

East Bay Municipal Utility District WALNUT CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT PRETREATMENT PROJECT CEQA Initial Study

February 2022

East Bay Municipal Utility District
Water Distribution Planning Division – MS 701
375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Prepared with Assistance from:



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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title: Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant Pretreatment Project
2. Lead agency name and address: East Bay Municipal Utility District
Water Distribution Planning Division – MS 701
375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
- Contact person and phone number: Tom Boardman, Project Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District
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375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
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4. Project locations: Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant (Walnut Creek WTP) is located at 2201 Larkey Lane, Walnut Creek, CA, in Contra Costa County. The proposed Project site is bounded by Alfred Avenue to the east, the Briones to Mount Diablo Regional Trail to the north, and Acalanes Ridge Open Space to the south and west.
- Lafayette Water Treatment Plant (Lafayette WTP) is located at 3838 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, CA in Contra Costa County. The proposed Project site is bounded by Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the south and west, Temple Isaiah to the east, and State Route 24 to the north.
5. Project sponsor's name and address: East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
Water Distribution Planning Division
375 11th Street, MS #701
Oakland, CA 94607
6. General plan designation: Walnut Creek WTP: Open Space - Recreation (OS/R)
Lafayette WTP: Public Utilities
7. Zoning: Walnut Creek WTP: Open Space Recreation District (OS-R)
Lafayette WTP: Single Family Residential District-20 (R-20)
8. Description of Project: The Walnut Creek WTP, originally constructed in 1967, is the primary water treatment plant serving approximately 500,000 customers in EBMUD's east-of-hills service area, which includes portions of Pleasant Hill, portions of Walnut Creek, Alamo, Lafayette, Danville, Blackhawk, and San Ramon Valley communities. The Walnut Creek WTP primarily treats Mokelumne River water stored in the Sierra foothills at Pardee Reservoir, but also treats untreated water stored locally in Briones Reservoir. The Walnut Creek WTP Pretreatment Project (proposed Project) would add pretreatment facilities to the Walnut Creek WTP that would allow EBMUD to more reliably treat lower quality untreated

water resulting from high rainfall runoff, wildfires, future droughts, algae blooms, climate change and emerging contaminants. The proposed Project would also improve treated water taste and odor, and eliminate treatment process limitations that prevent the Walnut Creek WTP from being able to sustain its planned capacity of 160 million gallons per day (MGD). **Figure 1** shows the proposed location and approximate footprint of the new pretreatment facilities and ancillary improvements required throughout the Walnut Creek WTP site. Hydraulic changes at the Walnut Creek WTP would require modification of weir structures at the Lafayette WTP, at the locations shown in **Figure 2**.

The proposed Project would be designed and constructed in two separate phases as detailed below. The Phase 1 pretreatment improvements would allow EBMUD to more reliably treat a broader range of untreated water quality up to a capacity of 125 MGD, while the Phase 2 pretreatment improvements would allow EBMUD to treat up to the planned capacity of 160 MGD. The construction timing of the Phase 2 improvements is not firmly established but would depend on untreated water quality conditions in the future and the timing of future demands.

Phase 1 Proposed Pretreatment Improvements at Walnut Creek WTP

- Two gravity thickeners
- Thickened solids pump station
- Solids blending tanks
- Solids dewatering building and truck loading facility
- Combined reclaim vault
- Electrical facilities, including unit substation, plant backup generator, and fuel storage.
- Liquid oxygen (LOX) storage area
- Ozone generation building
- North pre-ozone injection pumps
- North intermediate ozone injection pumps
- North intermediate ozone contactor
- North ozone quenching and destruct facilities
- North ballasted flocculation basins
- Chemical building improvements, including storage and feed systems
- Maintenance building
- Large diameter buried pipelines
- Paved roadways
- Paved parking
- Security fencing and cameras
- Stormwater facilities
- Lighting
- Relocated hiking trails
- Demolition of existing process and maintenance facilities

Figure 1: Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant Pretreatment Improvements

