



**Notice of Availability/Intent To Adopt
Initial Study and Negative Declaration
for the
Occidental County Sanitation District to
Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone
Wastewater Transport Project
Public Review Period:
September 29, 2017 to October 30, 2017**

INTRODUCTION

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency), on behalf of the Occidental County Sanitation District (District), is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed **Occidental County Sanitation District to Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Transport Project** (Proposed Project). The Water Agency has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the project in accordance with CEQA. An electronic copy of the Draft IS/ND is available at www.sonomacountywater.org. Hard copies of the Draft IS/ND are available for purchase by request at 707-547-1900 or at the Water Agency's administrative office (404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa). Hard copies are also available for public viewing at the following locations:

- ❖ **Sonoma County Water Agency:** 404 Aviation Blvd Santa Rosa, CA 95403
- ❖ **Occidental Library:** 73 Main Street, Occidental, CA 95465
- ❖ **Forestville Library:** 7050 Covey Road, Forestville CA. 95436

An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of a project's potential environmental impacts used to determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report will be prepared. The Initial Study document is intended to provide a clear understanding of the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project for decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, and the public. If an Initial Study identifies potentially significant impacts but the project is modified or revised to clearly mitigate the impacts, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared. If an Initial Study concludes that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project would be located within the Occidental County Sanitation District (District) service area, and would utilize existing sanitation facilities in the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ALWSZ), which is also operated by the Water Agency. The District serves approximately 118 parcels in the community of Occidental,

which is located approximately 52 miles northwest of San Francisco, California (Figure 1). Wastewater transportation would primarily occur between the District Lift Station located on Occidental-Camp Meeker Road in Occidental and the ALWSZ wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF), located approximately 18 miles from the District, on Aviation Boulevard near the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa (Figure 2). Wastewater transportation would also occur less frequently from the District WWTF located on Lu Dan Road off of Occidental Road in Occidental (Figure 2). Facility modifications would take place at the District WWTF, District Lift Station, and the ALWSZ WWTF.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

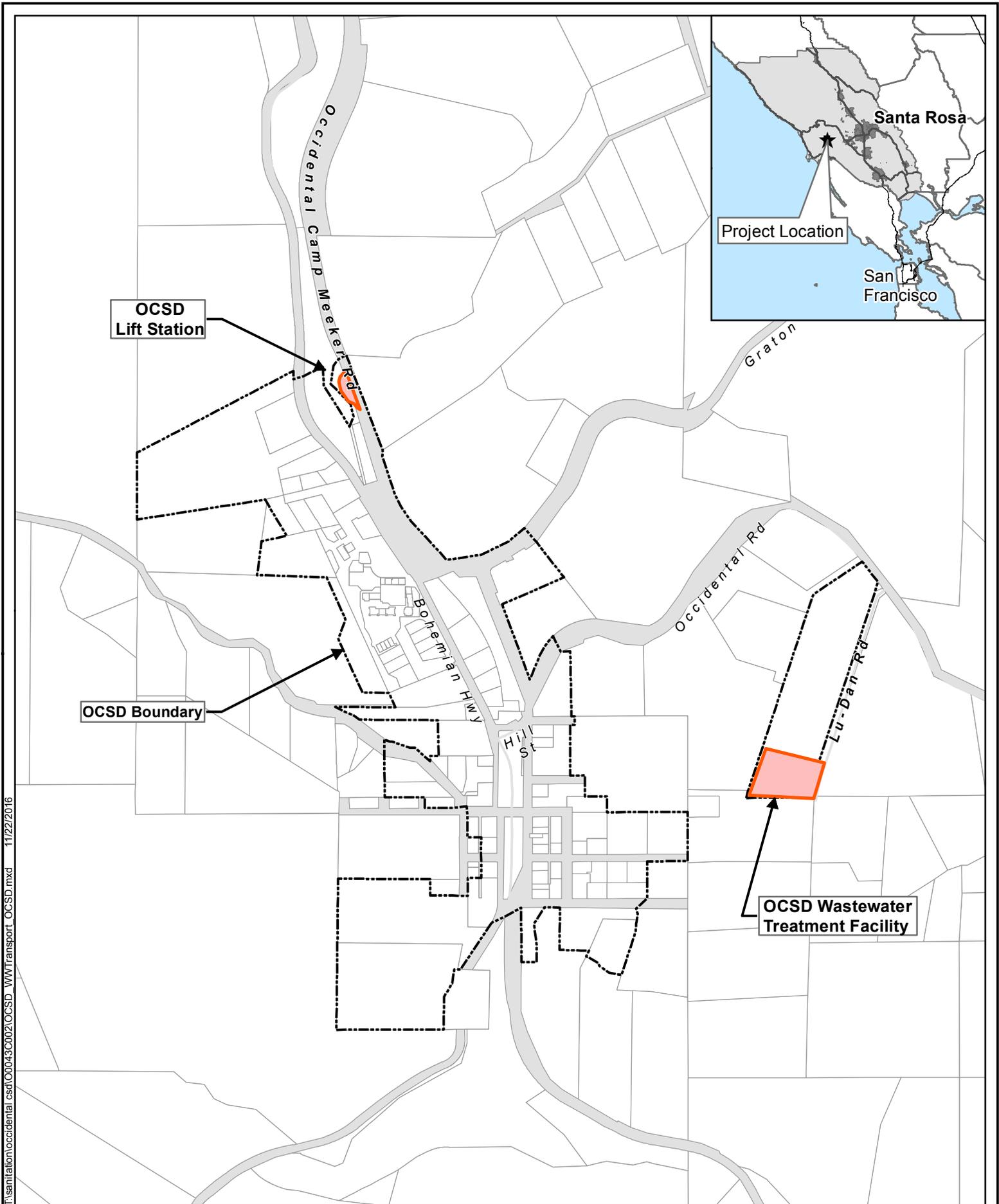
The Proposed Project would allow the District to comply with conditions set forth by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) adopted in Order No. R1-2012-0101 (Order). The Proposed Project would include transporting untreated wastewater to the ALWSZ WWTF where it would be discharged into the ALWSZ collection system for treatment, storage, and disposal (Figure 2). The ALWSZ WWTF currently treats wastewater to secondary and tertiary standards and utilizes irrigation of agricultural lands for disposal of secondary and tertiary-treated recycled water.

