the disinfected effluent does not exceed a Most Probable Number (MPN) of 2.2 per 100 mL utilizing the bacteriological results of the last seven days for which analyses have been completed;
- The number of total coliform bacteria does not exceed an MPN of 23 per 100 mL in more than sample in any 30 day period, and;

- No single sample may exceed an MPN of 240 total coliform bacteria per 100 mL.

The proposed expansion of the recycled water program would continue to meet these standards. The California Department of Public Health's Recycled Water Regulations allow recycled water that is treated to this standard to be used for irrigating residential landscaping and unrestricted access golf courses, consistent with the uses proposed for this project.

The expanded use of recycled water to include uses not currently addressed in the WDRs will likely trigger the need to modify WDRs to serve as a Master Water Recycling Permit. Alternatively, RID could enroll its recycled water uses under the Statewide Recycled Water General Order (General Order), Order No. WQ-2014-0090-DWQ (or future revisions thereto). Even if RID applies for coverage under the General Order, the production of the recycled water would need to be covered under the WDRs.

Proposed Improvements

The improvements proposed as part of the recycled water project generally include the following components which are further discussed below:

- Upgraded filtration system
- Underground storage tanks
- Transmission mains
- Water distribution station
- Replaced sprinkler heads

RID intends to install a filtration system with a minimum capacity of 70 gallons per minute (GPM). The new filtration system will replace the older system and be installed inside of the existing filter building see (Figure 3).

The filtration system will operate in varying flow conditions, treating all or most of the treated effluent during the summer months. During wet conditions, only a portion of the secondary treated effluent will go through the tertiary recycling process, with amounts varying depending on the community's recycled water needs. The expansion will be capable of producing up to 100,000 gallons of recycled water per day.

Five 20,000-gallon plastic (polyethylene) underground water storage tanks will be installed to store the treated water. The storage tanks will be installed underground at the north-east end of the airport runway, south of the waste water treatment plant (Figure 4). This will require approximately 495 cubic yards ~~20,000 cubic feet~~ of grading to bury the tanks. The site will be graded to expose the tank site. After the area is prepared, the tanks will be placed on site and then buried using the original material. Approximately 225 cubic yards will be used as backfill, the remaining approximately 270 cubic yards will be accepted by RID to be stockpiled on RID property and used for RID projects located outside of the Coastal Zone. Stockpiles will be treated with appropriate best management practices such as covering, seeding or the placement of straw wattles.

Treated water would be piped from the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to the five proposed 20,000-gallon treated water storage tanks. The new pipe will be routed along the existing pipeline either by bursting the old pipe in place or using directional drilling techniques to place the new pipeline alongside the existing pipeline. Either option eliminates the need for disturbance to the adjacent unnamed creek by utilizing the existing disturbed area for the pipeline and using placement techniques that do not require excavation. Additionally, an approximately 350' transmission main will be installed between the storage tanks and the hydrant, and the new water storage tanks will be included.

A new transmission main will be installed to carry the water from the storage tanks to a distribution center which will be located southwest of the existing treatment plant along Lower Pacific Drive. The distribution site will include a paved loop access road, fire hydrant, and keypad-operated water distribution spigot.

The existing 4" water transmission main that currently distributes recycled water from the WWTP to the storage pond will continue to be used to move water from the WWTP to the pond. The existing pipe may be replaced if it is determined that it is leaking or otherwise unfit for continued use. However, a replacement pipe would be the same size as the existing pipe and would be placed in the same location as the existing pipe.

In addition, the irrigation system for the golf course will be upgraded with new sprinkler heads on the fairways to allow for effective use of the additional irrigation water supply. Existing sprinkler heads will be replaced and new sprinklers added in order to provide full coverage of the existing fairways. The existing irrigation pipeline will be used whenever possible, with upgrades being done on a site-specific basis to repair leaks or improve sprinkler coverage. Irrigation lines will be replaced using a small trencher and hand tools, with any needed fill being brought in by pick-up truck or other small transport. No heavy equipment would be used for the golf course irrigation system improvements. The existing golf course irrigation pond and pump facility will remain under the proposed project and will continue to be used to irrigate the golf course.

The proposed project has been designed and includes best management practices (BMPs) to ensure protection of groundwater and surface water quality. Construction of the proposed project, including grading, will occur only during the dry season when rainfall and runoff potential are low. Additionally, all project components will be located outside of the 100-foot buffer from the unnamed creek at Lower Pacific Drive; while the unnamed creek does not exhibit riparian habitat, it still qualifies as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA).

User Access

RID Customers will fill their personal water tanks at the proposed distribution station and transport recycled water to their home sites. Access will be controlled with a digital keypad and limited to regular business hours (8am-5pm). Before being able to fill tanks, customers will be required to complete a short educational program and meet other regulatory requirements for the private use of recycled water as specified in Article 4, Section 60310 et. seq. of the California Code of Regulations. As part of the educational program, RID customers will be informed that use of the recycled water is permitted only within the existing service area of the District. RID customers who have completed the recycled water training and signed the liability waiver will be given a unique, individual keypad code providing access to the station. The station will be located off of Lower Pacific Drive on a one-way drive-through access road that will provide adequate space to allow one vehicle to fill from the station while another waits without blocking through traffic on Lower Pacific Drive. The spigot will be connected to a hose to allow users to fill tanks without having to bring their own hose or spend time connecting and disconnecting a hose to the station. While no staff is proposed on site, the WWTP is adjacent to the proposed distribution site and is staffed throughout the day should customers have any questions or need assistance.

Residents wanting to participate in the program will need to have their transport tank inspected by RID personnel. Once the tanks are inspected and approved, a placard, sticker, or other signage will be fixed to the tank.

III. PROJECT SETTING AND LOCATION

Shelter Cove is a small, rural, mostly residential unincorporated community of 693 people (2010 US Census) in the southwestern-most corner of Humboldt County, California. The community is perched along the King Range Mountains and surrounded by the King Range National Conservation Area. The Shelter Cove community qualifies as an economically disadvantaged community according to the US Census (2010 US Census).

Shelter Cove is accessed via a single paved road, Shelter Cove Road, connecting the community to nearby unincorporated communities of Whitethorn, Redway, and Garberville and Highway 101.

The project site is located at the lowest elevations of Shelter Cove. In this area, the land is a relatively flat shelf that contains many of the businesses located in the unincorporated community. There is a 9-hole golf course that wraps around the single runway of Shelter Cove Airport, an RV park, a store, and a gift shop. Additionally, a boat launching station and boat storage facility is available for sport and commercial fishermen, and there are a myriad of hotels, motels, and homes.

The RID is a full service agency providing public utilities (electricity, water, and wastewater), Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, Ocean Rescue, Recreation (including the golf course), and the Shelter Cove Airport. Shelter Cove is in an extremely isolated area and must be prepared for episodic events like earthquakes and drought disasters.