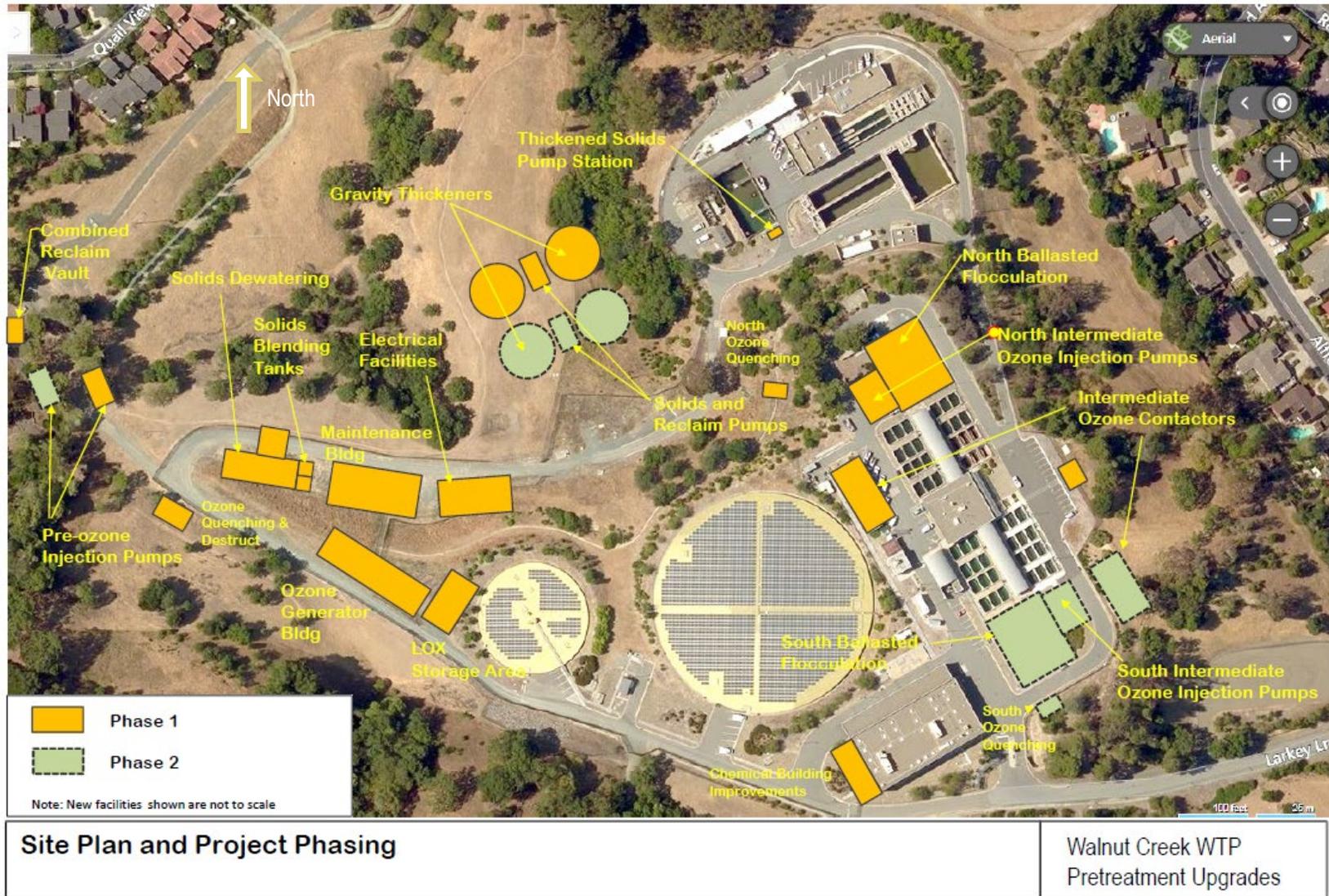
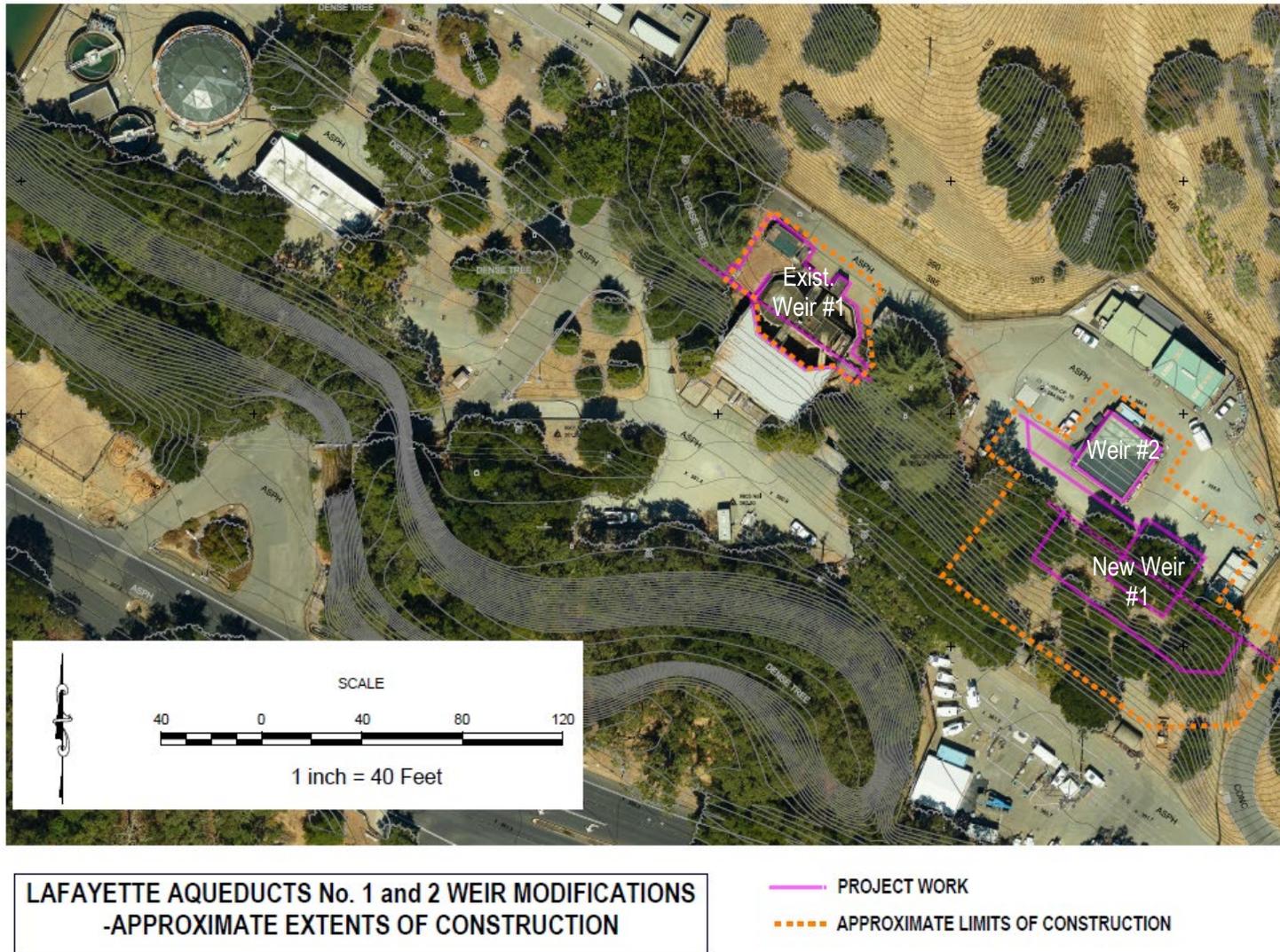