By transferring untreated wastewater to the ALWSZ for treatment, storage, and disposal, the Proposed Project would eliminate the discharge and storage of secondary-treated effluent into Graham's Pond (a headwaters to Dutch Bill Creek) for recycled water irrigation during the dry season, and direct discharge to Dutch Bill Creek during the wet season.

The Proposed Project would modify existing facilities at the District WWTF, District Lift Station, and ALWSZ WWTF.

Modifications to the District WWTF would include the minor reconfiguration of existing above-grade piping and valves, the installation of below-grade piping, and installation of a pond liner. Modifications to the District Lift Station would include installation of above- and below-grade piping and appurtenances (including valves and pumps, electrical and control panels), and installation of a truck-filling station in the existing facility turnout to facilitate the filling of tanker trucks with untreated wastewater for transport.

Modifications at the ALWSZ WWTF would include installation of above- and below-grade piping and appurtenances (including valves and pumps, electrical and control panels), and installation of a receiving station on previously disturbed and developed lands, including an existing gravel parking lot, to facilitate the draining of untreated wastewater from tanker trucks. The receiving station would connect to the ALWSZ WWTF through a new below-grade pipe that would connect to the existing collection system leading into the treatment facilities.



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**Occidental County Sanitation District
Wastewater Transport Project
OCSD Location Map**