The RID serves approximately 1500 people during its peak season. However, because Shelter Cove is a resort area, the district's population is smaller during winter months. According to district staff, the RID's population growth rate is 4.3%. Assuming this growth rate continues, the district's estimated 2025 summer population is projected at 2,984. The RID provides wastewater services to approximately 89% of homes within the district boundary or about 464 connections. Shelter Cove's water sources include Telegraph Creek, a small creek with limited capacity that is highly vulnerable to drought and seasonal flow restrictions, as well as 13 groundwater wells and one spring. The existing water supply is constrained by RID's current permitted water rights, which mandate that RID maintain a minimum flow of 0.775 cubic feet per second (cfs) in Telegraph Creek at all times.

An unnamed creek runs from east to west just south of the WWTP, separating it from the airport. The creek does not appear as a blue line stream on USGS maps (Humboldt County Planning and Building, 2015). A Wetland Survey and Stream Setback survey done in July of 2015 on a portion of the Class II stream upstream from the WWTP concluded that there were no sensitive plant or bird species in the survey area (LACO Associates, 2015b).

A walking survey for biological resources that covered the portions of the project area where ground disturbance will occur was done in November 2015. The walking survey area was largely characterized by the compacted ground and mowed turf of the runway apron and golf course (LACO Associates, 2015). The results of the survey and the mitigation recommendations are included in the Biological Impacts discussion of this Initial Study.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

An environmental checklist follows this section and addresses all potential adverse effects resulting from the proposed project. No significant adverse effects are expected from any of the proposed activities.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a **"Potentially Significant Impact"** or **"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated"** as indicated by the checklists on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture Resources	X	Air Quality
X	Biological Resources	<u>X</u>	Cultural Resources		Geology and Soils
	Green House Gases	X	Hazards and Hazardous Materials		Hydrology and Water Quality
	Land Use and Planning		Mineral Resources		Noise
	Population and Housing		Public Services		Recreation
	Transportation		Utilities and Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance

An explanation for all checklist responses is included, and all answers take into account the whole action involved and the following types of impacts: off-site and on-site; cumulative and project-level; indirect and direct; and construction and operational. The explanation of each issue identifies (a) the threshold of significance, if any, used to evaluate each question; and (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

In the checklist the following definitions are used:

"Potentially Significant Impact" means there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.

"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" means the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures can reduce the effect from potentially significant to a less than significant level.

"Less Than Significant Impact" means that the effect is less than significant and no mitigation is necessary to reduce the impact to a lesser level.

"No Impact" means that the effect does not apply to the proposed project, or clearly will not impact nor be impacted by the proposed project.

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency on the basis of this initial evaluation)

☐	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☒	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

April 13, 2016
Date

Philip Smith, General Manager
Title

I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on aesthetic resources if it will have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

DISCUSSION

The project involves the expansion of RID's existing recycled water program to include the distribution of tertiary treated water to individual RID customers for landscape and small scale agricultural/horticultural irrigation, as well as to fire personnel for fire suppression. Customers would fill their personal water tanks at the proposed distribution station and transport recycled water to their home sites. Once the project is completed, the only portion that will be visible will be the distribution station. The distribution station will include a paved loop access road, fire hydrant, and keypad operated water distribution spigot. Access to the water distribution station would be limited to normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm). No overhead lighting is proposed.

I.a-c) The project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. Though Shelter Cove is perched along the King Range Mountains, surrounded by the King Range National Conservation Area, and has steep terrain allowing for stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista because the project site is not located within a city- or county-mapped or designated scenic vista, within a scenic resources area, or along a state scenic highway (California Department of Transportation, 2013). The majority of project components will be underground - these changes to the project site will not significantly degrade the visual character of the site or quality of the site and its surroundings. Although a nominal amount of new infrastructure associated with the distribution station will be visible, it will have a low profile and be located in an area that is already developed with similar facilities. The proposed project has no physical elements that would block or impact views. No impact would occur.

I.d No new lighting is proposed with this project. Access to the site will be limited to daytime hours. No aspects of the project involve materials that would produce glare. Therefore, the project would have no impact on day or nighttime views due to light and glare.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project would have **No Impact** on Aesthetic Resources.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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(g), timberland (as defined by PRC 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 forestland to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Thresholds of Significance: Agriculture and Forestry Resources would be significantly affected by the proposed project if the project were to convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (hereafter "farmland"), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses. Significant impacts to Agricultural and Forestry Resources would also occur if the project conflicted with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; conflicts with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)); Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or 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 forestland to non-forest use.

DISCUSSION

Shelter Cove is mostly residential in nature. At the lowest reaches of Shelter Cove is a flat shelf that contains many of the businesses located in this unincorporated town. The remainder of the community area is characterized by steep terrain with residential development.

The project area is not considered farmland, agricultural land, or timber land. The area comprising the proposed project has a General Plan land use designation of Public Facility (PF [SCAP]) and a zoning designation of Public Facility – Urban/Airport Safety Review – Design Review Coastal Combining Zone (PF1/AP,D). The project does not include changes to the zoning code or any conversion of land uses.

II.a) According to Humboldt County WebGIS, none of the parcels comprising the project site are designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to nonagricultural use. No impact would occur.

II.b) The project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. None of the parcels comprising the project site are zoned for agricultural use, nor are there any Williamson Act contracts on any of the affected parcels or any surrounding parcels. Furthermore, the project would have no effect on the use of any of the surrounding parcels for agricultural or forestry activities. No impact would occur.

II.c) The project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production because the project site is not currently zoned as such. Furthermore, the project does not include changes to the zoning code or any conversion of land uses. No impact would occur.

II.d) Because the affected parcels do not include forest land, the project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impact would occur.

II.e) The project does not involve 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 forestland to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES: No mitigation required.

FINDINGS: The Project would have **No Impact** on Agricultural and Forestry Resources.

III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on Air Quality if it conflicts with or obstructs implementation of applicable air quality plans; violates any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation; results 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); exposes sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or creates objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

DISCUSSION

The project site is located within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) and is subject to North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) requirements. NCUAQMD is responsible for monitoring and enforcing local, state, and federal air quality standards in the County of Humboldt. Air quality standards are set for emissions that may include, but are not limited to, visible emission, particulate matter, and fugitive dust. The entire NCAB is currently designated as "non-attainment," or in excess of allowable limits, for the State 24-hour allowable limits for breathable particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀), and as "attainment," or within allowable limits, with respect to the balance of the criteria pollutants (North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, 2013). NCUAQMD is listed as "attainment" or "unclassified" for all the federal and state ambient air quality standards, except for the state 24-hour particulate (PM₁₀) standard.

Because the NCAB is in "non-attainment" for PM₁₀, NCUAQMD prepared a draft PM₁₀ Attainment Plan in 1995 which identified cost effective control measures that can be implemented to reduce ambient PM₁₀ levels to within California standards. The draft PM₁₀ Attainment Plan should be used cautiously as it is not a document that is required for NCUAQMD to come into attainment for the state standard. More information on California standards and the draft PM₁₀ Attainment Plan can be found on NCUAQMD's website, (<http://www.ncuaqmd.org/index.php>).