Figure 2: Lafayette Water Treatment Plant Modification of Weirs



Phase 2 Proposed Pretreatment Improvements at Walnut Creek WTP

- Two gravity thickeners
- Thickened solids pump station
- Large diameter buried pipelines
- South pre-ozone injection pumps
- South intermediate ozone injection pumps
- South intermediate ozone contactor
- South ozone quenching and destruct facilities
- South ballasted flocculation basins

Proposed Improvements at Lafayette WTP

The proposed Project would also require raising the height of the Lafayette WTP weirs to increase the water pressure in the Lafayette Aqueducts No. 1 and No. 2 to accommodate the new pretreatment processes at the Walnut Creek WTP. The following Lafayette WTP improvements would take place at the same time as the Phase 1 Improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP.

- New Lafayette Weir No. 1
- Demolition of existing Lafayette Weir No. 1
- Modification of existing Lafayette Weir No. 2 to increase height by 10 feet
- New large diameter buried pipelines

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: The Walnut Creek WTP is surrounded by open space, hiking trails, and residential areas to the north and east. St. Stephen Catholic Church is located north of the Walnut Creek WTP. The Lafayette WTP is bounded by two major roads, State Route 24, and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, with the Lafayette Reservoir and recreation area south of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Temple Isaiah immediately east of the Lafayette WTP.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Potential permits and approvals include, but may not be limited to:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District: Authority to Construct, Permit to Operate an ozone system
- Army Corps of Engineers: Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for any fill of wetlands
- Completion of federal consultation requirements including consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and State Historic Preservation Office
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Streambed Alteration Agreement for earthfill near intermittent stream at Walnut Creek WTP; possibly Incidental Take Permit
- State Water Resources Control Board: Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board: Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification or Waiver, and possible coverage of dewatering discharges under General Low-Threat Discharge Permit

- Division of Drinking Water: Domestic Water Supply permit amendment for new treatment processes and increased capacity

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 2180.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

To date no Native American tribes have requested consultation with EBMUD.

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" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/Forestry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- The proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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.
- The proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- 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.
- 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.

1.1 AESTHETICS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP is located adjacent to Acalanes Ridge Open Space and is visible from a number of trails that traverse the open space area including the Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail, Sousa Trail, Ridgetop Trail and Camino Verde Trail. Scenic vistas of rolling hills with Mt. Diablo in the background are available from a number of locations within the Acalanes Ridge Open Space Area. The Lafayette WTP is located between two major roads, State Route 24 and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and is screened from view by topography and vegetation. Limited views into the Lafayette WTP are available from Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and the Lafayette WTP is not within the viewshed of any scenic vistas. This impact is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- b) **No Impact.** State Route 24 from the Caldecott Tunnel to Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek is an officially designated state scenic highway (Caltrans, 2019). The Walnut Creek WTP is about 1 mile north of State Route 24 and is not visible from the highway. Work at the Lafayette WTP would occur about 600 feet south of State Route 24 but would not be visible from the highway because the location of construction is screened by the berm on the south side of the highway, which is about 10 feet taller than the roadway, and by buildings at the Lafayette WTP.

