Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility

Final Environmental Impact Report Public Meeting

July 3, 2018
3:00 PM

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Purpose of Meeting

- City of Morro Bay acting as the Lead Agency prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Final EIR for the proposed Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

➢ The goal of this meeting is for the Planning Commission and WRFCAC to provide direction to the City Council regarding certification of the Final EIR and approval of the project.

- Brief Presentation
- Commission Questions
- Public Input
- Commission Discussion and Recommendation

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Presentation Overview

- CEQA Process Overview
- Review of Project Description
- Review of Draft EIR contents and conclusions
- Review of Final EIR contents and conclusions
- Next Steps

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California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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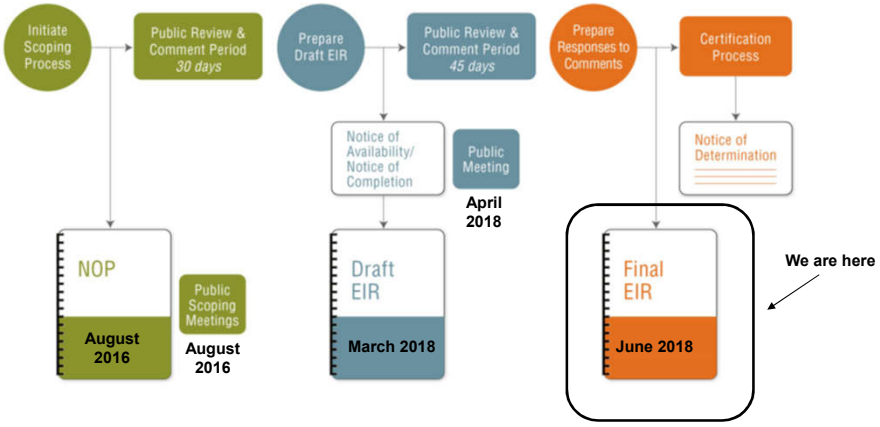
CEQA Process for an EIR



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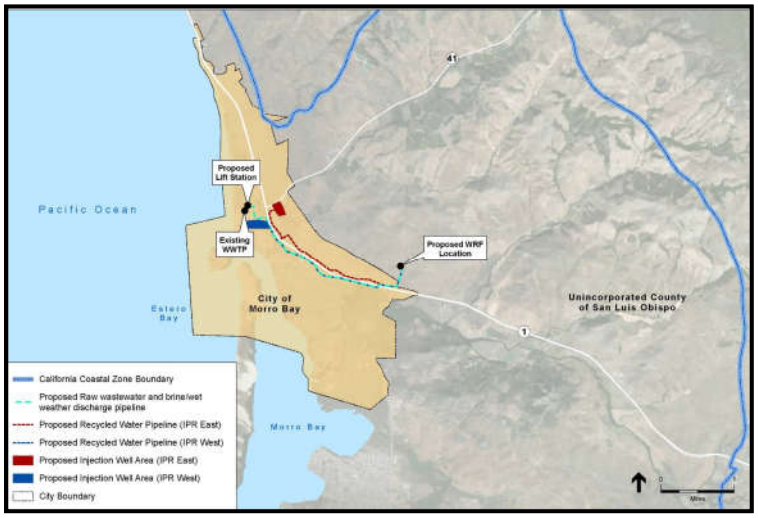
California Coastal Zone Boundary and Project Location



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Proposed Project Overview

- To meet the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board, the Proposed Project would provide tertiary wastewater treatment services for the City of Morro Bay.

- **TREATMENT**: Proposed new WRF
- **COLLECTION**: New lift station and conveyance pipeline for raw/treated wastewater flows to/from the WRF
- **DISTRIBUTION**: New recycled water pipeline from WRF to new groundwater injection wells (two alternative areas)
- **INDIRECT POTABLE REUSE**: Recharge advanced-treated recycled water to Morro Valley Groundwater Basin; extract groundwater from existing City production wells
- **DECOMMISSION**: Decommissioning of existing WWTP

