Notice of Preparation

To: EIR & Notice of Preparation Mailing List

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency:	**Consulting Firm: (if applicable)**
Agency Name: City of San Luis Obispo	EIR to be prepared by:
Department Name: Utilities Department	Firm Name: Rincon Consultants
Street Address: 879 Morro Street	Street Address: 1530 Monterey Street, Suite D
City/State/Zip: San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	City/State/Zip: San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Contact: David Hix, 805-781-7039	Contact: Jennifer Haddow

The City of San Luis Obispo will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for this project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are summarized in the attachment. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but ***not later than 30 days*** after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to the attention of Brian Leveille, Senior Planner, in the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department at the address below. We will need the name of a contact person in your agency in any response provided.

Attn: Brian Leveille, Senior Planner
City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department
919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218
Email: bleveille@slocity.org

Project Title: City of San Luis Obispo Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Project

Project Location: 35 Prado Road, San Luis Obispo, APN 053-051-045.

Project Description:
The proposed project includes upgrading the existing Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in order to: (1) provide the nominal increase in average dry weather flow (ADWF) capacity to serve the needs of the City as anticipated in the updated General Plan Land Use Element; (2) meet the more stringent discharge requirements adopted by the RWQCB and SWRCB in late 2014; (3) replace aging equipment; (4) maximize the production of recycled water; and (5) incorporate interpretive features and public amenities.

Date: 10/12/2015
Signature:
Title: Principal, Rincon Consultants

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14 (CEQA Guidelines)
Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375 (Revised October 1989)

NOTICE OF PREPARATION ATTACHMENT
WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY PROJECT

The City of San Luis Obispo, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is requesting comments on the environmental impact report (EIR) scope of work for the proposed project, described below and in the Notice of Preparation, and commonly referred to as the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Project. An initial study has not been prepared for this project. Instead all CEQA Appendix G Checklist Items will be addressed in the EIR.

Project Location and Setting

The City of San Luis Obispo Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) is located at 35 Prado Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (see Figures 1 and 2). The site occupies approximately 55 acres bounded by U.S. Highway 101 on the west, San Luis Obispo Creek on the east, Prado Road on the north, and Los Osos Valley Road on the south. The project site also includes the undeveloped area located immediately southwest of the main facility and adjacent to the Bob Jones Bike Trail and the location of the decommissioned chlorine contact channels adjacent to the existing ponds near the outfall or discharge point for the WRRF.

Most of the project site is disturbed and contains the existing WRRF equipment and related uses. These include the headworks (influent receiving and coarse solids removal), primary treatment system (to separate solid material from effluent), secondary treatment system (mainly to remove organic material), disinfection, cooling, solids treatment, and various ponds, and other equipment. Some of this equipment is old and in need of replacement or back-up facilities and some will be retained and used in the updated WRRF design.

San Luis Obispo Creek is located along the entire easterly boundary of the project site. The creek originates several miles northeast of the City, and enters the Pacific Ocean about seven miles downstream from the WRRF. A segment of the Bob Jones Bike Trail runs along the west side of the creek and through the southern portion of the project site.

The project site contains other uses besides the WRRF. These other uses include the Prado Day Center, a small indoor shooting range, City transit bus facility, and a City corporation yard and storage area. The Prado Day Center is scheduled for relocation to a nearby parcel on the north side of Prado Road. The new Prado Day Center has already been reviewed and approved by the City, and that relocation is not part of this project. The shooting range will be removed. The existing City corporation yard, containing vehicle maintenance, parking, and related facilities would remain; however, a new entrance to the corporation yard would be created due to the planned construction of the Prado Road overpass. The existing bus facility will remain at the site.

Project Description

The WRRF is being upgraded to provide the nominal increase in average dry weather flow (ADWF) capacity to serve the needs of the City as anticipated in the updated General Plan Land Use Element. At the same time, the WRRF upgrade is necessary to meet the more stringent discharge requirements established by the RWQCB and SWRCB in late 2014, including strict limits on nitrate and disinfection byproducts, and handling wet weather flows without the need to overload or bypass steps in the treatment process.