Interstate 680 in Contra Costa County is also an officially designated state scenic highway but is only designated as scenic from the intersection with State Route 24 south to the Alameda County line (Caltrans, 2019). The portion of Interstate 680 that is closest to the Walnut Creek WTP is north of the State Route 24 intersection and is not a designated scenic highway. The Walnut Creek WTP is more than a mile from the portion of Interstate 680 that is designated as scenic and is not visible from the freeway. Therefore, there would be no impact associated with damaging scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

- c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would involve tree removal, grading and construction of retaining walls and structures that would change the character of views from adjacent public viewpoints. Although the Walnut Creek WTP is adjacent to residential areas, the proposed Project would primarily be visible from the Acalanes Ridge Open Space and Briones to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail, which crosses the open space area. New structures that are proposed to be constructed would be integrated into the existing Walnut Creek WTP, which is already a visual element of views, so the new facilities would not be inconsistent with the existing visual character of the Walnut Creek WTP. However, the nature and scale of the changes could be extensive enough to noticeably alter the character of the site from the existing conditions. The proposed work at the Lafayette WTP would require removal of some trees that would be visible from Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Changes in the existing visual character or quality of the public views of the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction at both sites could require nighttime construction work for large concrete pours and for shutdowns/outages, which would require nighttime lighting. Lighting may also be necessary for construction during some portion of the day during winter months, when construction could start before sunrise or extend after sunset. Additionally, at the Walnut Creek WTP new external lighting would be required for the proposed facilities to allow safe site access and provide secure viewing of the work areas at all times. The new lighting would be focused downward to minimize light spillage to the surrounding neighborhood while still providing sufficient light for operations staff. Exterior lighting would be provided adjacent to the gravity thickeners, maintenance building, solids dewatering facility, and electrical building, pre-ozone injection pumps, ozone generator building and LOX storage area. There would be new lighting at the Lafayette WTP adjacent to Weir No. 1 and No. 2. The creation of new lighting at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP, and the potential for construction activities to occur during nighttime hours at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP, is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-b) **No Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP is designated as open space (City of Walnut Creek, 2021) and the Lafayette WTP is designated for public facilities use with residential zoning (City of Lafayette, 2013). Neither site contains Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). The proposed Project would not convert Farmland, would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, and would not affect any lands under Williamson Act contract. There would be no impact associated with converting farmland to non-agricultural use or conflicting with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.
- c-d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project area for both the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP contains no forest land. Therefore, there would be no impact resulting in loss of forest land or conflicts with zoning of forest land.
- e) **No Impact.** There are no agricultural or forest lands in the vicinity of the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP proposed Project area. The Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette

WTP provide potable water to existing urban areas. Therefore, there would be no impact resulting in conversion of Farmland or forest land to other uses.

1.3 AIR QUALITY

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would result in emissions of criteria pollutants during construction of facilities at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP. Addition of new ozone treatment processes at the Walnut Creek WTP has the potential to result in operational emissions. Construction and operational emissions generated by the proposed Project are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction would require use of diesel equipment that generates odors from diesel exhaust emissions. This impact is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR. The proposed Project involves adding pretreatment facilities to the Walnut Creek WTP and work at the Lafayette WTP, neither of which is typically a source of offensive odors, thus operation of the proposed Project would have no significant odor impacts.

1.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-e) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP site contains mixed riparian woodland, non-native grassland and developed areas with ornamental landscaping. A seasonal tributary of Grayson Creek flows along the northwestern end of the Walnut Creek WTP and potentially contains jurisdictional wetlands and may act as a wildlife corridor. The Lafayette WTP includes mixed riparian woodland, eucalyptus woodland, coyote bush scrub, non-native grassland, and developed areas with ornamental landscaping. The Lafayette WTP site is crossed by Lafayette Creek, which is a perennial stream, and by an

intermittent stream that crosses Mt. Diablo Boulevard before draining into Lafayette Creek. This riparian corridor may contain wetlands and may serve as a wildlife corridor. Previous surveys for California red-legged frog and western pond turtle found that neither species occurred in Lafayette Creek between Bentley School and the Lafayette WTP. Western pond turtle is known to occur at the Lafayette Reservoir. Previous surveys for Alameda whipsnake at Lafayette Reservoir found that the species was not present. Alameda whipsnake is considered unlikely to occur within the Lafayette Reservoir watershed. Coopers hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, Pacific-slope flycatcher, rufous hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, and oak titmouse can occur in riparian habitat at both the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP. Loggerhead shrike is known to occur at the Walnut Creek WTP. Pallid bat and Pacific western big-eared bat, small footed myotis bat, long-eared myotis bat, long-legged myotis bat, fringed myotis bat may occur near the Walnut Creek WTP. Fringed myotis bat may also occur at the Lafayette WTP. San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat may occur at the Lafayette WTP. Western leatherwood and Northern California black walnut may occur in riparian corridors within the Lafayette WTP (EBMUD, 2006). The proposed Project would require removal of trees that are considered protected under the City of Walnut Creek and City of Lafayette tree ordinances.