During construction, the contractor is expected to use machinery such as a backhoe, trencher, and large trucks. Machinery will be maintained in good condition throughout project construction.

III.a-c) As noted above, the County is in "non-attainment" for PM₁₀. Therefore, any use or activity that generates unnecessary airborne particulate matter may be of concern to NCUAQMD and has the potential to create significant project-specific and cumulative effects to air quality. While project construction would generate temporary emissions, the project will not include any source of visible emissions, including intentional fire/burning or manufacturing. The project will not obstruct implementation of California standards or the draft PM₁₀ Attainment Plan.

NCUAQMD has advised that generally an activity that individually complies with the state and local standards for air quality emissions will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in the countywide PM₁₀ air quality violation. With the incorporation of the mitigation measure listed below, which requires compliance with NCUAQMD standards and regulations, the project will not result in adverse air quality impacts or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in the PM₁₀ non-attainment levels in Humboldt County.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1 will require the contractor to keep all construction equipment in good working order such that exhaust emissions are minimized and fugitive dust is controlled. With mitigation incorporated, the project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people over a long term. A less than significant impact would occur.

III.d) The project would have a less than significant effect on exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Due to the limited scope of soil disturbance and construction, the project is not anticipated to generate substantial pollutant concentrations.

The project will be conducted adjacent to the existing Shelter Cove Airport and along Lower Pacific Drive, at the existing WWTP and undeveloped portion of land southwest of the WWTP. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling unit(s). No schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes or hospitals are located in the vicinity of the proposed project; however, existing residences are located in the project vicinity along Lower Pacific Drive and Sea View Road. The project components nearest to existing residences will be the recycled water distribution station, located approximately 230 feet northeast of existing residences along Lower Pacific Drive, and the underground storage tanks, which will be located approximately 300 feet west of the existing residences along Sea View Road to the east of the project site. Temporary exhaust from construction equipment will be minimal and, for short periods of time, may slightly impact residents living near the project site. Additionally, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has determined that dust generally settles out of the atmosphere within 300 feet of the source. Since construction of the project is proposed during the summer, the existing residences along Sea View Road, located approximately 300 feet east of the project site, may be impacted by fugitive dust. Potential impacts related to fugitive dust may also increase during windy conditions.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1 will require the contractor to keep all construction equipment in good working order such that exhaust emissions are minimized and potential fugitive dust is controlled. Suppression of fugitive dust will be conducted pursuant to North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Air Quality Regulation 1 – Air Quality Control Rules, Rule 104, Section 4.0 – Fugitive Dust Emissions, which would include applying water or suitable chemicals on exposed earth surfaces, materials stockpiles, and other surfaces which can give rise to airborne dust. Furthermore, wind speed will be monitored and construction activities will cease when wind speeds are in excess of 15 miles per hour (M.P.H.), pursuant to the USEPA established threshold. Operations at the distribution station will not generate additional pollutants beyond which is

already occurring as it will involve a level of traffic consistent with that of Lower Pacific Drive. With mitigation incorporated, a less than significant impact would occur.

III.e) The project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Temporary objectionable odors, typical of construction sites and equipment use, may be generated during the construction phase. However, given the distances to the nearest sensitive receptors, it is unlikely that they will cause any substantial impact. A less than significant impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

AIR-1: At all times, the project shall be constructed in compliance with Air Quality Regulation 1– Air Quality Control Rules, Rule 104, Section 4.0 – Fugitive Dust Emissions. The project contractor will be required to do the following:

- Cover open-bodied trucks when used for transporting materials likely to give rise to airborne dust.
- Conduct trench digging, backfill, and paving of water pipe trenches in such a manner as to minimize the creation of airborne dust. Use water for control of dust during construction operations.
- Apply ~~asphalt~~, water, or suitable chemicals on exposed earth surfaces, materials stockpiles, and other surfaces which can give rise to airborne dust.
- Pave the backfilled trenches as soon as practicable.
- Wind speed will be monitored and construction activities will cease when speeds are in excess of 15 M.P.H.
- Promptly remove earth or other track-out material from paved streets onto which earth or other material has been transported by trucking or earth moving equipment. Maintain construction equipment in good condition to minimize excessive exhaust emissions.

FINDINGS

With mitigation incorporated, the Proposed Project would have a **Less Than Significant** impact on Air Quality.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant impact to Biological Resources if it were to 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 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 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; 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; conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

DISCUSSION

The project site is flat, heavily compacted, planted with non-native grass, and contains no trees or shrubs. The area where the new water tanks will be installed was graded and developed as part of the runway construction.

Review of available information on the Humboldt County Web GIS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory showed no wetland on the site. An unnamed creek is located between the waste water treatment plant and the proposed tank site. The proposed pipeline route from the WWTP to the proposed storage tanks would follow the existing pipeline route to the northwest corner of the airport runway. This route allows the pipeline to cross the unnamed creek without inducing additional impacts.

A Wetland Survey and Stream Setback Technical Memorandum (LACO Associates, 2015b) was completed on a section of the Class II creek immediately upstream of this project area for an unrelated project. The survey did not record any population of sensitive plant species on the Project Site. No nests of waders or any raptors were noted. The creek habitat supports macro-invertebrate species, such as water striders, classifying the creek as a Class II stream (State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams, September 28, 2010).

The downstream portion of this creek where it is crossed by Lower Pacific Drive is sparsely vegetated with non-native grasses and shrubs. No tree cover is present along the drainage from the WWTP to the culvert on Lower Pacific Drive.

A walking survey of the project area was conducted in November of 2015 that focused on locating sensitive habitats and areas where there was potential for listed species. Because the area is comprised of the runway and regularly maintained golf course, potential for sensitive habitat was low (LACO Associates, 2015). A native grass, California oatgrass (*Danthonia California*) was located on the site. The California oatgrass is not a listed species however it is noteworthy as one of the only California native species located within the project area. No other sensitive species were located. The proposed water storage tank and distribution station will be placed more than 100 feet from the unnamed creek. The transmission line will be directionally drilled to avoid and minimize impacts to the unnamed creek.

IV.a, b and e) The project site is within the Coastal Zone as defined by the California Coastal Act of 1972. The Coastal Act protects Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) by preventing development within 100 feet of any ESHA or areas identified as habitat for threatened or endangered species. ESHA in general is defined as "any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments" (Section 30107.5).

The unnamed creek at Lower Pacific Drive does not exhibit riparian habitat, but it still qualifies as ESHA. The proposed distribution station will be located adjacent to Lower Pacific Drive, south of a 100-foot buffer from the unnamed creek.

The vegetation at the project site largely consists of ruderal, weedy species and non-native grasses. Given the long-established recreational use of the golf course, airport, the public roadway system, and the regular maintenance of the site, few sensitive plant or animal species would be expected.

The California oatgrass found near the project area is not a listed species; however, it is noteworthy as one of the only California native species located near the project area. This may be considered ESHA and, as such, mitigation measure BIO-1 will be incorporated into the project.