The City has identified the following project vision, mission, and objectives:

> **Vision:** *Create a community asset that is recognized as supporting health, well-being and quality of life*

Mission: *Deliver a Water Resource Recovery Facility in partnership with stakeholders that provides economic, social and environmental value to the community*

Objectives and Performance Measures

- *Economic*
  - *Optimize capital investment and life cycle cost*
  - *Maximize value for ratepayers' investment*
  - *Incorporate flexibility and scalability to adapt to future conditions*
  - *Simplify process flow and make treatment more robust*
  - *Optimize application of appropriate technology*
- *Social*
  - *Create and sustain diverse partnerships that add value to the community*
  - *Provide an interpretive center and dedicated features to engage and educate the community*
  - *Be a good neighbor*
  - *Engender the trust of project stakeholders*
  - *Support the development and empowerment of City employees*
- *Environmental*
  - *Develop and implement a holistic strategy to maximize sustainable resource recovery and manage salts, nutrients and environmental pollutants in the Basin*
  - *Incorporate sustainability practices in planning, design, construction, and operation*
  - *Maintain compliance and minimize impacts to operations and the community during construction*
  - *Sustain reliable compliance post-construction*

Project Characteristics. Details regarding the components of the project and their construction are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Demolition of Existing Structures. During the WRRF upgrade certain structures would be demolished to make room for new and enlarged equipment. The Prado Day Center and indoor shooting range buildings would be removed, along with treatment facilities that are no longer required. Since the WRRF must continue operating during the upgrades, not all of the demolition would occur concurrently.

Treatment Plant Upgrades. The proposed upgrades to the WRRF are summarized briefly as follows:

- *Flow Equalization*. Upgrades to the existing equalization pond to enhance operations and maintenance and improve wet-weather performance.
- *Preliminary Treatment*. Addition of a new flow monitoring system and odor control improvements, along with other mechanical and structural improvements to the existing headworks.
- *Primary Treatment*. Rehabilitation of the primary clarifiers and upgrades to the supporting mechanical equipment.
- *Secondary Treatment*. Upgraded and expanded secondary treatment system to remove nitrogen and organic components, necessary to meet the new Waste Discharge Requirements specifications.
- *Tertiary Treatment*. Expansion of the filter capacity to meet peak flow requirements.
- *Cooling*. Upgrades to effluent cooling system.
- *Disinfection*. Construction of a new Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection unit to meet the new stringent discharge limits for disinfection byproducts.
- *Solids Thickening*. Addition of new equipment to thicken the solids produced in the treatment process.

- *Anaerobic Digester.* Construction of a new anaerobic digester.
- *Biosolids Dewatering.* Replacement of the old belt filter press with a new screw press.
- *Sidestream Treatment/Return Stream Management.* Several upgrades would be made in the handling and treatment of waste streams produced internally. These include filter backwash, thickening return fluid (sidestream), digester return fluid (sidestream), lagoon supernatant (from dewatering sidestream), sludge drying bed return fluid, and plant drain.
- *Odor Control.* Odor control improvements would be installed at several locations.
- *Additional Electrical and Control Upgrades.* Improved electrical service to meet the needs of new equipment, and improved instrumentation and controls for operation of the WRRF.
- *Stormwater Management.* Construction of on-site drainage improvements and the addition of one new stormwater discharge point near the northeast corner of the WRRF.
- *Flood Protection Improvements.* Construction of improvements to provide enhanced flood protection for key facilities.
- *Renewable Energy Improvements.* Installation of solar photovoltaic panels and related equipment at various locations throughout the WRRF.
- *Public Amenities.* Construction of a new Water Resource Center, and grading and restoration of land at the northeast corner of the WRRF after removal of the existing supernatant pond, which may ultimately be used for public park purposes under the direction of the City Parks and Recreation Department. The project would also include improvements to perimeter fencing and landscaping, particularly at the Prado Road frontage of the property, as well improvements for security, access control, and internal circulation.

Discretionary Permits

The following permits have been identified as possibly applying to the project. The list will be refined as detailed plans are developed.

- Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 404. Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and take authorization as applicable.
- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and take authorization as applicable.
- California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Consultation and coordination with the NAHC.
- Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 401. Water Quality Certification from Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB).
- CWA, Section 402. NPDES General Permit from the CCRWQCB for general construction activities and General Permit for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR)/Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for flood control improvements.
- Caltrans Encroachment Permit.
- San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate.
- City building, grading, and encroachment permits, as appropriate.
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Approval for new power infrastructure to the site.

