EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SOBRANTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

March 11, 2022

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: East Bay Municipal Utility District
375 Eleventh Street, MS 701
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sobrante Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvements Project

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sobrante Water Treatment Plant (SOWTP) Reliability Improvements Project (Project).

AGENCIES: EBMUD requests your input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project.

ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: EBMUD requests comments from organizations and interested parties regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project.

PROJECT TITLE: Sobrante Water Treatment Plant Reliability Improvements Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed Project includes improvements at EBMUD's existing SOWTP and a new Central North Aqueduct pipeline located in the Cities of San Pablo and Richmond and in the unincorporated communities of El Sobrante and Rollingwood in California. SOWTP is located at 5500 Amend Road in El Sobrante, California and City of Richmond. The SOWTP is bordered by Amend Road to the north and east, Valley View Road to the west, and San Pablo Dam Road to the south (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Central North Aqueduct pipeline would be located in La Honda Road, D Avila Way, San Pablo Dam Road, El Portal Drive, Rollingwood Drive, Road 20, and San Pablo Avenue (see Figure 3).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The Project will update and replace existing treatment processes at the SOWTP to increase the capacity to reliably meet future demand, treat additional Folsom South Canal Connection water during droughts, reduce disinfection by-products, and improve treatment processes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project includes construction of new facilities and would be divided into a Phase 1 and Phase 2 sequencing, to meet near-term and long-term demand, respectively. Phase 1 improvements would increase SOWTP capacity to 60 million gallons per day (MGD), and Phase 2 improvements would increase capacity further to 80 MGD (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Phase 1 would include the following improvements:

- A raw water control valve and flow meter
- Two spent filter backwash water (SFBW) equalization basins
- A filter-to-waste (FTW) equalization basin

- Two gravity thickeners
- Two SFBW flocculation and sedimentation basins
- Pipelines for the SFBW reclaim and solids handling facilities
- A chlorine contact basin (CCB)
- Inlet/outlet pipelines for a clearwell and hydraulic weir
- A polymer and power building
- Fifth-stage flocculation for the existing two flocculation basins
- Storm drain pipelines and a bioretention pond
- A maintenance building that incorporates existing maintenance buildings/shops
- An entrance gate, security fencing, and lighting
- An access and maintenance road for the new facilities

Phase 2 would include the following improvements:

- A flocculation basin
- A sedimentation basin with tube settlers
- Two dual-media filters and associated pipes, and an operation gallery
- Two ozone contact basins
- An ozone destruct room
- A chemical building
- The Central North Aqueduct pipeline (outside of SOWTP property), which includes:
  - 12,800 feet of 54-inch-diameter pipeline in La Honda Road, D Avila Way, and San Pablo Dam Road
  - 2,400 feet of 72-inch-diameter pipeline in San Pablo Dam Road and El Portal Drive
  - 6,500 feet of 54-inch-diameter pipeline in Rollingwood Drive, Road 20, and San Pablo Avenue

The Project also would include demolition of the existing wash water settling basins, reclaim pumping plant, solids pumping plant, solids detention basins, and related vaults, mechanical, and electrical equipment, after completion of Phase 1.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Based on the Initial Study completed for the Project, the following areas of potentially significant environmental impacts will be analyzed in the Draft EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy Use, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation and Traffic, and Wildfire. Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be addressed, and alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, will be evaluated in the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: This NOP is available for public review and comment for 30 days, pursuant to Title 14, Section 15082(b) of the California Code of Regulations. The comment period for the NOP will begin on March 11, 2022 and end on April 11, 2022. Because of 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.

RESPONSES AND QUESTIONS: Responses to or questions regarding this NOP should be directed to:

Stella Tan, Project Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District
375 Eleventh Street, MS 701
Oakland, CA 94607-4240
Or by e-mail to: sowtp.improvements@ebmud.com

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CEQA PROCESS: The Draft EIR is planned for publication in the first quarter of 2024, with action by EBMUD's Board of Directors expected in the fourth quarter of 2024. Notice will be given of public meetings, including a meeting that will be held during the Draft EIR comment period. At the end of the review and comment process, EBMUD's Board of Directors will determine whether to certify the EIR and approve the Project. The NOP and all CEQA-related documents for the Project will be available for review on the EBMUD website, at: www.ebmud.com/sowtp.

