

VOLUME II

FINAL EIR TEXT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CITY OF HOLLISTER DOMESTIC WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECYCLED WATER FACILITY PROJECT

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1-1
1.1	Project Background.....	1-1
1.2	Project Objectives.....	1-1
1.3	Description of the Proposed Project	1-2
1.4	Scope and Organization of the EIR	1-4
1.5	Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures	1-4
1.6	Summary of Alternatives	1-5
1.7	Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts	1-5
1.8	Issues of Interest/Controversy	1-6
1.9	Required Permits and Approvals	1-6
2.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2-1
2.1	Purpose of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR).....	2-1
2.2	CEQA Process	2-1
2.3	Project Location and Description.....	2-3
2.4	Type of EIR	2-3
2.4.1	Program EIR	2-7
2.4.2	Project EIR.....	2-8
2.5	Project Background	2-9
2.5.1	Regional Water Resources Planning.....	2-9
2.5.2	Existing Wastewater System	2-15
2.5.3	Regional Growth and Wastewater Flow Projections	2-17
2.5.4	Previous Environmental Review	2-20
2.6	Scope of the EIR	2-21
2.7	Impact Types, Significance, and Mitigation.....	2-22
2.7.1	Impact Types.....	2-22
2.7.2	Impact Significance and Significance Criteria.....	2-22
2.7.3	Mitigation.....	2-23
2.8	Organization of this EIR	2-23
3.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3-1
3.1	Introduction.....	3-1
3.2	Project Location.....	3-1
3.3	Project Objectives.....	3-5
3.4	Description of the Proposed Project	3-6
3.4.1	DWSI Project – Phase I.....	3-6
3.4.2	DWSI Project – Phase II	3-30
3.4.3	Recycled Water Facility Project – Phase I.....	3-32

3.5	3.4.4 Recycled Water Facility Project – Phase II.....	3-34
	Project Construction and Operation.....	3-35
	3.5.1 Phase I DWSI.....	3-35
	3.5.2 Project Operation	3-37
3.6	Regulatory Requirements, Permits and Approvals.....	3-37
	3.6.1 Waste Discharge Requirements	3-37
	3.6.2 Recycled Water Regulations	3-38
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	4.1-1
4.1	Land Use and Resource Planning.....	4.1-1
	4.1.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.1-1
	4.1.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.1-19
	4.1.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.1-23
4.2	Geology and Soils.....	4.2-1
	4.2.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.2-1
	4.2.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.2-2
	4.2.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.2-8
4.3	Hydrology and Water Quality.....	4.3-1
	4.3.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.3-1
	4.3.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.3-14
	4.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.3-27
4.4	Biological Resources	4.4-1
	4.4.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.4-1
	4.4.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.4-7
	4.4.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.4-40
4.5	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	4.5-1
	4.5.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.5-1
	4.5.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.5-3
	4.5.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.5-9
4.6	Hazardous Materials and Public Health and Safety.....	4.6-1
	4.6.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.6-1
	4.6.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.6-5
	4.6.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.6-11
4.7	Utilities and Service Systems	4.7-1
	4.7.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.7-1
	4.7.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.7-6
	4.7.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.7-10
4.8	Air Quality	4.8-1
	4.8.1 Regulatory Setting.....	4.8-1
	4.8.2 Environmental Setting.....	4.8-10
	4.8.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.8-14