Probable Environmental Effects/Issues Scoped for EIR

The main resource areas anticipated to be potentially significant in the EIR include:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources

- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Public Services and Utilities

Other issue areas that will be analyzed in the EIR include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic

Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting has been scheduled to allow for any interested persons to supply input on issues to be discussed in the EIR:

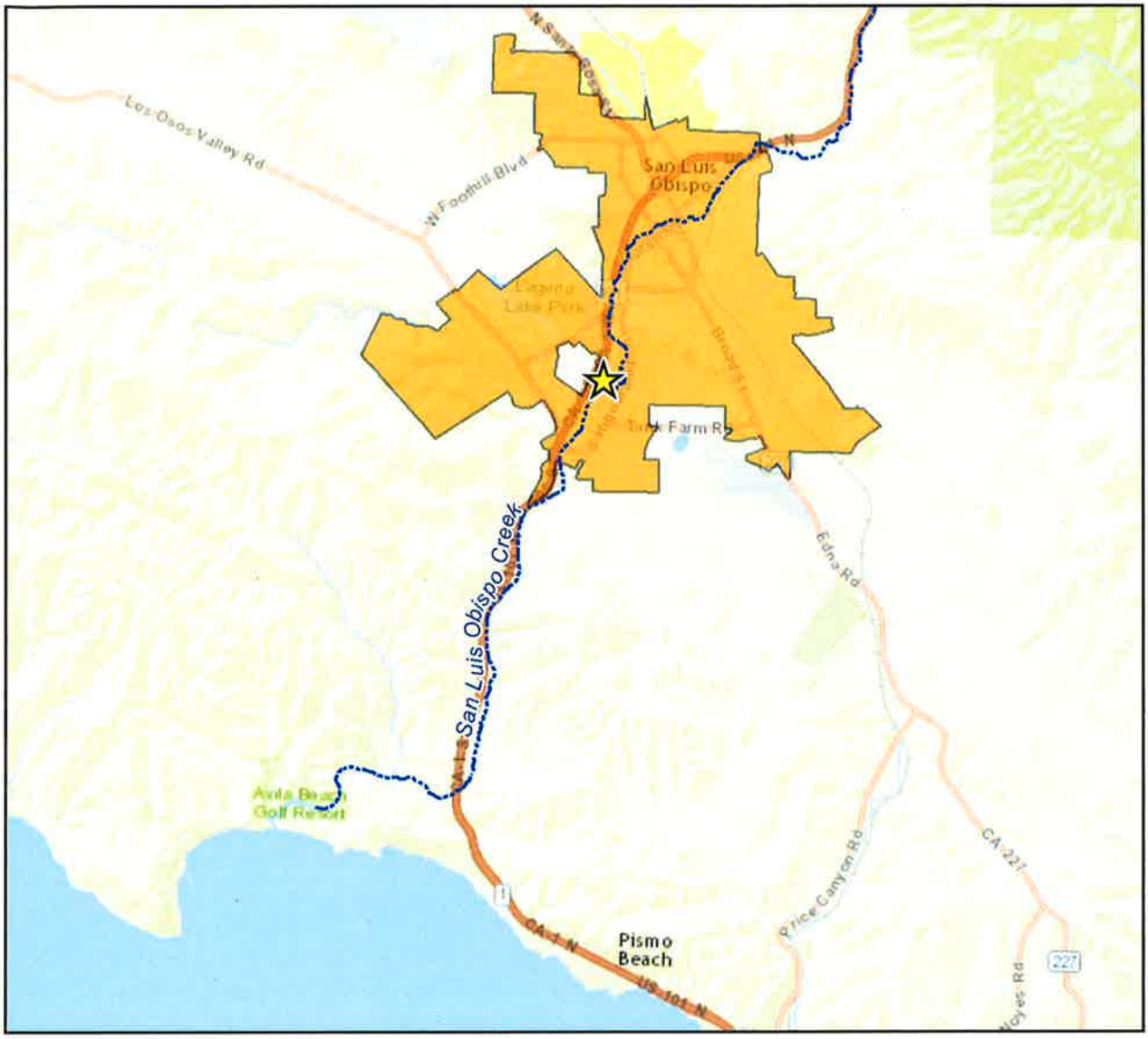
Date: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: 990 Palm Street (City Council Chamber upstairs), San Luis Obispo

The meeting is an opportunity for City and consultant staffs to gather information from the public regarding the potential environmental impacts of the project that need to be evaluated in the EIR. It is not intended to be a hearing on the merits of the project. Therefore, members of the public should keep their comments focused on potential significant changes to the environment that may occur as a direct result of project development.