The proposed Project could thus have potentially significant impacts on sensitive species; impacts on riparian habitat and other natural communities, including state and federally protected wetlands; impacts on movement of native wildlife and effects on nursery sites; and potential conflicts with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. These impacts are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

- f) **No Impact.** The proposed Project areas for the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP are not located within the boundaries of any Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved conservation agreement within the County. Therefore, there would be no impact because there would be no conflicts with an adopted plan.

1.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** No cultural resources have been recorded at the Walnut Creek WTP site or in the vicinity (EBMUD, 2006). The Lafayette WTP as a whole is not likely considered a historical resource under CEQA, because the Lafayette WTP has experienced recent alterations, but the Bryant #2 Pumping Plant located at the Lafayette WTP, which was constructed in 1927, may be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources due to its age, its associations with the initial development of EBMUD's Mokelumne River/Aqueduct, and as an example of the Art Deco style of architecture as applied to an industrial building (EBMUD, 2006). The demolition of the Weir No. 1 structure at the Lafayette WTP would not alter the Bryant No. 2 Pumping Plant. Both the Lafayette WTP and Walnut Creek WTP are highly disturbed sites that have been disturbed by previous construction activities, but both could contain previously undiscovered buried cultural resources, including human remains, which could be uncovered by construction activities. The proposed Project thus has the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to historical and archaeological resources or to disturb human remains. The impacts to cultural resources would be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.6 ENERGY

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would require energy for construction and for operation of the new facilities. Energy impacts are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including? liquefaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) i) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP are not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. However, secondary traces of the

Franklin fault are known to pass through the Walnut Creek WTP site. This impact is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

- a) ii-d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** There are other geotechnical risks factors in the proposed Project area, including four landslides within the Walnut Creek WTP site and the presence of fault traces associated with the Franklin fault. Steep slopes within the site are potentially subject to erosion and loss of topsoil. There is a large, active landslide beneath the entire proposed Project site at the Lafayette WTP (Lettis Consultants International, 2021). Impacts associated with geotechnical hazards are thus potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not generate wastewater and would not require the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.
- f) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Significant paleontological resources can be found anywhere within the geographic extent of sedimentary rocks formations at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP (EBMUD, 2006), and impacts to paleontological resources are thus considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with construction energy use and with increases in operational energy use associated with the additional treatment processes. The increase in GHG emissions is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP would involve new treatment processes that would require the routine transport, use and off-site disposal of additional chemicals, including alum, anionic polymer, hydrogen peroxide and liquid oxygen, which would be used to generate ozone. A Phase I preliminary environmental site assessment was performed by Harza Engineering Company in 2000,

which discovered friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials, and lead based paints at the Walnut Creek WTP. The EIR will include information from the completion of an updated Phase I environmental site assessment for the buildings and other structures that would be demolished at the Walnut Creek WTP. At the Lafayette WTP, there would be no change in operational chemical use. Demolition of facilities at the Lafayette WTP would entail the demolition and removal of the Lafayette Weir No. 1 structure, which has been found to contain lead-based paint. The transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes is considered to have the potential to result in significant impacts and will be described further in the EIR.

- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction would require the use of diesel fuel and minor amounts of lubricants, paints, solvents, and glues. The risk associated with release of hazardous materials to the environment is considered potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- c) **No Impact.** Neither the Walnut Creek WTP nor the Lafayette WTP is located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The closest school to the Walnut Creek WTP is Larkey School in Walnut Creek, which is located about 0.4 miles from the site. The Lafayette WTP is almost a mile from Happy Valley School and about a mile from Lafayette Elementary School, which are the closest schools to the Lafayette WTP site. There would be no impact.
- d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project is not located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Neither the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker website (SWRCB, 2021) nor the Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor website (DTSC, 2021) identify any hazardous waste clean-up sites or underground storage tanks at either the Walnut Creek WTP or Lafayette WTP. There would be no impact.
- e) **No Impact.** Neither the Walnut Creek WTP nor the Lafayette WTP is within two miles of a public airport, and both are not within the airport influence area of Buchanan Field, which is the only airport in Contra Costa County. Buchanan Field is about 4.5 miles from the Walnut Creek WTP and about 7.5 miles from the Lafayette WTP. There would be no impact.
- f) **No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed Project would not affect any emergency response or evacuation plans. Construction activities would be confined to the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP sites and would not require lane or road closures. There would be no impact.
- g) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP are both in a “local responsibility area” where local jurisdictions are responsible for fire protection. Neither is in a very high fire hazard severity zone as mapped by CalFire (2009). However, the City of Walnut Creek General Plan identifies the “threat to people from wildland fire” at the Walnut Creek WTP site as “Very High” (Walnut Creek General Plan, 2006 - Figure 7 Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Threat), because of the proximity to wildland areas in the Acalanes Ridge Open Space. The City of Lafayette General Plan does not include a map of areas subject to high threat of fire. Operation of water treatment facilities does not entail