4.9	Traffic	4.9-1
4.9.1	Regulatory Setting.....	4.9-1
4.9.2	Environmental Setting.....	4.9-1
4.9.3	Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.9-2
4.10	Noise	4.10-1
4.10.1	Regulatory Setting.....	4.10-1
4.10.2	Environmental Setting.....	4.10-6
4.10.3	Impacts and Mitigation Measures	4.10-6
5.0	CEQA-REQUIRED SECTIONS	5-1
5.1	Growth Inducement Impacts of the Proposed Project	5-1
5.1.1	Development and Growth Trends	5-1
5.1.2	Existing and Predicted Wastewater Flows	5-2
5.1.3	Growth Inducement Potential of the Proposed Project	5-3
5.1.4	Secondary Environmental Impacts of Growth.....	5-3
5.2	Cumulative Impacts	5-12
5.2.1	Projects Considered in Cumulative Impact Analysis.....	5-13
5.2.2	Cumulative Impact Assessment	5-17
5.3	Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes.....	5-23
5.4	Unavoidable Significant Impacts.....	5-23
6.0	PROJECT ALTERNATIVES.....	6-1
6.1	Introduction.....	6-1
6.2	Project Alternatives.....	6-1
6.2.1	No-Project Alternative	6-2
6.2.2	Wastewater Treatment Alternatives	6-4
6.2.3	Effluent Disposal Alternatives	6-9
6.2.3.1	Feasible Alternatives	6-11
6.2.3.2	Infeasible Alternatives.....	6-16
6.2.4	Program-level Components.....	6-17
6.3	Environmentally Superior Alternative.....	6-18
7.0	REFERENCES.....	7-1
8.0	REPORT PREPARATION AND PERSONS/ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED.....	8-1
8.1	City of Hollister Project Team.....	8-1
8.2	EIR Consultant Team.....	8-1
8.3	Persons/Organization Consulted.....	8-2
9.0	ACRONYMS	9-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1	Project Components and Phasing.....	1-3
Table 1-2	Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	1-9
Table 2-1	Project Components and Phasing.....	2-6
Table 2-2	Wastewater Flow Projections for the Hollister Service Area.....	2-19
Table 3-1	Project Components and Phasing.....	3-7
Table 3-2	Summary of Design Wastewater Flow (MGD) for the DWTP.....	3-8
Table 3-3	Expected Effluent Quality.....	3-17
Table 3-4	Estimated Wastewater Disposal Requirements (Acre-Feet)	3-18
Table 3-5	Phase I Minimum Sprayfield Disposal Capacity Requirements	3-18
Table 3-6	Planned Phase I Sprayfield Capacity.....	3-21
Table 4.1-1	Basin Plan Groundwater Objectives and Expected Effluent Quality	4.1-26
Table 4.3-1	Basin Plan Groundwater Objectives and Expected Effluent Quality	4.3-41
Table 4.4-1	Potentially Occurring Special Status Species.....	4.4-16
Table 4.4-2	Breeding Periods and Buffer Distances for Potentially Occurring Bird Species ...	4.4-42
Table 4.6-1	Environmental Data Resources (EDR) Summary of Agency Databases	4.6-6
Table 4.6-2	Description of Hazardous Materials Storage Locations, Usage Amounts, and Toxicity	4.6-10
Table 4.8-1	Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	4.8-2
Table 4.8-2	Attainment Status for San Benito County within the NCCAB	4.8-5
Table 4.8-3	Air Monitoring Results.....	4.8-12
Table 4.8-4	San Benito County 2005 Emissions Inventory (tons per day)	4.8-13
Table 4.8-5	Unmitigated Short-term DWTP Construction Emissions (pounds per summer day).....	4.8-17
Table 4.8-6	Mitigated Short-term DWTP Construction Emissions (pounds per summer day).....	4.8-17
Table 4.8-7	Unmitigated Short-term Disposal Area Construction Emissions (pounds per summer day).....	4.8-19
Table 4.8-8	Mitigated Short-term Construction Emissions (pounds per summer day)	4.8-20
Table 4.8-9	Operation Emissions (lbs/day)	4.8-20
Table 4.8-10	Unmitigated Emissions from Disposal of Biosolids (pounds per summer day)....	4.8-21
Table 4.8-11	Regulated Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) of Concern	4.8-22
Table 4.10-1	San Benito County Indoor and Outdoor Noise Level Thresholds (L_{DN}).....	4.10-4
Table 4.10-2	Noise Level Standards for San Benito County.....	4.10-4
Table 4.10-3	Typical Construction Noise Levels	4.10-8
Table 4.10-4	Typical Noise Levels from Construction Equipment.....	4.10-8
Table 4.10-5	Noise Standards for Noise Generating Equipment Hourly Equivalent (LEQ)....	4.10-11
Table 5-1	Projects Approved Prior to Implementation of Current Growth Management Policies	5-16
Table 5-2	Approved Projects Subject to Current Growth Management Policies	5-16
Table 6-1	Comparison of Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives With Those of the Proposed Project.....	6-19