No other listed plant or animal species or ESHA habitats appear to be located on or near the project area. With mitigation incorporated, there would be a Less than Significant impact.

IV.c) The National Wetlands Inventory does not show any known wetlands in the project area. The area proposed for the holding tanks is inside of the golf course area on the north eastern edge of the runway. The area of the proposed tanks and distribution station is the highest elevation in the golf course area. Based on a visual site analysis (conducted on November 19, 2015), no wetlands were visible in this portion of the project site, and, therefore, no wetlands would be filled as part of the tank installation. The distribution station will be located adjacent to Lower Pacific Drive outside of the stream buffer area in a grassy area that contains no wetland indicators as determined by visual observations and based on a review of the National Wetlands Inventory. There would be no impact to wetlands as a result of implementing the proposed project.

IV.d) There are no elements of the proposed project that would impact a fish-bearing stream. There are no fish bearing streams in the area. Though the drainage near the WWTP is considered a Class II stream based on the presence of macroinvertebrates, it does not appear to support fish populations. There would be no impact as a result of the proposed project.

IV. f) There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans adopted for the Shelter Cove area. Therefore no impact will occur as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

BIO-1: Due to the presence of California oatgrass (*Danthonia California*), seasonally appropriate (May-August) flowering plant surveys shall be conducted prior to ground breaking. If native species are located within the area of disturbance and impacted by project activities, they shall be reseeded in kind at a minimum of 2:1 ratio following the completion of excavation activities.

FINDINGS

With Mitigation Incorporated, the Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Biological Resources.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on Cultural Resources if it would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5; cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5; directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource.

DISCUSSION:

On September 30, 2015, the Lead Agency's consultant delivered a Record Search Request to the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) to evaluate the potential to encounter archaeological or historic resources during the operation of the proposed project. Three cultural resource studies that covered 100 percent of the Recycled Water project area were identified in the Records Search Results letter. Based on these studies, known cultural resources are located in the general vicinity of the project site. NWIC requested further archaeological study to investigate the presence of additional resources and determine if the known resources would be impacted by the project.

Additionally, in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, tribal consultation was initiated by the Lead Agency's consultant. On October 1, 2015, a Request for Native American Contact List was sent by the Lead Agency's consultant to the Native American Heritage Commission. Based on the results of the list provided, Tribal consultation letters were sent to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) of three Native American tribes located near the project site. The four Native American tribes contacted included the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe, the Round Valley Indian Tribe, and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. The Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria and the Wiyot Tribe requested consultation.

RID retained Archaeological Research and Supply Company, led by Nick Angeloff, MA, to survey the project site and prepare a report. "A Cultural Resources Investigation of Five Resort Improvement District Properties" was completed by Mr. Angeloff in March 2016. Several RID owned properties were surveyed during the investigation including the location of the Water Recycling project. In conducting the investigation and preparing the report, Mr. Angeloff conducted a literature search and field investigations, and consulted with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from the Bear River Band of the

Rohnerville Rancheria and the Wiyot Tribe. Consistent with the initial NWIC Records Search Results letter, Mr. Angeloff's investigation confirmed there are culturally significant recorded sites within the general project vicinity; however none are directly within the footprint of the project area. During the investigation no historic resources were encountered.

V.a and c) No historic or paleontological resources were encountered during the field investigations. No structures are being demolished or altered as a result of the project. No unique geologic features are associated with the project area. No impact would occur.

V.b, d, and e) There were multiple areas of native American occupancy in the Shelter Cove area. The immediate project area lies within the ethnographic territory of the "Shelter Cove Sinkyone" (Angeloff, 2016). Although not directly within the project area, known archaeological resources exist nearby. As a result, mitigation is recommended (CULT-1) as a precautionary measure to promote cultural resource protection. With the incorporation of Mitigation Measure CULT-1, there will be a less than significant impact to cultural resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

CULT-1: Prior to construction RID shall conduct a site visit with a qualified archaeologist and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria to survey the exact location of the water lines. During initial ground disturbance a cultural monitor agreeable to RID and the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria shall be on site. If cultural resources are encountered, as identified by the cultural monitor, the contractor on site shall cease all work in the immediate area and within a 50 foot buffer of the discovery location. A qualified archaeologist as well as the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Officer are to be contacted to evaluate the discovery and, in consultation with RID, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided.

FINDINGS

With mitigation incorporated, the Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Cultural Resources.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on geology and soils if it would expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 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, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or landslides; result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; 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; 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; or have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project requires installing a series of subsurface water storage tanks, new water transmission pipelines, construction of the distribution station, and upgrading existing pipelines. Additional improvements to the filtration system will take place in the existing WWTP that will not change the footprint of the existing building or require any ground disturbing activities. The current Alquist-Priolo map for the Shelter Cove Area does not show any faults or fault rupture zones in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. The nearest faults are less than 1 mile to the east of the project site. Although the project site is located within a seismically active area, there are no elements of the proposed project that would increase risk to existing

structures, facilities, or residents. The proposed storage tanks and associated infrastructure will be designed to the American Water Works Association tank standards for polyethylene tanks and to American Society of Civil Engineers standards for seismic anchoring of tanks. The tanks will include tank volume monitoring devices which provide an indication of if leakage is occurring and if maintenance is needed.

VI.a.i) There are no fault lines or zones, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, located at the project area (California Department of Conservation, 1983). The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to increased potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VI.a.ii) The project area is situated within a seismically-active area and multiple seismic sources capable of producing moderate to strong ground motions exist in the vicinity of the project area. Given the proximity of active faults (including the offshore Cascadia Subduction Zone), as well as other active faults near the project site and within northern California, the project area will experience ground shaking of some magnitude during the economic life span of any site development. The risk of ground shaking at the project area is high. However, the proposed project does not include any structures or new facilities except the water storage tanks and distribution station, neither of which pose a risk to existing residences. Therefore, there will be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VI.a.iii-iv) As shown on the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department's WebGIS (Humboldt County Planning and Building, 2015), the area around the Shelter Cove Airport is considered to be an area of high instability. However, the site is relatively flat and there are no slopes in the project area that would threaten the project. No new structures are proposed, no new residences will be constructed, and no existing residences will have an increased risk of seismic failure or landslides as a result of the proposed project; there will be No Impact.