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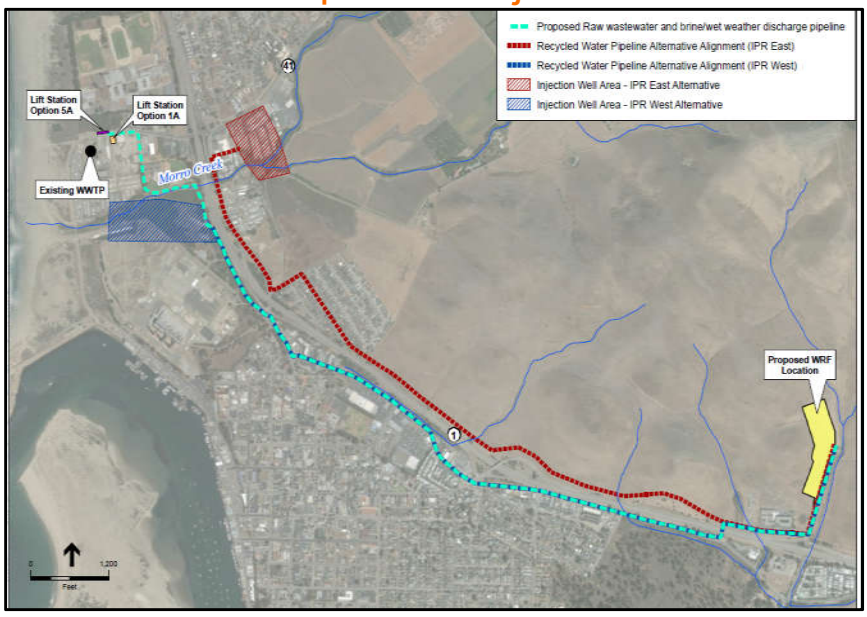
Proposed Project



Project Objectives

Refined and adopted by City Council, October 24, 2017:

- Produce tertiary, disinfected wastewater in accordance with the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 requirements for unrestricted urban irrigation
- Produce reclaimed wastewater to augment the City's water supply, by direct or indirect means
- Design to treat, and minimize the impacts from, contaminants of emerging concern in the future
- Ensure compatibility with neighboring land uses

Contents of Draft EIR

- Analysis of Direct, Indirect and Cumulative impacts to resources required by CEQA:
  - Aesthetics
  - Air Quality
  - Agriculture & Forestry
  - Biological Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Geology, Soils & Seismicity
  - GHG Emissions & Energy
  - Hazards & Hazardous Materials
  - Hydrology & Water Quality
  - Land Use & Planning
  - Noise
  - Environmental Justice
  - Public Services
  - Traffic & Transportation
  - Tribal Cultural Resources
  - Utilities & Service Systems
- Growth Inducement
- Alternatives Analysis

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Impact Analysis Methodology

1. Baseline environmental conditions established
2. Impacts due to project construction and operation are evaluated
3. Regulatory requirements and mitigation measures are considered
4. Significance determinations are made for each project impact:
   - Class I. Significant and Unavoidable: An impact that cannot be reduced to below the threshold level given reasonably available and feasible mitigation measures.
   - Class II. Significant but Mitigable: Can be reduced to below the threshold given mitigation measures.
   - Class III. Not Significant: Impact may be adverse but does not exceed threshold level and does not require mitigation.
   - Class IV. Beneficial: An effect that would reduce existing environmental problems or hazards.
   - No Impact

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Class I. Significant and Unavoidable

- Cultural Resources
  - PROJECT COMPONENT:
    - Ground disturbance during construction of pipelines and wells, and general operational maintenance
  - POTENTIAL RESOURCE IMPACT
    - Historical, archaeological, paleontological resources and human remains
  - MITIGATION MEASURES (CUL-1 through CUL-14)
    - Avoidance of resources through project re-design
    - Recovery and Treatment Plans
    - Monitoring and Mitigation Plans
      - Monitoring for resources during construction
      - Inadvertent discovery procedures

Class II. Significant but Mitigable

- **Aesthetics**
- **Air Quality**
- Agriculture & Forestry
- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Geology, Soils & Seismicity**
- GHG Emissions & Energy
- **Hazards & Hazardous Materials**
- **Hydrology & Water Quality**
- Land Use & Planning
- **Noise**
- Environmental Justice
- Public Services
- **Traffic & Transportation**
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities & Service Systems

Class IV. Beneficial

- Flood Hazards
  - Decommissioning of WWTP would reduce critical infrastructure from the coastal flood hazard area
- Wastewater Treatment Requirements
  - Tertiary treatment and advanced treatment of wastewater would exceed requirements of RWQCB.
- Wastewater Treatment Capacity
  - Wastewater treatment capacity meets future build-out scenarios under the General Plan Update;
  - Reliability of new infrastructure reduces interruptions
- Water Supply Entitlements
  - Use of recycled water for IPR provides greater water supply reliability with a new local renewable supply.

