

# **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE CITY OF RIO DELL WASTEWATER RESUE PROJECT**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Following is a brief summary of the project description. A detailed description of the project can be found in Section 1 (Project Description) of the Draft EIR.

### Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the selected alternative is to improve the operation of the City of Rio Dell's wastewater treatment, effluent disposal, and biosolids disposal systems. The existing wastewater treatment and disposal system has a capacity of 0.9 million gallons per day (mgd), and proposed new facilities to serve current and 2030 projected populations will have a similar capacity. The treatment system improvements are needed to address outstanding maintenance issues which have resulted in effluent permit violations. The disposal component of the project is needed to meet the requirements of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2005-0034. The City has also included biosolids disposal in this evaluation because the existing disposal site may not be available to the City in the future. The project intent is not to expand capacity, but to address deficiencies in the existing system's treatment capabilities and to address North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) disposal requirements.

### Project Objectives

The objectives of the selected alternative are as follows:

- Improve treatment system operations and performance
  - Reduce Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Total Coliform in treated effluent to meet NCRWQCB requirements
  - Address long-term maintenance of treatment plant components
- Construct a long-term disposal solution for the stream discharge prohibition period May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> that meets NCRWQCB requirements
  - Minimize additional operations and maintenance requirements for the long term disposal solution
- Implement a long term solution for biosolids disposal that meets NCRWQCB requirements

Potentially significant impacts and mitigations have been identified in the categories of aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation, and utilities. All potential impacts are considered to be less than significant with the recommended mitigation measures, except impacts to agricultural resources, which are significant, unavoidable and irreversible, because of the loss of prime agricultural land, and no mitigation is proposed for Alternatives 1, 2 and 3. The project is not considered to be growth inducing. The existing system is permitted at 0.9 mgd and the new system will have a similar capacity. The project intent is not to expand capacity, but to address deficiencies in the existing system's treatment capabilities and to address NCRWQCB disposal requirements.

**COMMENT PERIOD:** Comments on the DEIR will be accepted from October 4, 2007, through November 19, 2007. The DEIR and documents referenced in it are available for review at the District Office, 675 Wildwood Drive, Rio Dell, CA 95562. A copy of the DEIR will also be provided to the Humboldt County Public Library in Eureka. Please send your comments to the City of Rio Dell at the following address by November 19, 2007: 675 Wildwood Drive, Rio Dell, CA 95562, attention Mrs. Nancy Flemming, City Manager City of Rio Dell. Mrs. Nancy Flemming may be contacted at, (707) 764-3532.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** On **Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.** a formal presentation followed by a public hearing will be held at the City of Rio Dell City Council Chambers at 675 Wildwood Drive, Rio Dell, CA 95562, to solicit comments from public agencies and the public on the DEIR. If you have any question about the meeting, please contact Mrs. Nancy Flemming, City Manger City of Rio Dell, (707) 764-3532.