VI.b) The proposed project involves excavation of the tank sites, burying the proposed tanks, and trenching or other methods (directional boring or pipe bursting) to replace existing pipelines. While excavation and ground breaking have the potential to create erosion and loss of topsoil, the project is occurring in an area that has been previously disturbed for the construction of the airport and golf course. This area has been compacted and graded, and the potential trenching activities will not expose a significant amount of area to additional erosion and topsoil loss. The excavation for the tanks has the potential for erosion while the soil is stockpiled during the tank placement phase. Typical best management practice grading and erosion control measures such as covering, seeding and or placing straw waddles, will be applied. However, construction will occur during the summer when rainfall and runoff potential are low, and the area will be compacted and replanted with grasses following the placement of the tanks to prevent runoff and erosion during the rainy season. Therefore, there will be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VI.c) While the project area is considered unstable by the Humboldt County WebGIS (County of Humboldt), the site itself is flat and compacted as it supports both the Shelter Cove Airport and Golf Course. There are no elements of the proposed project that would increase the area's instability or result in landslides, subsidence, or liquefaction. There would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VI.d) There are no expansive soils identified in the area of the proposed project. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VI.e) The proposed project will not require the use of septic systems or other alternative wastewater treatment. The project proposes to use tertiary treated wastewater to irrigate the golf course and for approved uses at residences within the RID service area. There would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Geology and Soils.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions if it would generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

DISCUSSION

The project is located within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) and is subject to North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) requirements. The NCUAQMD is responsible for monitoring and enforcing federal, state, and local air quality standards in the County of Humboldt.

VII.a-b) The project would have a less than significant impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions because the project will not generate significant amounts of GHGs. A limited amount of greenhouse gas emissions would occur during construction activities. Construction equipment will be maintained in good working condition by the contractor throughout the construction process. Once the tank and pipeline installations are complete, operational GHG emissions associated with increasing the amount of tertiary treatment conducted at the WWTP from 38,000 – 100,000 gallons per day will increase GHG emissions slightly; however, this increase is expected to be nominal. Vehicle trips associated with RID customers collecting recycled water may also increase GHG emissions slightly. However, the estimated number of trips per day is approximately 5 and would be generated within the district boundaries, and therefore the associated increase in GHG emissions would be negligible. Therefore, there would be a Less than Significant Impact to GHG emissions as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 area or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant impact on hazards and hazardous materials if it were to 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; emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; or 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. In addition, for projects 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; if the project is within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. Finally, the project would have a significant impact to hazards and hazardous materials if it would impair the implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized area or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

DISCUSSION

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or has characteristics defined as hazardous by a federal, state, or local agency. Chemical and physical properties such as toxicity, ignitability, corrosiveness, and reactivity cause a substance to be considered hazardous. These properties are defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, §66261.20-66261.24. A "hazardous waste" includes any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or will be recycled. Therefore, the criteria that render a material hazardous also cause a waste to be classified as hazardous (California Health and Safety Code, §25117). According to this definition, fuels, motor oil, and lubricants typically used during construction could be considered hazardous. In addition, excavation may expose buried hazardous materials resulting from prior use of a site or adjacent property.

The proposed project includes upgrades to the tertiary treatment system within the existing WWTP, the placement of 5 underground water storage tanks transmission mains, and the construction of a distribution station. The proposed project will increase the amount of recycled wastewater stored from 38,000 gallons of water per day (currently used for golf course irrigation) to 100,000 gallons per day (for use by RID customers for irrigation of non-edible crops and ornamental plants and continued/expanded golf course irrigation). The additional reclaimed water is also intended to be used for fire suppression efforts.

The primary chemicals associated with advanced water treatment and disinfection are chlorine (to ensure the destruction of any pathogenic organisms) and sulfur dioxide (to remove the chlorine). These chemicals will be used at the WWTP by qualified staff trained in handling the materials in accordance with the Safety Data Sheets for each chemical. No one from the public will have access to or be exposed to these chemicals as a result of the project.

To address potential public concern regarding the potential health hazards associated with use of recycled water for golf course and crop irrigation, a literature search was prepared. The conclusion of this search is that tertiary treated (recycled) water is not a hazardous material and thus does not pose a health or safety hazard to children, adults, and/or the environment. A summary of the literature search conducted follows.

California Department of Health Services (DHS)

The health aspects of public contact with recycled water are regulated by the California Department of Public Health (formerly the Department of Health Services), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and Wastewater Reclamation Criteria contained within Title 22 of the California Administrative Code (Division 4, Chapter 3, §60301 through 60355). The purpose of the statewide regulations is to prevent direct ingestion of reclaimed wastewater by the public or the contamination of a public water supply.

In 2009, the SWRCB adopted a statewide general permit for landscape irrigation uses of municipal recycled water (General Permit). Allowable uses of recycled water for landscape irrigation include: parks, greenbelts, and playgrounds; school yards; athletic fields; golf courses; cemeteries, residential, commercial, and industrial landscaping (except eating areas); and freeway, highway, and street landscaping. (California State Water Resources Control Board, 2014).

The Department of Health Services Treatment Technology Report for Recycled Water (2003) serves as the basis for review and acceptance of treatment technologies necessary to comply with the filtration and disinfection requirements of Title 22 Wastewater Reclamation Criteria. As noted by Asano et. al., "to achieve efficient virus removal or inactivation in tertiary treatment, two major criteria must be met: 1) the

effluent must be low in suspended solids and turbidity prior to disinfection to prevent shielding of viruses and chlorine demand, and 2) sufficient disinfectant must be applied to the wastewater."

These same standards apply to recycled water to be used for the irrigation of golf courses or private residences or any other areas where the public has similar access to the grounds under Title 22 §60313(b). (California Department of Health, 2007).

Recycled water generated and distributed as part of the proposed project will comply with the most stringent water quality limitations for effluent listed in Title 22 associated with non-restricted recreational impoundments. Current allowed uses of recycled water under the restricted use category include irrigation of food crops and irrigation of parks. Properly filtered and disinfected water meeting the tertiary 2.2 requirements is considered to be pathogen free.

There is some public concern that the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation may contain microbial pathogens or carcinogenic compounds (such as trihalomethane) that pose a health risk to children, adults, and animals. However, the use of recycled water generated by the proposed project will be strictly non-potable and limited to landscape irrigation and fire suppression uses. In addition, recycled water that is treated in accordance with Title 22 Wastewater Reclamation Criteria will ensure that it does not contain measurable levels of pathogenic microorganisms. Therefore, there is no indication of any adverse effects associated with non-potable uses of recycled water, assuming the water is used in accordance with specified purposes and is not ingested.

No unusual hazardous materials will be employed during construction of the recycled water storage tanks or associated piping. Best management practices (BMPs) will be utilized in the handling of fuels and lubricants and in the construction process to prevent soil and water contamination.

VIII.a) Operation of the proposed project would slightly increase the routine transport, use, and storage of chlorine and sulfur dioxide in amounts necessary to increase the amount of recycled water generated by the WWTP from 38,000 to 100,000 gallons per day. However, this amount is expected to be minimal. Sulfur dioxide will be used to remove residual chlorine from waste water going to the ocean, but not recycled water intended for irrigation uses. Additional chlorine may be added to the recycled water intended for the storage tanks to prevent bacterial growth. Construction of the proposed project will require the transport, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials common to the construction process such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, paint, oils and lubricants. The types and quantities of materials to be used could pose a significant risk to the public and/or environment if not managed in accordance with Construction Best Management Practices. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures **HAZ-1** through **HAZ-4**, the impact of this risk on the general public will be less than significant.