Olujimi O. Yoloye
Director of Engineering and Construction
East Bay Municipal Utility District

3/11/22
Date

OOY:DJR:grd

Attachments: Figure 1. Project Location
Figure 2. Central North Aqueduct Pipeline Location
Figure 3. Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project Elements

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project Elements

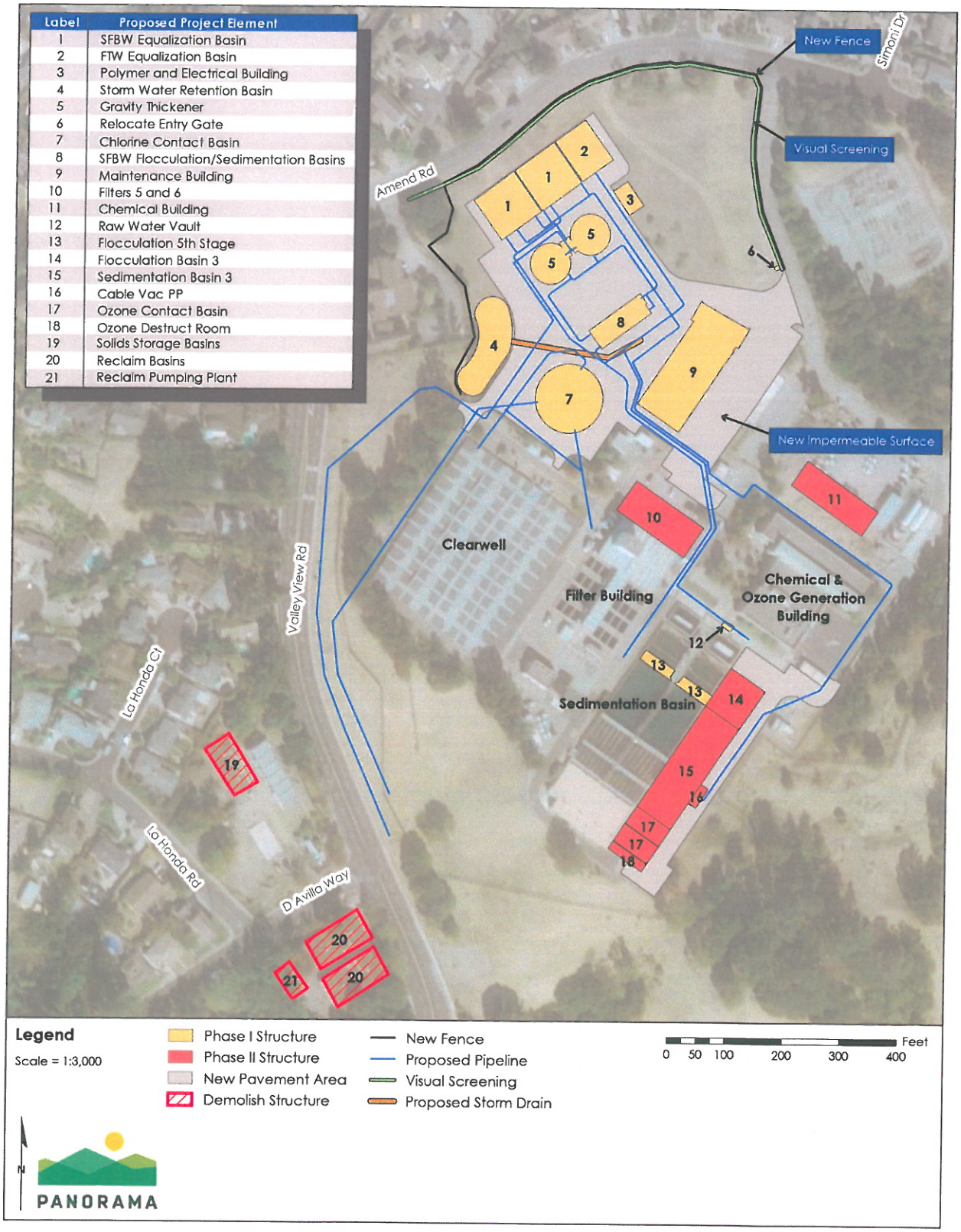

Figure 3. Central North Aqueduct Pipeline Location