

# Exhibit A

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## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

The Regional Treatment Plant (RTP) is located at the Monterey Regional Environmental Park in unincorporated Monterey County, approximately two miles north of the City of Marina.

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency's (MRWPCA) service area includes the cities of Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City, Seaside, and Marina, the unincorporated communities of Boronda, Castroville, Moss Landing, and other unincorporated areas of north Monterey County. The RTP currently collects wastewater and some stormwater from its service area, and treats a large portion of this incoming flow to a tertiary treatment standard that enables it to be used for agricultural irrigation purposes. Flow that is not sent to the tertiary treatment system is discharged through an outfall to Monterey Bay after receiving secondary treatment.

In July 1990, MRWPCA applied for a Use Permit (PC-7748) to increase the operational capacity of the RPT to 27 million gallons per day (mgd). The County granted the use permit for 27 mgd of operational capacity in April 1992. In September 2007 the County approved an amendment to the use permit (PLN060331) to increase the operational capacity of the regional wastewater treatment plant from 27 million gallons per day to 29.6 million gallons per day. No physical improvements to the plant were needed to increase the capacity.

### **Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project (PWM/GWR Project)**

The PWM/GWR Project would collect source water and include new and improved treatment and conveyance facilities to create the following: 1) purified water for recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and 2) recycled water to augment the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project's (CSIP) agricultural irrigation supply. The PWM/GWR Project would recycle and reuse municipal wastewater, industrial wastewater, urban stormwater runoff, and surface water diversions. The PWM/GWR Project would be located within northern Monterey County and would include new facilities located within unincorporated areas of Monterey County and within the cities of Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove.

The primary objective of the PWM/GWR Project is to replenish the Seaside Groundwater Basin with 3,500 acre feet per year (AFY) of purified recycled water to replace a portion of the California American Water Company's (CalAm's) water supply as required by State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) orders. This would reduce withdrawals of water from the Carmel River alluvial aquifer.

Secondary objectives of the PWM/GWR Project include the following:

- Provide additional water to the RTP that could be used for crop irrigation through the Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant and CSIP system;
- Develop a drought reserve to allow the increased use of PWM/GWR Project source waters as crop irrigation within the area served by the CSIP during dry years;
- Assist in preventing seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin;
- Assist in diversifying Monterey County's water supply portfolio.

## **Proposed Project**

As part of the PWM/GWR Project, MPWPCA recently submitted an application (PLN160098) to allow the construction and operation of an Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF). The application consists of Amendment No. 2 to the existing 1992 Use Permit (PC7784) and a Design Approval. The AWTF would be constructed on an undeveloped 5.69 acre site adjacent to the existing MRWPCA facility. The AWTF would receive RTP secondary effluent for advanced treatment, and ultimately, injection into the Seaside Groundwater Basin. The facility would include a state-of-the-art treatment system that uses multiple membrane barriers to purify the water, a pump station and a brine and wastewater mixing facility.

RTP secondary effluent would include a treated mixture of the source waters would be drawn from a new diversion structure on an existing main pipeline. The AWTF would operate at an overall water recovery rate of approximately 81%. Waste residuals would include backwash from the biological filtration system, backwash and cleaning wastes from the membrane filtration system and concentrate and cleaning waters from the reverse osmosis system. Cleaning waters from each system would be neutralized and returned to the RTP, along with backwash waste residuals from the membrane treatment system. The AWTF would target an annual production of up to 3,700 acre-feet/year (AFY).

The injection well and conveyance facilities related to the project do not require a discretionary permit from the County and are not a part of the requested Use Permit Amendment or Design Approval.

## **Issues**

### **Design/Visual Impacts**

The proposed AWTF is located in an area characterized by large scale public utility/industrial-looking tanks and structures. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural land. The tallest structures on the site (tricking filter towers) are approximately 37 feet tall. The proposed AWTF is located on the west side of the RTP, and is currently a flat unpaved area that is undeveloped.

The new facility would have a total building area of approximately 22,560 square feet within the RTP site, west of the existing treatment facilities. The AWTF includes an Ozone Building, Liquid Oxygen Area, Ozone Contractor Area, Membrane Building, Wastewater Sump and PS Area, MF feed and MF Filtrate Tanks Area, Chemical Building and Stabilization Area PS Area, and a Product Water Pump Station. The tallest structures are approximately 19 feet in height. The proposed colors and materials consist of Colonial Red metal roof panels, Almond metal upper roof panels and Brownstone metal lower (wainscot) wall panels. The colors are neutral earth tones which is consistent with the existing color scheme at the MRWPCA facility. Landscaping is proposed in the areas adjacent to the structures to provide screening. A total of 2,112 one-gallon shrubs would be planted. There will be no tree removal as part of this project.

The applicant submitted a Visual Analysis (**Exhibit D**) dated December 16, 2016 prepared by Denise Duffy and Associates. The report provides a visual representation and analysis of the project in relation to County policies and regulations. In addition, the Visual Analysis is

intended to assist in visualizing how the proposed project would be seen from common public viewing areas; in the case of the AWTF, from Del Monte Road and Highway 1.

The tallest structures on site of the AWTF would be less than 20 feet tall. The structures would be located approximately 2,165 feet from the end of the closest public road, Charles Benson Road. The AWTF would not be visible from Charles Benson Road. Views of the AWTF would be obstructed by the public facilities associated with the Monterey Waste Management District; these are primarily large compost piles which block any view of the AWTF. In addition, the AWTF would not be visible from Del Monte Boulevard or Crescent Avenue due to site topography and existing vegetation (i.e., a row of Cypress trees) on the west side of the RTP. The site is not located within a designated scenic vista or a scenic corridor as defined by the General Plan, and does not contain any visual features that are visually unique, therefore the visual quality of the site is considered low. In addition, the site is not visible from any public roads, therefore the visual exposure of the site is low and the visual sensitivity is low due to the low visual quality of the site and the lack of visibility from any public roads.

The EIR concluded that the impacts on the visual quality of the site and surrounding areas are less-than-significant. The AWTF would include several structures all less than 20 feet in height and all new pipes and pumps would be underground. The design of the AWTF paired with the low visual quality and low exposure conditions of the area, results in the AWTF having a less-than-significant impact on the visual character of the area and its surroundings due to the low visual sensitivity of the area.

#### Construction Impacts

The applicant's Construction Management Plan indicates that construction workers would access the AWTF site via Charles Benson Road and existing access roads serving the RTP. Approximately 3.5 acres would be disturbed during construction. Construction activities are expected to occur over 18 months, plus three months for testing and start-up. The construction workforce is expected to work up to four shifts with construction occurring 24 hours/day, seven days a week. Typical construction staff levels will consist of between 10 – 30 workers/day. Mechanical components of the pretreatment, membrane filtration systems, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation and post-treatment facilities would be prefabricated and delivered to the site for installation. An average of 20 round truck trips and 40 one-way truck trips per day would be accessing the site during construction. Parking for construction equipment and worker vehicles would be accommodated within the construction work areas. During construction, all project components will be managed to avoid impacts related to construction activities.

#### Noise

There are no sensitive receptors (e.g., residences, schools, hotels, hospitals and nursing homes) in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. As a result, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely affect any sensitive receptors. The nearest sensitive receptors are a farm house off Monte Road located approximately one mile to the northwest of the RTP site, and residences along Cosky Drive in Marina located approximately 5,400 feet southwest of the AWTF.

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