VII.b) Because tertiary treated wastewater is not considered a hazardous substance, the proposed project does not represent a significant hazard to the public from the release of hazardous materials either during construction or operation activities. While recycled wastewater should not be ingested, public contact with the water does not pose a health risk. Although construction activities will require the use of some hazardous materials, due to the short duration and limited extent of construction activity, the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials associated with construction activities is less than significant. In addition, construction of the proposed project will be conducted in accordance with established Best Management Practices and transmission line maintenance repairs will be conducted in accordance with Mitigation Measure **HAZ-3**. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

VIII.c) There are no schools located within ½ mile of the proposed recycled water storage tank or associated transmission routes. Also, the project does not propose to use recycled water for the irrigation of school properties. No hazardous materials are associated with the routine operation of the proposed project. Therefore there would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

VIII.d) The proposed project is not located on a site that is known to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and therefore would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment. A records search was conducted using State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control's Envirostor Database and there are no identified hazardous waste or materials on the site of the recycled water storage tank or along either pipeline alignment. In addition, with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure **HAZ-2**, any potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Therefore, with mitigation incorporated, there would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VIII.e,f) The alignment of the recycled water pipeline is within two miles of the Shelter Cove Airport, which is owned and maintained by RID. However, construction and operation of the proposed project would not adversely affect the airport or airport operations, including noise, takeoffs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications. There are no private airstrips located within the vicinity of the project area. There would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

VIII.g) The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The recycled water storage tank and associated transmission lines will not block emergency vehicle access to roadways during an emergency. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

VIII.h) Construction of the proposed project would occur in a rural setting where there is an increased risk of wildland fire. A records search of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Severity mapping system indicated that the project area is in an area of moderate to high risk for wildfires. This risk is exacerbated by current drought conditions and in the dry season. However there is no aspect of the project that would increase the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death associated with wildland fire. In fact, part of the purpose of the project is to supplement water supplies available for fire suppression. There will be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Store, Handle, Use Hazardous Materials in Accordance with Applicable Laws.

RID will ensure that all construction-related and operational hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are stored, handled, and used in a manner consistent with relevant and applicable federal, state, and local laws. In addition, construction-related and operational hazardous materials and hazardous wastes will be staged and stored away from residences, stream channels, surface waters, and sensitive resources to prevent contamination in the event of an accidental release.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Properly Dispose of Contaminated Soil and/or Groundwater. If contaminated soil and/or groundwater is encountered or suspected during project construction, work will be halted until the type and extent of contamination is identified. A contingency plan to dispose of any contaminated soil or groundwater will be developed through consultation with appropriate regulatory agencies.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Properly Dispose of Hydrostatic Test Water. Dewatering of the pipeline during hydrostatic testing (testing for pressure and leaks) during construction, operations, and maintenance activities shall be discharged to land or the sanitary sewer system and not into any creeks, drainages, or waterways and will be conducted in accordance with general waste discharge requirements established by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board per *Order No. R1-2009-0045 General NPDES Permit No. CA0024902 Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters in the North Coast Region*. (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2009)

Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Prepare a Health and Safety Plan, and Hazardous Materials Management/Spill Prevention Plan. RID shall require the contractor to prepare a Health and Safety Plan that includes a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations prior to the initiation of construction activities. The Health and Safety Plan will be prepared according to federal and state OSHA regulations, will be applicable to all construction activities, and will establish policies and procedures to protect workers and the public from potential hazards. The plan will include the following:

- A discussion of hazardous materials management, including delineation of hazardous material storage areas, access and egress routes, waterways, emergency assembly areas, temporary hazardous waste storage areas
- Notification and documentation procedures
- Spill control and countermeasures, including employee spill prevention/response training

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact with Mitigation Incorporation on Hazards or Hazardous Materials.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would 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 would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk or loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on hydrology and water quality if it would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements; substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would 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 would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted); 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 would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; 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; 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, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. Significant impacts would also occur if the project would place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map; place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood

Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map; place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows; expose people or structures to a significant risk or loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; or result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project would provide tertiary treated wastewater for the irrigation of the public golf course and to RID customers for approved residential uses as defined under California Health and Safety Code and Title 22.

IX.a) The recycled water will be treated to the appropriate standards for its proposed use; therefore, there will be no violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. In order to ensure that residential users understand the restrictions on the types and place of use allowed under California law, RID customers wishing to use recycled water will be required to complete a short training session and sign a waiver that they understand the use restrictions for the recycled water. In addition, residential transportation tanks would be required to undergo an inspection by the RID to ensure that they are structurally sound and that fixtures are adequate to prevent leaks. This will help ensure that recycled water is used appropriately by residential customers and prevent waste discharge violations. Therefore, there would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

IX.b) The proposed project involves the use of recycled water to provide irrigation supplies to residential customers, act as a water source for fire suppression, and irrigate the existing golf course. The RID is not proposing to increase extractions from its wells or from its surface water sources. Therefore, the project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies. There would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

IX.c,d) The project would not substantially change the drainage patterns of the site. The work occurring at the WWTP will occur inside of an existing building. The proposed water storage tanks will be buried in an existing bluff face and covered over to create a pre-project profile. Therefore, there are no changes anticipated to the existing drainage pattern at the site and there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

IX.e,f) The Proposed Project involves the construction of less than 1,000 square feet of new impermeable surfaces at the distribution station, but this area will drain to the adjacent pervious surface of the surrounding golf course. Groundcover disturbed by the trenching for transmission mains will be replaced in kind where existing vegetation is removed and will minimize surface erosion and runoff into the storm drain system. The excavation for the tanks has the potential for erosion while the soil is stockpiled during the tank placement phase. Typical best management practice grading and erosion control measures such as covering, seeding and or placing straw waddles, around temporary stockpiles will be applied..However, construction will occur during the summer when rainfall and runoff potential are low. The area will be compacted and replanted with grasses following the placement of the tanks to prevent runoff and erosion during the rainy season. The replanted areas will be monitored to ensure the grasses are established prior to the start of the rainy season (typically November 1st). As such, No Impact would occur.

IX.g,h) The project is located outside of the 100 year flood plain and would not require the construction of any new structures or buildings. No homes will be constructed and no structures will be placed within the 100-year flood plain that would redirect flows. Therefore, there will be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

IX.i) The project has no elements that would place people or structures at risk for inundation. There are no upstream dams or other impoundments, nor would the project create a risk of inundation in and of itself. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

IX.j) The project is located in the Coastal Zone within the tsunami run-up zone in Shelter Cove. However, the project does not include the addition of any residences or other structures that would increase risk to residences (California Department of Conservation, 2015). The Proposed Project would not involve any alterations that would increase the potential for inundation, and, therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Hydrology and Water Quality.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) physically divide an established community; (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; or (c) conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

DISCUSSION

The Proposed Project area has a Humboldt County General Plan land use and zoning designation of Public Facilities (Humboldt County Planning and Building, 2015). The proposed project is an expansion of the existing public facilities use and considered a principally permitted use. A Coastal Development Permit from the County of Humboldt will be required prior to construction.