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Alternatives Analysis for CEQA

Purpose:

"*…an EIR must describe a reasonable range of alternatives to a project that could feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives, and would avoid or substantially lessen the project's significant environmental effects*." (Draft EIR, page 6-1)

Considerations in selecting alternatives:

- Ability to meet project objectives
- Ability to lessen significant environmental effects
- Feasibility

  "Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors. (Draft EIR, page 6-1)

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Alternatives Considered During Project Development (before CEQA)

- WRF Location Alternatives
  - 17 sites considered
  - Joint Venture between CSD and Morro Bay
  - Joint Venture with Los Osos

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Alternatives Considered During Project Development (before CEQA)

- Corporation Yard Alternative
  - Not included at WRF site
- Lift Station Location Alternative
  - 8 locations considered
- Recycled Water Reuse Alternatives
  - Urban Irrigation
  - Agricultural Irrigation
  - Commercial Uses
  - Potable Reuse

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Project Alternatives

- Pipeline Alignment Alternative

  Considered another pipeline alignment to see if impacts to cultural resources could be lessened.

  - May affect fewer cultural sites but still significant impacts.
  - Greater impacts to air quality and traffic due to a longer pipeline through areas with more development

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Project Alternatives

- WRF Design Alternative

Remove advanced treatment facilities to reduce WRF size, footprint, and energy consumption.

- No guarantee footprint would be reduced substantially.
- No environmental effects would be measurably reduced.
- All mitigation measures for the project would still apply.
- Key objectives for providing recycled water and augmenting water supply would not be met.

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Project Alternatives

- No Project Alternative

Required by CEQA *"…to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project." (Draft EIR, page 6-11)*

Continued operation of the existing WWTP with upgrades to meet State standards for wastewater treatment and water quality

- Reduces significant impacts to cultural resources.
- Eliminates beneficial impacts of removing critical infrastructure from coastal flood hazard zone
- Requires a Coastal Development Permit from CCC
- Does not meet several major project objectives (i.e., supply augmentation, tertiary treatment, contaminants of emerging concern)

Project Alternatives

- Environmentally Superior Alternative
  - *"The environmentally superior alternative is the alternative identified as meeting most of the basic project objectives and resulting in the fewest or least severe combination of significant environmental impacts." (Draft EIR, page 6-15)*
  - When compared to the feasible alternatives, the proposed project meets all project objectives and has less severe impacts to resources.
  - The proposed project is environmentally superior.

Contents of Final EIR

- Comment Letters and Oral Comments
- Responses to Comments
- Summary of Modifications to the Draft EIR

CEQA requires the City to "…*evaluate comments on significant environmental issues received from parties that have reviewed the Draft EIR and to prepare a written response." (Final EIR, page 9-3)*

Contents of Final EIR: Comments

35 Comment Letters
- 8 Public Agencies
- 1 Tribal Entity
- 4 NGOs
- 22 Members of Public

- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Transportation
- State Water Resources Control Board
- LAFCO
- SLO County Air Pollution Control District
- Cayucos Sanitary District
- SLO County Department of Planning & Building
- SLO County Department of Agriculture
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program
- Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
- Surfrider Foundation – SLO Chapter
- San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper

Contents of Final EIR: Responses

- Master Responses
  - Master Response 1 - Alternatives
  - Master Response 2 – WRF site and Annexation
  - Master Response 3 – Accidental Spills and Impacts to Morro Bay Estuary
- Individual Letter Responses
- Oral Comment Summaries and Responses

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Contents of Final EIR: Modifications

- Key modifications:
  - Clarifications about WRF site annexation
  - Additions of LAFCO and County policies and procedures that are regulatory in nature
  - Clarifications about definition of farmland, agricultural buffers, and easements
  - Edits to mitigation measures requested by APCD

➢No new impacts identified

➢No new information requiring recirculation of the Draft EIR

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Next steps

➢TONIGHT: Recommendation of Planning Commission and WRFCAC to City Council regarding certification of the Final EIR

➢City Council: Final EIR certification and approval of project

- ➢Proceed with design process
- ➢Proceed with funding applications
- ➢Proceed with permitting applications

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END