

# Occidental County Sanitation District to Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Transport Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

The Occidental County Sanitation District to Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Wastewater Transport Project (Project) would allow Occidental's wastewater to be transported to the treatment facility near the Airport Business Park where it would be treated and recycled. The proposed Project would require minor modifications to:

- The District's wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) on Lu Dan Road to allow primary storage of untreated wastewater.
- The District's lift station on Bohemian Highway, to create a truck filling station and allow waste water to be stored at the WWTF on LuDan Road and returned to the lift station through the force main for transport;
- The Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Wastewater Treatment Facility to allow trucks to dispose of waste water into the collection and treatment system.

### WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Currently, the District discharges secondary treated wastewater into Graham's Pond located at the headwaters of Dutch Bill Creek during the summer and to Dutch Bill Creek during the winter. Dutch Bill Creek provides habitat for endangered coho salmon. An order by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board District requires the District to stop releasing secondary treated water into the pond by 2018. The Project would bring the District into compliance with the law by ending wastewater treatment at the existing WWTF. Instead, the wastewater would be transported from the District's lift station to the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ALWSZ) wastewater treatment facility for tertiary level treatment and reuse for irrigation.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO BUILD?

The proposed Project has been determined to be the least expensive alternative and would cost an estimated \$1.4 million to plan, design and construct. Annual operating costs are anticipated to be similar to current costs.

### HOW MANY TRUCK TRIPS WILL BE NEEDED TO TRANSPORT THE WASTEWATER?

The Project would generate approximately 5 daily trips during the dry season and average about eight truck trips daily over the course of a year. During large storms, this could increase to 15 trips daily.

### IS THERE CAPACITY AT OTHER TREATMENT PLANTS?

The ALWSZ currently has the capacity to treat, store and recycle all of the wastewater that is generated by Occidental.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ROADS ARE CLOSED OR DURING OTHER EMERGENCIES?

The existing storage ponds in Occidental, at the LuDan Road treatment plant, will be maintained to hold and aerate wastewater. During dry weather, there are two months of storage available in the ponds. During the wet season, the ponds would be able to store about one week's peak inflow.

### HAVE OTHER ALTERNATIVES BEEN CONSIDERED?

The District has worked toward solving its wastewater challenges since the late 1990s. Over the past two decades, at least 15 alternatives have been identified, studied and rejected because they were technically unworkable, did not have community support or were too expensive.



During the last three years, the District focused on locating new storage ponds that could hold secondary treated wastewater, and end the use of Graham's Pond. A site was located, but the cost of building a pipeline to carry tertiary treated wastewater to the future pond was prohibitive. The District also explored an option suggested by several community members: Replacing the existing plant with a more efficient facility that would treat water to a tertiary level. This alternative also requires the development of additional storage, which is cost prohibitive.

Finally, the District proposed transporting wastewater to a lift station near Guerneville, where it would have been treated by the Russian River County Sanitation District. The alternative was dropped for lack of community support.

### **IS THIS A PERMANENT SOLUTION?**

The Project could become a permanent solution to the District's wastewater storage problem. However, by minimizing capital investments, the Project allows for flexibility in the future if technological advances result in lower cost solutions or if a regional sewage treatment project is proposed.

### **WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**

The Sonoma County Water Agency has published for review a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to develop an Initial Study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. A 30-day public comment period will be held. Comments will be submitted to Jeff Church, 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or to [Jeff.Church@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Jeff.Church@scwa.ca.gov).

The Water Agency will prepare the Initial Study on behalf of the District in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Water Agency's Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA. 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.

A public scoping meeting and open house will be held to provide the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope of the Initial Study. Water Agency staff will be available to answer questions and provide information about the project in order to allow interested parties to participate at any time during the Open House. The meeting time and location are as follows:

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**  
**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Back Room, Union Hotel**  
**3731 Main Street, Occidental, CA**

For more information, or to view the NOP, visit <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/OCSD/> or contact Jeff Church at (707) 547-1949 or [jchurch@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:jchurch@scwa.ca.gov). The NOP will also be available for review at the Sonoma County libraries in Occidental, Sebastopol, Guerneville, Santa Rosa (Northwest Branch), and Windsor. Comment forms will be available for attendees to submit written comments at the Open House or comments can be submitted to Occidental County Sanitation District: c/o Sonoma County Water Agency, Attn: Jeff Church, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

**The NOP public comment period closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2017.**

