

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Traver Community Wastewater System Improvements
(State Clearinghouse # 2017081024)

Project Title:

Traver Community Wastewater System Improvements (State Clearinghouse # 2017081024).

Project Location:

The unincorporated Community of Traver is located approximately ten (10) miles northwest of the City of Visalia in Tulare County in California's Central Valley. This document has been prepared using the Preferred Alternative as the proposed Project. As such, the following discussion refers to the "Preferred/Proposed Project" as "the Project". The Project site is located approximately 50 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 30 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Traver comprises a relatively flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Traver sits at an approximate elevation of 290 feet above mean sea level.

The community is generally bound to the north by Avenue 368, to the east by Road 44, to the south by Avenue 360, and to the west by State Route 99. Wastewater collection system improvements will be located within Section 16, and the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located within Section 15, of Township 17 South, Range 23 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. It can be found within the Traver United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Traver WWTP (Road 44, 0.25 mile south of Avenue 368): Latitude: 36°27'17.84" N, Longitude: 119°28'28.15" W

Avenue 368 and Road 44 (intersection): Latitude: 36°27'32.22" N, Longitude: 119°28'28.37" W

Merritt Drive and Old State Route 99 (intersection): Latitude: 36°27'10.86" N, Longitude: 119°29'20.31" W

Project Description:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), the County of Tulare Resource Management Agency (RMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the development of the proposed Traver Community Wastewater Systems Improvements Project as described in the Traver Community Wastewater Systems Improvements Plan of Study.

Nature of the DEIR:

This Project exams the current status quo, the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) for the Traver community. Currently, the WWTP utilizes a percolation/evaporation pond system (ponds) with a capacity of 88,000 gallons per day (GPD) as permitted under the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). The wastewater plant headworks consist of a lift station only. The WWTP does not have a screen for removal of large debris and rags. Treatment is accomplished through stabilization ponds. The effluent is discharged for disposal to the ponds.

The proposed improvements to the WWTF add reliability to the system while increasing its efficiency and effectiveness. The improvements are also needed to expand capacity to accommodate existing un-sewered and planned and future proposed residential, industrial and commercial developments. The RWQCB will require modifications to the WDR permit if this project is approved/completed.

With the WWTP improvements, the treatment process will need to be changed to meet the new effluent limits. Including the updated WDR, it is anticipated that the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements that would be

issued with the WDR would include groundwater monitoring requirements. The groundwater monitoring requirements would be used by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to verify the effluent discharges via percolation or irrigation do not degrade the underlying groundwater. The monitoring would involve sampling from monitoring wells.

This project will consider two alternative treatment solutions: a Biolac system and a package treatment plant. The proposed improvements for each are listed as follows:

Alternative I: Construction of a redundant aeration pond. The new pond would be designed to be compatible with future treatment options (such as Biolac), but would not use the same treatment process as the existing ponds for now. This pond will be for redundancy, and only two of the three treatment ponds at the WWTP will be in use at any given time. Expansion to double plant capacity could be accomplished through the use of additional ponds and Biolac treatment.

Alternative II: An expansion to the WWTP would occur leading to the construction of two 100,000 gpd capacity package treatment plants. Based on an assumed influent wastewater characterization, the effluent limits can be met by use of an activated sludge process with nitrification and denitrification capability. For flows in the range projected at Traver, the engineering reports recommends accomplishing this through the use of a package treatment plant. A package treatment plant will provide the process necessary to address this need in a reliable manner.

Project Benefits:

The proposed project will result in improvements to the existing Traver community wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant. Improvements to the wastewater collection system are needed to extend service to existing residences and businesses that are currently not being served, and to serve infill areas within the community that are expected to develop in the future consistent with the adopted Traver Community Plan. Improvements to the WWTP are needed to increase capacity and reliability to the system while increasing its efficiency and effectiveness so that the WWTP is better able to meet the needs of the community.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impact:

The Project's potentially significant environmental impacts include: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures will be recommended, where feasible, to mitigate potentially significant impacts.

DEIR Availability:

A copy of the DEIR will be 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 be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Visalia Branch Library
200 West Oak Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Tuesday through Thursday: 09:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

London Branch Library
5711 Avenue 378
Dinuba, CA 93618

Wednesday: 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.

Tulare County Web Site: <http://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/documents-and-forms/planning-documents/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/traver-community-wastewater-system-improvements/>

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

The DEIR has a shortened review period of **30** days, starting on **October 13, 2017** and ending **November 13, 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 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 (anticipated on or about December 19, 2017). 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 § 21177, Government Code § 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