Contact for Comments

Please send your comments to the attention of Brian Leveille, Senior Planner, in the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department at the addresses below. Comments can be submitted either by email or hard copy and must be received no later than 5PM on November 13, 2015.

Attn: Brian Leveille, Senior Planner
City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department
919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218
Email: bleveille@slocity.org



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Project Location

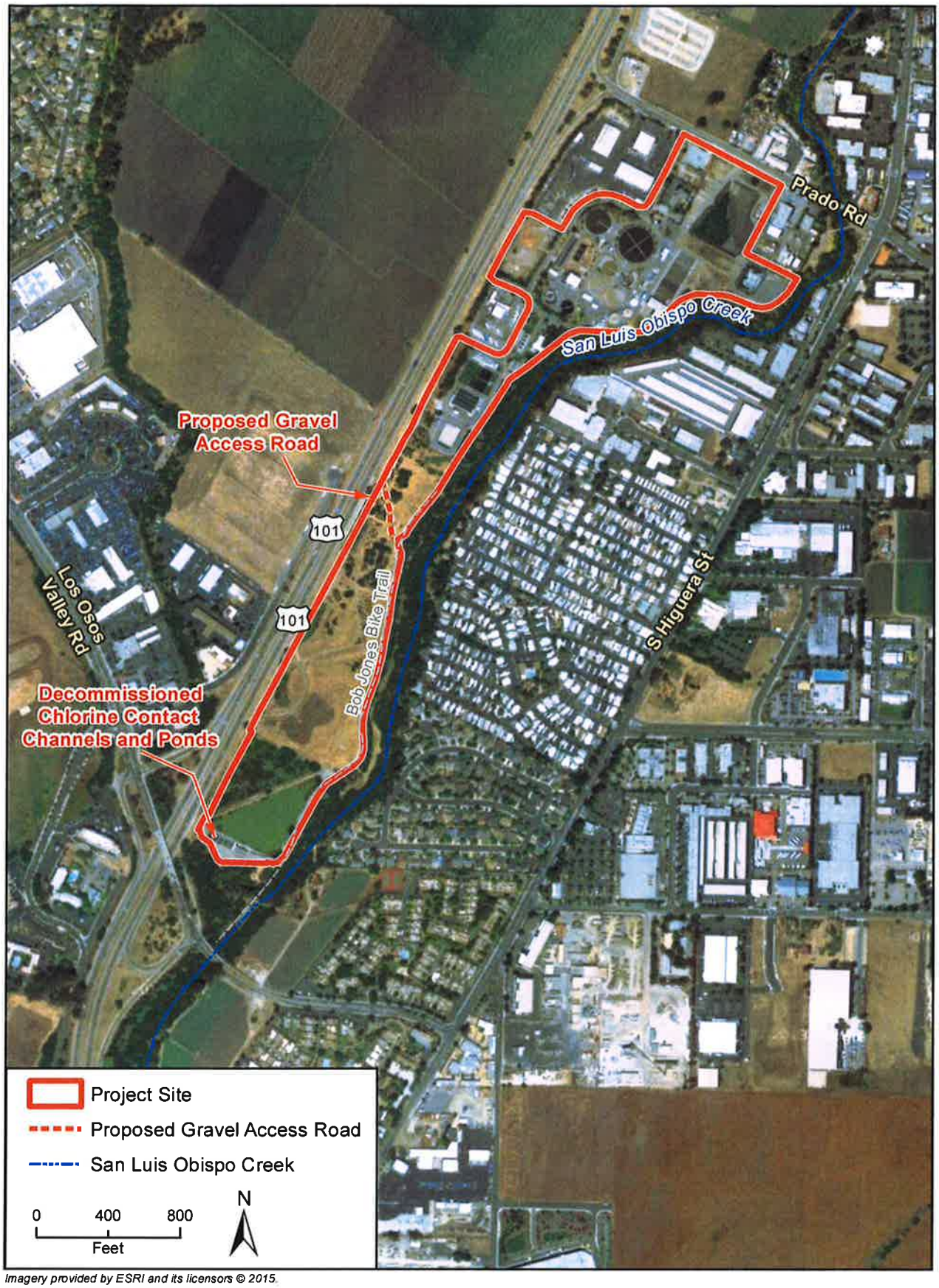
San Luis Obispo Creek

San Luis Obispo City Limits

0 1 2
Miles

Project Site and Vicinity

Figure 1



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Project Site and Vicinity

Figure 2