

Executive Summary

This Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been prepared by the City of San Mateo (City) pursuant to Title 14 of California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15161 to identify and analyze the anticipated environmental impacts of the Underground Flow Equalization System (UFES or Project) at the San Mateo County Event Center site. The proposed Project is a component of the City's Clean Water Program (CWP), which consists of a series of capital projects to upgrade and increase the capacity of its wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). In 2015 and 2016, the City prepared a program-level California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of the CWP, which was adopted by the City Council in June 2016 (2016 Final PEIR) (SCH. 2015032006). A key objective of the CWP is to help to increase the capacity of the City's collection system to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and meet current and future regulatory requirements. A complete description of the proposed Project objectives is described in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, and a full Project description is provided in Chapter 2.

Project Description

The proposed Project consists of a concrete holding structure, pump station, odor control equipment room, diversion sewers, and force main. These facilities would be located underground. An electrical building with a 175-kilowatt (kW) emergency backup generator, access hatches, and vents for treated air would be located at or above ground level. The holding structure is a self-cleaning underground basin with a storage capacity of approximately 5.3 million gallons (MG). During storm events, diversion sewers would route wet weather flows from the existing sewers to the holding structure via two new diversion sewer pipelines. The holding structure would store excess flows up to 24 hours after the storm event subsides. An effluent pump station would then pump the stored water back into the collection system via an 18-inch-diameter pressure pipeline (force main) when the downstream collection system has available capacity. The holding structure would also be used by the City to temporarily divert and hold dry weather flows during routine operations and maintenance activities. The holding structure would include an odor control system to provide adequate capture and treatment of foul air associated with operation. The City would conduct routine checking and periodic maintenance of the holding structure and diversion sewers.

It is expected that Project construction would begin in the year 2020. The holding structure and diversion pipelines would be constructed simultaneously over an approximate 25-month period.

Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential environmental impacts are evaluated throughout Chapters 3 through 17 of this document and are summarized in **Table ES-1** at the end of this Executive Summary. Several types of impacts have the potential to occur during the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The majority of potential impacts can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by following the detailed mitigation measures presented in this document, with the exception of noise and vibration impacts due to construction. Mitigation measures, including implementing construction noise minimization measures, operating a construction noise hot line, and resolving construction noise complaints, are proposed to reduce these impacts but they are anticipated to be significant after mitigation. Based on the analysis in Chapters 3 through 17, there are no other environmental effects that cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Cumulative and growth-inducing impacts are discussed in Chapter 18. Similar to the proposed Project, all potential cumulative impacts would be reduced to a less-than-cumulatively-considerable level, except for construction noise and vibration. The proposed Project is expected to result in significant and

unavoidable construction noise and vibration impacts, which could be cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would not induce population growth or result in growth-inducing impacts.

Areas of Controversy

The proposed Project is in line with the City's CWP primary objective to help increase the capacity of its collection system to eliminate SSOs and meet current and future regulatory requirements. While implementation of the proposed Project is expected to help effectively meet this and other objectives detailed in Chapter 1, there are still several areas of controversy. Primarily, there is mixed community acceptance of additional construction in the general vicinity of the Project. The proposed Project would include construction of a new, underground holding structure over an approximate 2-year period. Concerns range from air quality, noise, subsidence, and traffic during construction to concerns about, contamination and odor during operations. For additional discussion, see the summary of scoping comments in Section 1.3 of this document.

Table ES-1. Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures*Underground Flow Equalization System Project, Environmental Impact Report*

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance
Chapter 3. Aesthetics		
Impact 3-1. Would the proposed Project have the potential to conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	None required	No impact
Impact 3-2. Would the proposed Project have the potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare?	Mitigation Measure 3-3a. Design lighting to minimize impacts on adjacent areas.	Less than significant with mitigation
Chapter 4. Air Quality		
Impact 4-1. Would the proposed Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 4-2. Would the proposed Project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 4-3. Would the proposed Project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 5. Biological Resources		
Impact 5-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 5-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project interfere with the movement of fish or wildlife species?	Mitigation Measure 10-1. Install and apply erosion control and stormwater best management practices during construction. Mitigation Measure 10-2. Obtain discharge permits to comply with discharge requirements. Mitigation Measure 5-2. Protection for Nesting Raptors and Other Native Birds.	Less than significant with mitigation

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Impact 5-3. Would implementation of the proposed Project require the removal of heritage trees and potentially conflict with the City of San Mateo Heritage Tree Ordinance?	Mitigation Measure 5-3. Obtain a street tree trimming/removal permit.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 5-4. Would implementation of the proposed Project conflict with provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other plan?	None required	No Impact
Chapter 6. Cultural Resources		
Impact 6-1. Would the proposed Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource or archeological resource pursuant to CEQA §15064.5?	Mitigation Measure 6-1b. Halt construction if archaeological resources discovered; Mitigation Measure 6-1c. Conduct worker environmental awareness training Mitigation Measure 6-1d. Designate qualified archaeologist to conduct full-time monitoring of all ground-disturbing activities during construction.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 6-2. Would the proposed Project destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Mitigation Measure 6-2. Halt construction if paleontological resources are discovered.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 6-3. Would the proposed Project disturb human remains?	Mitigation Measure 6-3. Protect human remains upon discovery	Less than significant with mitigation
Chapter 7. Geology and Soils		
Impact 7-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic shaking, and/or seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and landslides?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 7-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?	Mitigation Measure 7-2. Comply with regulations and policies for erosion control.	Less than significant with mitigation