X.a) No construction is planned in residential areas. No elements of the project will be constructed in areas not currently used for Public Facilities. The only above ground construction proposed for this project is a small drive through loop and spigot on land zoned for Public Facilities. Therefore, there will be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

X.b) The project area has a General Plan land use designation of, and is zoned for, Public Facilities under the South Coast Area Plan. The Proposed Project is a public facilities use of the property and is thus in conformance with General Plan land use and zoning designations. No impact would occur.

X.c) There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans in effect in the Proposed Project area. No Impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have **No Impact** on Land Use and Planning.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (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, or (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.

DISCUSSION

The Proposed Project is not located in an area of known rock, aggregate, sand, or other mineral resource deposits of local, regional, or state residents.

XI.a-b) The project area does not contain mineral resources that are of value locally, to the region, or to residents. The project area is not identified as a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore the proposed project will not interfere with materials extraction or otherwise cause a short-term or long-term decrease in the availability of mineral resources. There would be No Impact to mineral resources as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have **No Impact** on Mineral Resources.

XII. NOISE. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Expose persons to or generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) expose persons to, or generate, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; (b) expose persons to, or generate, excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels; (c) result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project; (d) result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project; (e) expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels (only applicable if the proposed project is 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); or (f) expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels (only applicable if the proposed project is located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.)

DISCUSSION: Construction of the project will create temporary minor noise increases but these will be limited to daytime hours Monday through Saturday. The equipment used during construction will not be of such a scale that it creates a significant amount of noise or vibration. The proposed distribution station will only be open during normal business hours and will not require any equipment that would increase permanent noise levels on the site.

XII.a) The proposed project will require heavy equipment to excavate the tank site. Work activities using this equipment will be limited to daytime hours Monday through Saturday. No elements of the proposed project would require specialized equipment that would increase noise levels above those associated with a normal construction project. The site is located at least 100 feet from surrounding residences. A Less than Significant Impact would occur.

XII.b) With the exception of minor nearby vibrations created from standard excavation equipment, such as excavators or bulldozers, there will be no elements of the proposed project that will create either

temporary or permanent ground borne vibrations. There would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

XII.c) The Proposed Project would result in temporary increase in noise levels during construction as a result of excavating the tank site, burying the proposed storage tanks, and replacing pipelines. Work will be limited to daytime hours Monday through Saturday. Once construction is completed, there would be no periodic or permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Therefore, there would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XII.d,e) The proposed project is located on the north end of the Shelter Cove Airport. This is a small, public runway suitable for small planes, but it is infrequently used. The airport will not be operational during construction. Once the construction portion of the project is completed, no workers will be exposed to additional noise from the airport activities beyond what is already experienced. There would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Noise.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and/or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and/or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure); (b) displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, or (c) displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project will allow RID to provide recycled water to existing residential customers in order to reduce the summertime withdrawals from the RID's existing water supply.

XIII.a-c) The proposed project will not increase available water supplies and does not propose new housing or other elements that would induce population growth or displace any residents. There would be No Impact to population or housing as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have **No Impact** on Population and Housing.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would 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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or result in the 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 (a) fire protection, (b) police protection, (c) schools, (d) parks, or (e) other public facilities.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project does not involve additional infrastructure or facilities that would impact the ability of the RID or the County to provide services to the residents of Shelter Cove. Existing WWTP staff will need to be trained in the rules pertaining to providing recycled water to customers. Staff will need to be available to inspect individual water tanks and answer public questions as needed.

XIV.a) The project will not create additional facilities that would require increased fire protection above current levels. The project is intended to provide up to 100,000 gallons per day of recycled water for fire protection purposes during the summer months when fire danger is at its peak. Therefore, there would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XIV.b-c) There are no portions of the proposed project that would require additional police protection or increase population to such an extent that a school would need to be built in Shelter Cove. The availability of a new residential irrigation water supply will not require additional police protection or school facilities. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XIV.d) No residential units will be constructed, nor is the population expected to increase, as a result of the proposed project. Because the proposed project would not create a need for a new or physically-altered park facility, it will not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the construction of such a facility. The proposed distribution station would be located on the north end of the existing golf course, which could result in the occasional golf ball landing near the distribution station. However, no portions of the golf course or other recreation areas are being removed or repurposed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, there would be a Less than Significant Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XIV.e) There are no elements of the proposed project that would impact public services. The addition of the recycled water distribution station to the RID's services will increase staff responsibility by creating a new facility at the distribution station but will provide an irrigation source that will decrease the reliance on potable water supplies and effectively increase the RID's water supply in the summer months. Therefore, the addition of the new facility will have a Less than Significant Impact on public facilities.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Public Services.

XV. RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) 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, or (b) include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

DISCUSSION

The majority of the land surrounding Shelter Cove is part of the King Range National Conservation Area which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and was included in the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2006. The Shelter Cove area includes four State Parks: Black Sands Beach, Abalone Point, Seal Rock, and Mal Coombs Park. Shelter Cove also includes the Shelter Cove RV Park and Campground and a nine-hole golf course which surrounds the Shelter Cove Airport.

As noted in the project description, RID proposes to expand the existing water recycling program already in operation by RID. The expansion of the water recycling program will allow the expansion of landscaping irrigation services to additional properties owned and maintained by RID, as well as provide additional water resources for fire protection. Additionally, expansion of the program will create the opportunity for RID to provide Shelter Cove residents with recycled water.

XV.a-b) No residential units would be constructed, nor is the population expected to increase, as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would not increase the usage of or demand for neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the physical deterioration of parks or facilities, nor would it require the construction of new park or recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have **No Impact** on Recreation.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 congestions management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially increase hazards due to design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (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; (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; (c) result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks; (d) substantially increase hazards due to design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment); (e) result in inadequate emergency access; or (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.

DISCUSSION:

Under the proposed project, RID is proposing to expand the existing golf course irrigation system and make recycled water available to RID customers. The program will allow water customers to truck and use recycled water for agricultural irrigation and fire suppression within RID's service boundaries. Fire district vehicles will also be able to fill up at the recycled water station to enhance fire suppression.

The project site is located along Lower Pacific Drive in Shelter Cove, California, which serves the existing WWTP and existing residences. The proposed recycled water distribution station is proposed southwest of

the existing WWTP and tertiary treatment room. From the distribution station, RID customers will fill their personal water tanks and transport recycled water to their home sites.

XVI.a) The project would not impact an applicable plan establishing measures of effectiveness for circulation in the project area. As noted above, the program users will include fire protection personnel and RID customers, and the recycled water may only be used within RID's service boundaries. As such, no changes to roads or traffic levels are expected as a result of the proposed project. Additionally, the project will not impact long term traffic patterns.

