

# Olivehurst Public Utility District



## Agenda Item Staff Report

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

### Item description/summary:

**Industrial, Sports and Entertainment Zones – Update:** Robert Bendorf was named as coordinator for all the agencies involved in the infrastructure. Robert is also taking the lead on addressing funding for the project. Geotechnical and environmental work is happening in the area but design is still on hold until the City of Wheatland makes a decision on whether to move forward with their portion of the project to send their wastewater to OPUD. I have been working on retaining an acquisitions firm to help with sites we need for various infrastructure.

### Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

### Employee Feedback

None

### Sample Motion:

Infor Only, no motion required

Prepared by:

John Tillotson, P.E., General Manager



# City of Wheatland

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November 18, 2020

John Tillotson  
General Manager  
Olivehurst Public Utility District  
1790 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Olivehurst, CA 95961

Dear John:

The City of Wheatland is enthusiastic about the progress being made in Yuba County toward a regional wastewater solution. Wheatland is fortunate to be close to two wastewater treatment plants that combined provide sufficient treatment capacity for our projected growth. We are all fortunate Yuba Water Agency (YWA) is committed to encouraging economic and infrastructure development and overcoming the high cost of water and wastewater infrastructure.

As you know, Wheatland has been working through the analysis of potential wastewater solutions. The process has been challenging given the “unknowns” we are working through, including when development may start in our growth areas and ultimately how these regional facilities will be financed. While we are still working to address the “unknowns”, we have identified the following:

- A collaborative effort to build new, backbone wastewater infrastructure in growth areas is valuable to all jurisdictions in south Yuba County.
- It is possible the capacity available at both the Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) and Linda County Water District (LCWD) wastewater treatment plants may be needed to meet Wheatland’s General Plan buildout needs and growth in south Yuba County.
- A reasonable Phase 1 plan for meeting Wheatland’s near-term wastewater needs includes conveyance and treatment of 1.5 MGD average dry weather flow.
- At the present time, we believe there are constraints that may limit near-term treatment at either OPUD or LCWD to no more than .75 MGD average dry weather flow.
- While Wheatland’s existing wastewater plant will need to be replaced by a regional connection at some future date, it does not have to occur in the early phases. Connecting the plant prematurely will cause an undue burden on existing ratepayers. This issue is magnified by the different treatment cost structures in place.
- Connecting Wheatland’s existing plant to the regional system adds costs not included in the construction of conveyance, including capacity/connection fees to the plant providing treatment and decommissioning of the City’s existing plant.

- Any capital or operating costs for potential conveyance of Wheatland flows from the Ostrom/Rancho Roads pump station connecting point to the LCWD plant currently are not anticipated to be shared and should be the responsibility of the City of Wheatland.
- The possibility of an infrastructure stimulus from the federal government does necessitate an aggressive effort to complete design and have a “shovel ready” project.

Based on these findings, Wheatland is requesting the following in the design of the regional conveyance:

- Wheatland will design conveyance from Wheatland to connect with OPUD’s design with capacity for 1.5 MGD average dry weather flow.
- Wheatland is requesting the conveyance north from South Beale Road to OPUD’s proposed new pump station at Ostrom Road be designed to provide capacity for the same 1.5 MGD average dry weather flow. At this point it appears engineers from both OPUD and Wheatland have suggested this infrastructure may need to be a separate force main dedicated to Wheatland flows in the same trench as the OPUD gravity main, as opposed to a large, shared gravity main. Wheatland will need to own this capacity.
- Wheatland is requesting the connection point at Ostrom/Rancho Roads be designed to accommodate flows to either OPUD or LCWD.
- Wheatland is requesting OPUD’s conveyance west from the Ostrom Road pump station to the OPUD treatment plant be sized to include capacity for Wheatland of 1.5 MGD average dry weather flow. Wheatland will need to own this capacity.

The project outlined above is a significant step in assuring Wheatland can provide sufficient wastewater services for buildout of our General Plan. In the coming months we will continue to work with our stakeholders in Wheatland to define when new development may occur and the anticipated pace that wastewater capacity will be consumed. We will also work with both OPUD and LCWD to secure agreements for treatment of Wheatland’s wastewater. Finally, we will work with regional partners on defining how these regional facilities will be financed.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this exciting, collaborative process to ensure the future prosperity of Yuba County.

Sincerely,



Jim Goodwin  
City Manager

Cc: Wheatland Mayor Rick West  
Wheatland Vice-Mayor Jay Pendergraph  
Terri Daly  
Robert Bendorf