high fire risk, but construction activities can exacerbate the risk of wildfire because construction equipment can generate fires from hot exhaust gases or from contact with the hot surfaces of the exhaust system. The risk to people or structures from a wildfire fire is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a), e) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction activities at both sites have the potential to increase erosion and sedimentation, and spills of fuels or lubricants during construction could degrade water quality of surface waters from storm water discharges. New facilities at the Walnut Creek WTP would increase impervious surface area, which has the potential to result in additional discharge of stormwater to surface waters. Improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP would include installation of bioretention basins to capture and treat

stormwater in accordance with applicable local and state water quality control plans and regulations. The proposed work at the Lafayette WTP could increase impervious surface area because a replacement weir would be constructed in a currently undeveloped area, so additional runoff could be produced. Stormwater runoff from the proposed Project construction activities has the potential to degrade surface water quality. This impact is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

- b), e) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP sites would not require groundwater supplies. New facilities at the Walnut Creek WTP would increase impervious surface area by approximately 5.5 acres and the proposed work at the Lafayette WTP may create additional impervious surface area. Improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP site would include bioretention basins that would treat and control stormwater runoff and encourage recharge of groundwater. However, the increase in impervious surface area and resulting impact on groundwater recharge is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- c) i) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Because construction would require substantial earth moving, erosion and siltation could occur at both the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP sites. Impacts are considered potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- c) ii) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP would create approximately 5.5 acres of additional impervious surface and impervious surface may be increased at the Lafayette WTP. The proposed Project would include construction of bioretention basis at the Walnut Creek WTP to capture runoff, but on-site or off-site flooding could occur if stormwater improvements are inadequate. Increases in runoff and associated impacts are considered potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- c) iii) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction and operation at both sites have the potential to generate runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Because impervious surface would be increased at both sites, there is a potential for an increase in runoff into the stormwater drainage system, which could exceed the capacity of the system. Construction at both sites would require excavation and earthmoving activities. Removal of vegetation in excavation areas would expose bare soil that could be eroded during rainfall events, and when runoff from rainfall flows over construction sites it can transport sediment and other pollutants such as building materials, concrete washout, paint, fuel, oil and solvents into the stormwater system. Runoff impacts are considered potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- c) iv) **No Impact.** The seasonal tributary of Grayson Creek that flows along the northwestern end of the Walnut Creek WTP does not have a defined 100-year flood zone, and improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP would not impede or cause flows to be redirected. Although Lafayette Creek crosses the southern portion of the Lafayette WTP site, the flood plain at this location is contained within the stream channel (City of Lafayette General Plan Maps, 2002) and the proposed work at the Lafayette WTP would not impede or redirect

flood flows. The proposed Project thus would not impede or redirect flood flows and would have no impact on areas that are currently subject to flood risk.

- d) **No Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP is not in an area subject to flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche. The Lafayette WTP is located adjacent to the zone of possible inundation due to dam failure at the Lafayette Reservoir. However, the proposed work at the Lafayette WTP would not increase the risk of pollutant release due to inundation from Lafayette Reservoir. The proposed Project thus would have no impact and would not result in an increase in the risk release of pollutants due to inundation.

1.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** The Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP are both existing facilities and the proposed Project would be constructed and operated within the existing footprint of both water treatment plants. The proposed Project would not physically divide either the City of Walnut Creek or the City of Lafayette. There would be no impact.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would be constructed entirely within the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP and would be consistent with existing uses at both sites. The proposed Project would thus not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation and there would be no impact.

1.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a, b) **No Impact.** Neither the Walnut Creek General Plan nor the Lafayette General Plan identify mineral resources or aggregate areas in the proposed Project area. There would be no impact.

1.13 NOISE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would be constructed and operated within the existing Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP. Operational noise at the Lafayette WTP is not expected to change as a result of the proposed work at the Lafayette WTP. At the Walnut Creek WTP, as the proposed Phase 1 and 2 improvements would add new operational facilities, the EIR will evaluate operational noise. Construction at both sites would require the use of construction equipment that would generate short-term noise impacts that could affect sensitive receptors in the vicinity of both facilities. Limited nighttime construction work would be required for large concrete pours and for shutdowns/outages, which could affect nearby residences. Operational and construction noise impacts are considered potentially significant and will be further described in the EIR.
- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction activities would generate groundborne vibration which could result in damage to nearby structures or result in substantial human annoyance. These vibration impacts are considered potentially significant and will be further described in the EIR.
- c) **No Impact.** Neither Walnut Creek WTP or Lafayette WTP are within two miles of a private or public airport and are not within the airport influence area of Buchanan Field, which is the only public airport in Contra Costa County. There would be no impact.