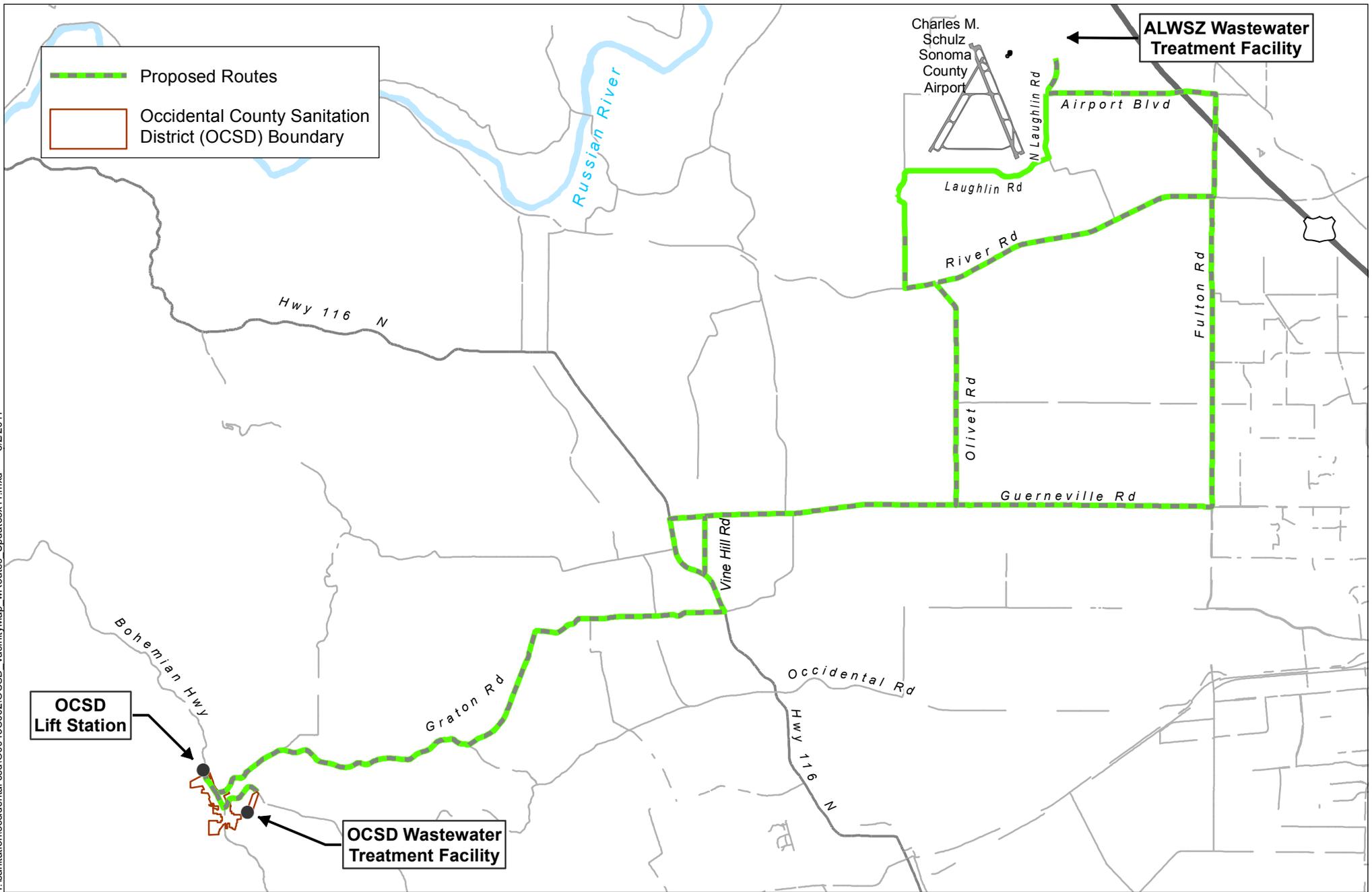
Figure 1



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Proposed Routes

Occidental County Sanitation District (OCSD) Boundary



**Occidental County Sanitation District to
Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone
Wastewater Transport Project
Proposed Wastewater Transportation Routes**

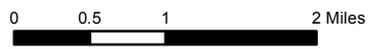


Figure 2



Operational activities would include the continued collection and storage of untreated wastewater at the District Lift Station and WWTF; including aeration at the WWTF to prevent odors; and year-round transportation of untreated wastewater to the ALWSZ WWTF for treatment, storage and disposal. Maintenance activities would include continued routine maintenance of the plumbing and electrical systems associated with the District's collection and storage facilities. Maintenance would also include routine management and maintenance of the plumbing and electrical systems associated with the truck filling and receiving activities at the District and ALWSZ WWTF. Routine operation and maintenance of the treatment, storage, and disposal facilities at the ALWSZ would remain similar to current levels.

INITIAL STUDY REVIEW

Public disclosure and dialogue are priorities under CEQA. Accordingly, CEQA requires a public review period during the IS/ND process when interested stakeholders, interested public agencies, or the general public can provide comments on the Proposed Project. Pursuant to Sections 15073.5 and 15105[b] of the CEQA Guidelines, the Water Agency is now circulating this document for a 30-day public and agency review. All comments received prior to 5:00 p.m. on the date identified for closure of the public review period in the Notice of Availability/Intent to Adopt will be considered. Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject.

Input, questions, or comments on this project can be sent to:

Jeff Church, Senior Environmental Specialist
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019
Email: jchurch@scwa.ca.gov

The public review period closes at 5:00 p.m. October 30, 2017.

ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The project is scheduled for consideration and adoption by the Water Agency's Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled Board meeting beginning at 8:30 am on **December 12, 2017**. Comments submitted during the Initial Study review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors. Opportunity to comment on the project will also be available at the Board meeting.