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Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance
Impact 7-3. Would the proposed Project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, potentially resulting in onsite or offsite landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Mitigation Measure 7-3a. Measures to Reduce Dewatering-related Settlements Mitigation Measure 7-3b. Measures to Reduce Shoring-related Settlements	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 7-4. Would the proposed Project be located on expansive soils, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to property?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 8. Greenhouse Gases		
Impact 8-1. Would the proposed Project generate GHG emissions either directly or indirectly that may have a significant effect on the environment?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 8-2. Would the proposed Project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials		
Impact 9-1. Would construction of the proposed Project expose the public or the environment to hazardous materials through routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 9-2. Would the proposed Project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Mitigation Measure 9-2. Perform a Phase II Assessment as needed and remediate, control, or dispose of contaminated materials as appropriate.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 9-3. Would construction and operation of the proposed Project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within 0.25 mile of an existing school?	Mitigation Measure 9-2. Perform a Phase II Assessment as needed and remediate, control, or dispose of contaminated materials as appropriate.	Less than significant with mitigation

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Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance
Impact 9-4. Would implementation of the proposed Project interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Mitigation Measure 9-4. Coordinate emergency services during construction.	Less than significant with mitigation
Chapter 10. Hydrology and Water Quality		
Impact 10-1. Would the proposed Project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 10-2. Would the proposed Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Mitigation Measure 10-2. Install and apply erosion control and stormwater best management practices during construction. Mitigation Measure 10-2a. Obtain a discharge permit to comply with discharge requirements.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 10-3. Would the proposed Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or increase the amount of surface runoff, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows?	Mitigation Measure 10-2. Install and apply erosion control and stormwater best management practices during construction	Less than significant with mitigation
Chapter 11. Land Use		
Impact 11-1. Would the proposed Project include development that could divide an established community?	None required	No impact
Impact 11-2. Would implementation of the Project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Mitigation Measure 11-2. Obtain approval for a special use permit.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 11-3. Would implementation of the Project conflict with habitat or natural conservation plans?	None required	No Impact

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Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance
Chapter 12. Noise		
Impact 12-1. Would the proposed Project result in generation a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards or result in substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above existing levels?	Mitigation Measure 12-1a. Develop and implement construction noise minimization measures. Mitigation Measure 12-1b. Operate a construction noise hot line. Mitigation Measure 12-1c. Resolve construction noise complaints.	Significant and unavoidable impact
Impact 12-2. Would the proposed Project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 12-3. Would the proposed Project generate excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	Mitigation Measure 12-3. Incorporate vibration issues into Project construction. Mitigation Measure 12-3a. Assess and incorporate vibration monitoring and minimization measures as part of Project construction.	Less than significant with mitigation
Chapter 13. Population and Housing		
Impact 13-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project induce unplanned population growth?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 13-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project displace people or housing?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 14. Public Services		
Impact 14-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project affect police or fire services?	Mitigation Measure 9-4. Coordinate emergency services during construction.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 14-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project affect hospitals, schools, and libraries?	None required	Less than significant

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Chapter 15. Recreation		
Impact 15-1. Would the proposed Project increase use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	None required	Less than significant
Impact 15-2. Would the proposed Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	None required	No Impact
Impact 15-3. Would the proposed Project affect use of existing parks or recreation facilities, inconsistent with applicable policies?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 16. Transportation and Traffic		
Impact 16-1. Would construction of the proposed Project conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, or conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	Mitigation Measure 16-1. Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 16-2. Would construction of the proposed Project conflict with an applicable congestion management program including but not limited to LOS standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	Mitigation Measure 16-1. Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 16-3. Would implementation of the proposed Project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curve or dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses?	Mitigation Measure 16-1. Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation

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Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance
Impact 16-4. Would implementation of the proposed Project result in inadequate emergency access?	Mitigation Measure 9-4. Coordinate emergency services during construction. Mitigation Measure 16-1. Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 16-5. Would implementation of the proposed Project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	Mitigation Measure 16-1. Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact 16-6. Would operation of the proposed Project result in a significant traffic increase in conflicts with local plans, policies, and ordinances?	None required	Less than significant
Chapter 17. Utilities		
Impact 17-1. Would implementation of the proposed Project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	None required	No Impact
Impact 17-2. Would implementation of the proposed Project have insufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	None required	Less than significant

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Impact 17-3. Would implementation of the proposed Project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the Project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the proposed Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	None required	No Impact
Impact 17-4. Would the proposed Project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	None required	No Impact
Impact 17-5. Would implementation of the proposed Project result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	None required	Less than significant
Notes:		
BAAQMD	= Bay Area Air Quality Management District	
CEQA	= California Environmental Quality Act	
GHG	= greenhouse gas	
LOS	= level of service	