It is expected that project construction will result in minimal interruption of traffic on Lower Pacific Drive. The project would have a less than significant impact on the capacity of the street system, level of service standards established by the County, or the overall effectiveness of the circulation system. The project would not have an impact on an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

During construction, heavy equipment such as bulldozers and trenchers may be transported to the subject site. The existing on-site access road from Lower Pacific Drive, which will be utilized to access the tank installation site, is nearly level, paved, and approximately 12 feet wide. It is adequate in its current condition to accommodate the anticipated heavy equipment to be used during project construction. An encroachment permit will be required from the County of Humboldt Public Works Department to construct the distribution station. As part of the encroachment permit, the contractor will be required to prepare a Traffic Management Plan. The plan will include strategies for signage, traffic control, flagging, and maintenance of access through construction areas. Once the proposed project is constructed, operational traffic is expected to remain at the same level as existing traffic. The proposed 10-foot wide paved access loop will provide storage capacity for three vehicles. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.

XVI.b) Due to the low population and relatively low traffic levels, there are no congestion management programs in the area that would be impacted by the proposed project. Therefore, there would be no impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVI.c) Though the proposed project will be in the vicinity of the Shelter Cove Airport, the proposed project is not expected to impact the circulation or approach patterns of the airport once construction is complete. The majority of project components will be underground.

The proposed recycled water distribution station will be located to the northwest of the existing airport runways. Other uses exist near and adjacent to the runways without disrupting air traffic, including a golf course.

There would be a less than significant impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVI.d-e) The project would have no impact on traffic hazards or emergency access because the project does not consist of changes to existing roads. There would be no impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVI.f) There are no adopted bicycle plans or pedestrian management plans in place for Shelter Cove. The proposed project would not create any facilities or activities that would impact alternative transportation in Shelter Cove. There would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on transportation and traffic.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board; (b) require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects; (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; (d) have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or need new or expanded entitlements; (e) result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; (f) be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; or (g) comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project would increase the availability of recycled water for public and private irrigation and other non-potable uses. This involves increase filtration, storage, and transmission capacity, but does not involve an increase in the amount of wastewater that must be treated.

XVII.a) The proposed project is limited to the installation of five recycled water storage tanks, associated transmission lines, and the provision of tertiary treated reclaimed wastewater for the purposes of distribution to RID water customers, fire suppression, and irrigation of the golf course. All recycled water distribution and treatment will be in accordance with Title 22 and RWQCB requirements described in the section related to the treatment and use of recycled water. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project will not result in exceedances of wastewater treatment requirements, and there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVII.b) The proposed project consists of a recycled water storage tank site and associated pipelines and a distribution station for fire crews and approved residential users. The project does not require or result in the construction or expansion of new or existing water supply or wastewater treatment facilities. The Project is proposed in order to provide an additional water supply for irrigation and to expand the use of tertiary treated wastewater within the District boundaries. The project will have a beneficial impact of providing a disposal mechanism that increases the beneficial use of recycled water within the RID and provides benefits to both wastewater and water resource management through provision of a disposal mechanism and providing a reliable irrigation supply source. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVII.c) The project does not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of current facilities. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVII.d) Water resources are not affected by the proposed project. Since the project will utilize an existing irrigation system between the WWTP and the golf course, the demand on fresh water supplies in the service area will be effectively the same as prior to the project. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVII.e) The capacity of the local wastewater treatment plant is not affected by the proposed project. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

XVII.f-g) Minimal solid waste will be generated by construction of the propose project, and the completed project will not generate solid waste. The project will not affect the capacity of the landfill that serves Shelter Cove. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of the proposed project.

XVII.h) There is minimal solid waste generated by the proposed project. The project is not affected by federal, state, and local regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, there would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Propose Project will have **No Impact** on utilities and service systems.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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).	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE: This Initial Study considers to what degree, if any, the proposed project would (a) 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; (b) 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.); or (c) have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project would increase the tertiary treatment and filtration capacity at the WWTP; increase the size of the treated water transmission lines; add a new transmission main connecting the existing pipeline to the proposed five 20,000 gallon water storage tanks at the north end of the runway to store the tertiary treated wastewater; install a water distribution station; upgrade the existing tertiary treated wastewater pipeline from the WWTP to the existing irrigation water storage pond at the southwest end of the runway; and, finally, upgrade the existing sprinkler heads and add additional sprinkler heads as necessary throughout the golf course fairways to improve irrigation coverage.

The increase in filtration and treatment capacity at the WWTP will not require any additional building or expansion of existing facilities at the WWTP. All work at the WWTP will take place within the existing structure and will have not require any changes to the WWTP footprint, operations, or surrounding neighborhood or resources.

The proposed tanks will be placed at the northeast corner of the runway and buried in the face of an existing bluff that borders the runway apron at a location set aside for airplane storage and parking. Once buried, the tanks will not affect runway operations or airplane parking.

The expanded transmission pipeline would replace the existing pipeline and would be installed using a pipe burst or directional boring technique that would preclude the need for open trenching. The pipeline would be laid from the existing WWTP to the existing irrigation water storage pond, with a junction connecting the expanded pipeline to the proposed water storage tanks discussed above.

The proposed distribution station would be located adjacent to the existing pipeline connecting the WWTP to the existing irrigation water storage pond. The distribution station would be placed approximately 100 feet south of the unnamed creek that separates the WWTP from the runway and golf course area to prevent impacts to the creek. The proposed distribution station would be accessed from Lower Pacific Drive. The area is level, well compacted, and regularly maintained as part of the golf course maintenance routine. The unnamed creek and a small population of native California oatgrass are the only ESHA identified within the general vicinity of the project.

The upgrade to the sprinkler heads in the golf course would be completed with hand tools and light power equipment such as a trencher and pick-up truck. No heavy equipment would be required.

XVIII.a The walking survey of the project area, completed in November of 2015, did not identify any threatened or listed species in the project area. However, despite the well-maintained and highly modified nature of the golf course and runway which contain the project area, a number of native California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*) individuals were noted along the existing pipeline route. Because of this, mitigation measure **BIO-1** has been incorporated to reduce the impact to this native species and ensure that no other native or threatened plant species are present.

No other sensitive species, habitats, or cultural locations were identified in the project area. With mitigation incorporated, the impacts to the known resources would be Less than Significant.

XVIII.b) The project proposes to increase tertiary treated water storage capacity, provide a distribution station accessible to RID customers, and improve the irrigation of the golf course. There are no elements of the proposed project that would have cumulatively considerable impacts because there are no growth inducing impacts; there are no unmitigated impacts to sensitive habitats or species; and no construction that would impact traffic, existing residences, or limit the ability of the RID, county, or state to provide utilities to Shelter Cove. There would be no cumulatively considerable impacts as a result of implementing the proposed project.

XVIII.c) The increased availability of tertiary treated wastewater will provide additional water for residential irrigation, the irrigation of public recreation areas, and additional emergency water supplies for fire suppression. Increasing the storage capacity for the treated wastewater and constructing a station for customers and firefighters will have no impacts that would have adverse effects on humans or the community. There would be No Impact as a result of implementing the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation required.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Project will have a **Less than Significant** Impact on Mandatory Findings of Significance

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