EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
WALNUT CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT PRETREATMENT PROJECT
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 28, 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 Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant Pretreatment 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 Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant Pretreatment 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: Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant Pretreatment Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant (Walnut Creek WTP) is located on a 50-acre site in the City of Walnut Creek, CA. The Project also includes improvements at the Lafayette Water Treatment Plant (Lafayette WTP), a 14-acre site located in the City of Lafayette. The Walnut Creek WTP 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 (see **Figure 1**). The Lafayette WTP is bounded by Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the south and west, Temple Isaiah to the east, and State Route 24 to the north (see **Figure 2**).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The Walnut Creek WTP 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. The Walnut Creek WTP primarily treats Mokelumne River water stored in the Sierra foothills at Pardee Reservoir, but also treats water stored locally in Briones Reservoir. The 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 3** 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 4**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project would be designed and constructed in two separate phases as detailed below. The Phase 1 improvements include new pretreatment and ozone facilities that would allow the Walnut Creek WTP 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 include additional pretreatment and ozone facilities that would allow EBMUD to treat up to the planned capacity of 160 MGD. EBMUD plans to construct the Phase 1 improvements from 2027 to 2030. 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 with 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

Phase 2 – Proposed Pretreatment Improvements at Walnut Creek WTP

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

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

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 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, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Wildfire. Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be addressed; alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, will be evaluated.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is available for public review and comment pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b) for 30 days. The comment period for the NOP begins February 28, 2022 and ends on March 30, 2022. Due to 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:

Tom Boardman, Project Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District
375 Eleventh Street, MS 701
Oakland, CA 94607-4240
Or by e-mail to: wcwtp.pretreatment@ebmud.com

CEQA PROCESS: The Draft EIR is planned for publication in fall 2023, with action by EBMUD's Board of Directors expected in spring 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 this Project will be available for review on the EBMUD website at: www.ebmud.com/wcwtppretreatment

Rischa S. Cole
Rischa S. Cole, Secretary of the District
East Bay Municipal Utility District

February 23, 2022
Date

OOY:DJR:grd
sb22_005b Walnut Creek WTP Pretreatment_CEQA NOP

Attachments: Figure 1 Walnut Creek WTP Project Location
Figure 2 Lafayette WTP Project Location
Figure 3 Walnut Creek WTP Conceptual Site Plan
Figure 4 Lafayette WTP Conceptual Site Plan

Figure 1: Walnut Creek WTP Project Location

Figure 2: Lafayette WTP Project Location

Figure 3: Walnut Creek WTP Conceptual Site Plan

Site Plan and Project Phasing	Walnut Creek WTP Pretreatment Upgrades

Figure 4: Lafayette WTP Conceptual Site Plan