1.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project involves improvements at two EBMUD water treatment plants and does not include new homes or businesses in the proposed Project area. Therefore, the proposed Project would not directly induce growth. EBMUD plans to add pretreatment improvements in two separate phases that would allow EBMUD to more reliably treat a broader range of untreated water quality up to the Walnut Creek WTP's planned capacity of 160 MGD. Land use agencies in the EBMUD service area, including the cities and counties, develop and adopt long-term planning documents such as general plans for the physical development within their jurisdiction. These planning documents determine the nature and intensity of land uses to be served by EBMUD. Demand associated with land use agency planned growth, as set forth in those approved planning documents, was accounted for in EBMUD's 2050 Demand Study (EBMUD, 2020), which was used to determine proposed Project sizing and design. Because the proposed Project would serve planned land use changes and redevelopment projects disclosed and incorporated into the land use agency general plans and subsequent amendments thereto, implementation of the proposed Project would not support growth beyond planned levels or in areas not planned for development by the land use agencies. There would, therefore, be no impacts to population and housing associated with inducing population growth from operation of the proposed Project.
- b) **No Impact.** There are no people or homes within the areas where proposed Project facilities would be constructed, and therefore the proposed Project would not necessitate construction of replacement housing. There would be no impact.

1.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project includes water treatment facility improvements and does not include residential or commercial development that would directly induce population growth and require new or expanded fire and police protection, schools, parks, or other facilities. In addition, the proposed Project would not indirectly induce unplanned population growth that would place new demands on public service providers because the proposed Project would serve existing water system customers. Thus, the proposed Project would not require new or expanded governmental facilities. The proposed Project would not affect the ability of local providers to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for services. There would be no impact.

1.16 RECREATION

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the Project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** Because the proposed Project would not increase population in the proposed Project area (see item 3.14a under Population and Housing), the proposed Project would not increase use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or recreational facilities.

The closest recreational area to the Walnut Creek WTP is the Acalanes Ridge Open Space, which provides hiking and biking trails. The Briones to Mt. Diablo Trail is directly adjacent to the northern and western boundaries of the Walnut Creek WTP and the Sousa Trail has views into the Walnut Creek WTP from the south. The Yarrow Trail and Ridge Top Trail provide more distant views into the Walnut Creek WTP from within the Acalanes Ridge Open Space Area to the west. There are also informal trails both adjacent to and crossing the Walnut Creek WTP site, which would be temporarily closed during construction, potentially leading to temporary increases in use of other formal trails in the vicinity, such as the Sousa Trail and Briones to Mt. Diablo Trail. This potential short-term adjustment in usage patterns would not be expected to lead to a substantial physical deterioration of the formal trails. The long-term use of the surrounding open space and local trails would not be expected to increase as a result of the proposed Project. The Lafayette Reservoir recreational area is on the opposite side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the Lafayette WTP and construction at the Lafayette WTP would not be expected to affect the Lafayette Reservoir area or increase use of the recreation area. There would be no impact, but this will be described further in the EIR.

- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project includes the permanent relocation of an informal trail that currently crosses the northwestern portion of the Walnut Creek WTP in the location for the proposed gravity thickeners. The informal trail would be closed during construction. After construction the informal trail would be rerouted to avoid the proposed Project footprint. Potential impacts on recreational trails are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.17 TRANSPORTATION

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction would generate temporary increases in traffic at both the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP. Most construction traffic would be during daytime construction hours, but there may be some nighttime construction deliveries for large concrete pours and for pipeline shutdowns/outages. Truck traffic accessing the Walnut Creek WTP during construction would access the site via San Luis Road, which is designated by the City of Walnut Creek as a truck route for trucks less than 3 tons. Haul trucks needed for construction of the proposed improvements at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP would be 10-wheel dump trucks with a capacity of 12 to 16 cubic yards and an estimated gross vehicle weight of about 24,000 pounds (12 tons). Haul trucks would thus be larger than 3 tons. The Lafayette WTP would be accessed via Mt. Diablo Boulevard, which is a designated truck route for trucks with gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more; haul trucks accessing the Lafayette WTP would also exceed the vehicle weight rating for local roads. Haul traffic from construction at both the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP is thus considered to result in potentially significant impacts associated with conflicts with policies of the City of Walnut Creek and City of Lafayette because trucks over the weight ratings would need to travel on local roads. Impacts will be described further in the EIR.
- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Operation of the new facilities would generate an increase in vehicle miles travelled (VMT) because there would be additional deliveries of chemicals to the Walnut Creek WTP. The pretreatment process at the Walnut Creek WTP would result in dewatered, thickened solids that would be trucked to a local landfill. Potential impacts will be evaluated in the EIR. Operations at the Lafayette WTP would be unchanged and thus VMT to the Lafayette site would not be expected to increase. The increase at the

Walnut Creek WTP is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

- c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would not entail changes in any roadway design features. However, the proposed Project would temporarily add construction truck traffic onto local roads, which could be a safety hazard. This impact is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.
- d) **No Impact.** Construction activities would be confined to the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP sites and would not require lane or road closures. There would be no impact on emergency access.

