

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH # 2017011028

Project Title:

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated DEIR or RDEIR) for the Matheny Tract Wastewater System Project to allow the unincorporated community of Matheny Tract to connect its wastewater system to the City of Tulare's wastewater trunk line. In addition, each individual septic system within Matheny Tract would be properly abandoned. (State Clearinghouse # 2017011028).

Project Location:

The community is separated into two segments, the northern and southern portions. The northern portion (Matheny North) is generally bounded by Road 96 (Pratt Street) and I Street in the east-west direction and Wade and Addie Avenues in the north-south direction. The southern portion (Matheny South) is generally bounded by Road 96 on the west and Prine and Matheny Avenues in the north-south direction.

Project Description:

The project consists of a new wastewater system for the Matheny Tract community. The proposed project includes the construction of: a new gravity wastewater collection system throughout the Matheny Tract; one or more lift stations, including new points of electric service; sewer laterals from each property, with connection to each existing residence; and construction of 2,900 feet of 12-inch sewer main in Pratt Street from Matheny Tract to Paige Avenue to accommodate connection to the City of Tulare's existing 27-inch diameter sewer main at Paige Avenue and K Street. Additional project-related components include: the in-place abandonment of existing septic systems and leach fields.

Nature of the Recirculated DEIR:

The Matheny Tract was originally developed in the 1960s as two tracts, the first on the northeast corner of Addie Avenue and Road 96 (Pratt Street) and the second south of the West Oakland Colony Ditch and east of Road 96. The northern portion of the community was developed with predominantly 1-acre or near-1-acre parcels, while the southern portion was developed with mostly 0.5-acre parcels.

The Matheny Tract community is not currently sewered, having on-site septic systems to provide wastewater treatment on each lot. The average lot size in the community is approximately 0.5 acres; however, many lots have been split in half or have more than one residence on a single property. Due to the splitting of lots or construction of multiple dwellings on one lot, the effective lot size of many properties is less than 12,500 square feet, the minimum lot size the County allows for on-site septic systems.

The project analyzed in this recirculated draft Technical Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) are the Alternatives provided in the "*Technical Memorandum Addendum to Project Feasibility Report September 2017*" (PFR Addendum) to the Project Feasibility Report Matheny Track

Wastewater System (Feasibility Report or PFR). The initial DEIR is based on the Preferred Alternative/Project and analyzed four (4) alternatives to the Project:

- Alternative 1: On-site Systems with Implementation of a Septic Tank Maintenance District
- Alternative 2: Gravity Collection System and consolidation with City of Tulare
- Alternative 3: Gravity Collection System with Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 4: No Build/No Project

However, based on new, additional information, two additional Alternatives are be considered in the Recirculated DEIR that were not previously considered:

- Alternative 5: Construct New 27-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.); and
- Alternative 6: Construct New 42-inch Diameter Pipeline (which would result in the construction of a new 27-inch diameter pipeline to provide capacity to serve Matheny Tract and provide capacity to serve previously approved development projects within the City of Tulare.)

All the other components of the initial DEIR's Preferred Alternative (Alternative Two – connection to the City of Tulare) remains the same with the exception of the ultimate (yet to be determined) size of the sewer main in Paige Avenue. Therefore, the focus of the Recirculated DEIR is Alternatives 5 and 6.

Project Benefits:

The objective of the project is to provide the community with a viable, sustainable solution for its wastewater disposal needs.

The expected benefits of the project include the following:

1. Eliminating the continuation of groundwater contamination due to septic system usage
2. Provide assistance to a Disadvantaged Community
3. End reliance on aging and failing individual septic systems
4. Eliminate individual exposure to major repair costs
5. Establish affordable and stable wastewater disposal charges

Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:

The Project's potentially significant environmental impacts as a result of the Recirculated DEIR include: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures are recommended, where feasible, to mitigate potentially significant impacts.

EIR Availability:

A copy of the Recirculated DEIR, as well as the Matheny Tract Wastewater System – Feasibility Study, are available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 South

Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am).

A copy of the DEIR and Feasibility Study (on disk) may also be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Tulare Branch Library
475 North Main Street
Tulare, CA 93274

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tipton Branch Library
301 East Woods
Tipton, CA 93272

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 pm – 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Recirculated DEIR can be found at Tulare County Web Site:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/matheny-tract-wastewater-system/>

Contact for More Information: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121 (para Espanol llame Timothy Bailey (559) 624-7101).

The Recirculated DEIR has a shortened review period of **30** days, starting on **October 24, 2017** and ending **November 22, 2017**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the DEIR should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the Recirculated DEIR established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors at a date to be determined later. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Reed Schenke,
Director, Resource Management Agency