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1	Regional Location	2-4
Figure 2-2	Site and Vicinity	2-5
Figure 2-3	Existing DWTP Facilities.....	2-16
Figure 2-4	Hollister Service Area	2-18
Figure 3-1	Proposed DWTP Site Facilities.....	3-2
Figure 3-2	Proposed DWTP Details	3-3
Figure 3-3	Proposed Phase I Sprayfield-Irrigation Area.....	3-4
Figure 3-4	Disposal Strategy.....	3-16
Figure 3-5	Proposed Phase I Pipeline Alignments.....	3-25
Figure 3-6	Seasonal Storage Reservoir Cross-Section.....	3-27
Figure 3-7	Phase II RWF Project	3-33
Figure 4.1-1	Land Use Jurisdictions.....	4.1-8
Figure 4.1-2	City of Hollister General Plan Land Use Designations.....	4.1-9
Figure 4.1-3	San Benito County General Plan Land Use Designations.....	4.1-14
Figure 4.1-4	Farmland Resources	4.1-18
Figure 4.1-5	Williamson Act Parcels.....	4.1-20
Figure 4.2-1	Productive Agricultural Soil Associations	4.2-4
Figure 4.2-2	Faults	4.2-5
Figure 4.3-1	Water Resources.....	4.3-15
Figure 4.3-2	Hydrographs of Simulated Groundwater Elevation in Potentially Affected Locations	4.3-18
Figure 4.3-3	Simulated Contours of Depth to Water in Shallow Aquifers in December 1990 and March 1998.....	4.3-19
Figure 4.3-4	Existing Groundwater Salinity (TDS)	4.3-24
Figure 4.3-5	Average Salinity Concentrations Near DWTP and IWTP	4.3-26
Figure 4.3-6a	Simulated TDS Concentrations at Flint Hills and Airport Sprayfield Areas	4.3-32
Figure 4.3-6b	Simulated TDS Concentrations at Flint Hills and Airport Sprayfield Areas (Continued).....	4.3-33
Figure 4.3-7	Evaporative Concentration of TDS in Applied Irrigation Water	4.3-35
Figure 4.3-8	Contours of Cumulative Changes in Shallow Groundwater Salinity after Phase I and II.....	4.3-45
Figure 4.3-9	Hydrographs of Simulated Concentrations of Salinity With and Without the Proposed Project.....	4.3-46
Figure 4.3-10a	Hydrographs of Simulated Groundwater Elevation in Potentially Affected Locations	4.3-57
Figure 4.3-10b	Hydrographs of Simulated Groundwater Elevation in Potentially Affected Locations	4.3-58
Figure 4.3-11	Simulated Path of Whittaker Contamination Plume With and Without the Proposed Project.....	4.3-63
Figure 4.3-12	Increase in Shallow Groundwater Elevation near the Airport Sprayfield at the End of Phase I	4.3-66
Figure 4.3-13	Comparison of Shallow Groundwater Levels in Spring of a Wet Year With and Without the Proposed Project.....	4.3-69
Figure 4.4-1	Habitat Map.....	4.4-8
Figure 4.4-2	Wetlands and Drainages.....	4.4-11
Figure 4.4-3	Special Status Species	4.4-15

Figure 4.7-1	Phase I Impacts on Groundwater Elevations near Municipal Wells	4.7-14
Figure 4.7-2	Phase I Impacts on Groundwater Elevations from Municipal Well Production ...	4.7-15

VOLUME II - APPENDICES

Appendix A	Notice of Preparation
Appendix B	Comment Letters on NOP
Appendix C	Initial Study
Appendix D	City of Hollister Long-Term Wastewater Management Program
Appendix E	Phase I Effluent Management Project Technical Memorandum
Appendix F	Groundwater Modeling Technical Appendix
Appendix G	List of Species Occurring in the Project Area
Appendix H	CNDBB, CNPS, and FWS 9-quad query results
Appendix I	NAHC Correspondence
Appendix J	EDR Reports
Appendix K	URBEMIS Calculations
Appendix L	AMBAG Consistency Determinations