1.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>			
	<i>Potentially Significant</i>	<i>With Mitigation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Incorporation</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>

Would the Project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion

a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project includes ground disturbance that could impact an unknown tribal cultural resource. Impacts to tribal cultural resources are considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the Project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project itself entails improvements of the water treatment processes at the Walnut Creek WTP and associated improvements at the Lafayette WTP and the entire EIR will be focused on evaluating the impacts of those improvements. The proposed Project would not require or result in relocation or construction of any other utilities, including new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, other than those water treatment facilities that are the subject of this environmental review. There would be no additional impacts to public services other than those impacts of the proposed Project that will be the subject of the EIR.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would improve treatment of existing available water supplies and would not have any adverse impacts associated with availability of supplies. There would be no impact.

- c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not generate any wastewater and would not affect local wastewater treatment providers. There would be no impact.
- d) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The pretreatment process at the Walnut Creek WTP would result in dewatered, thickened solids that would be trucked to a local landfill. Potential impacts will be further described in the EIR. Proposed Project construction would generate a small amount of solid waste that would require disposal at a landfill, primarily from demolition of structures and potentially from off-haul of soil. The Keller Canyon Landfill, which is the closest available solid waste facility to the proposed Project site, has a permitted capacity of approximately 3,500 tons of solid waste per day and, as of November 2004 (the most recent assessment date), a remaining permitted capacity of 63 million cubic yards (CalRecycle, 2019). Adequate landfill capacity thus exists in the proposed Project area to accommodate the construction debris that would be generated. Therefore, the proposed Project would not impair attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Solid waste impacts would be less than significant.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would comply with all applicable regulations regarding solid waste. There would be no impact.

1.20 WILDFIRE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project is within a local responsibility area, and although CalFire does not identify either the Walnut Creek WTP or Lafayette WTP sites as a very high fire hazard severity zone (CalFire, 2009), the City of Walnut Creek General Plan identifies the “threat to people from wildland fire” at the Walnut Creek WTP site as “Very High”. Construction of both facilities would take place entirely within the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP sites and would not interfere with emergency response or emergency evaluation plans. There would be no impact.
- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Conditions at the proposed Project sites could be affected by slope, prevailing winds and other factors that could increase wildfire risk to workers at the Walnut Creek WTP and Lafayette WTP and to nearby residents during construction. Construction equipment can generate fires from hot exhaust gases or from contact with the hot surfaces of the exhaust system. The Walnut Creek WTP has particularly hilly topography with steep slopes, and steep slopes increase the rate at which fires can spread. Operation of proposed improvements would be similar to existing operations and would not be expected to exacerbate wildfire risk. Increased risk of wildfire during construction is considered to be potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

- c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not require the installation of infrastructure that would exacerbate wildfire risks such as roads, firebreaks, power lines or other utilities. There would be no impact.
- d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Although operation of the proposed Project would not increase wildfire risk, construction activities can increase the risk of wildfire. Risk from downstream flooding or landslides related to post-fire instability or drainage changes is considered potentially significant and will be described further in the EIR.

1.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Does the Project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would have potentially significant impacts on sensitive species; impacts on riparian habitat and other natural communities, including state and federally protected wetlands; impacts on movement of native wildlife and effects on nursery sites; and potential conflicts with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed Project also has the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to historical and archaeological resources or to disturb human remains. The proposed Project thus has the potential to result in significant impacts to biological and cultural resources. Impacts will be addressed in detail in the EIR to protect sensitive species and historical resources.
- b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Information will be obtained from the websites of the cities of Walnut Creek and Lafayette, and other relevant agencies such as BART, during preparation of the EIR to identify other planned projects in the vicinity of the proposed Project sites. Other EBMUD projects in the vicinity will also be considered. If any projects are identified, the potential for cumulative impacts could be significant. The EIR will describe any projects in the vicinity that could combine with the proposed Project to result in cumulative effects. Cumulative impacts will be evaluated in the EIR.

- c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed Project has the potential to adversely affect human beings directly and/or indirectly. These adverse effects could include changes in views; air quality impacts; hazardous material use; noise generation; traffic, transportation and emergency access impacts; and wildfire impacts. These potential adverse effects will be addressed in the EIR.

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