



PLANNING COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT
February 13, 2023

Title:	CIP 2023
Project:	Capital Improvement Program CIP-23-0001
Location:	4301 Hilfiker Lane (Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant)
APN:	019-271-005; 019-331-006, -007 and -008; 302-171-001, -002, and -038
Applicant:	City of Eureka, Public Works - Engineering
Property Owner:	City of Eureka
Purpose/Use:	Annual Review of the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for General Plan and Land Use Plan Consistency
Application Date:	January 4, 2023
General Plan:	Public/Quasi-Public (PQP)
Zoning:	Public (P)
CEQA:	Exempt under §15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies).
Staff Contact:	Jesse Willor, City Engineer and Caitlin Castellano, Senior Planner
Recommendation:	Receive report; and Find CIP 2023 is exempt from CEQA under §15262 and conforms with the adopted Land Use Plan, and forward CIP 2023 to the City Council with any recommendations and comments.
Motion:	"I move the Planning Commission adopt a Resolution finding CIP 2023 is exempt from CEQA and is in conformance with the City's adopted Land Use Plan, and forward our recommendation to adopt CIP 2023 to the City Council, along with any Commissioner or public comments."

Figure 1: Location Map

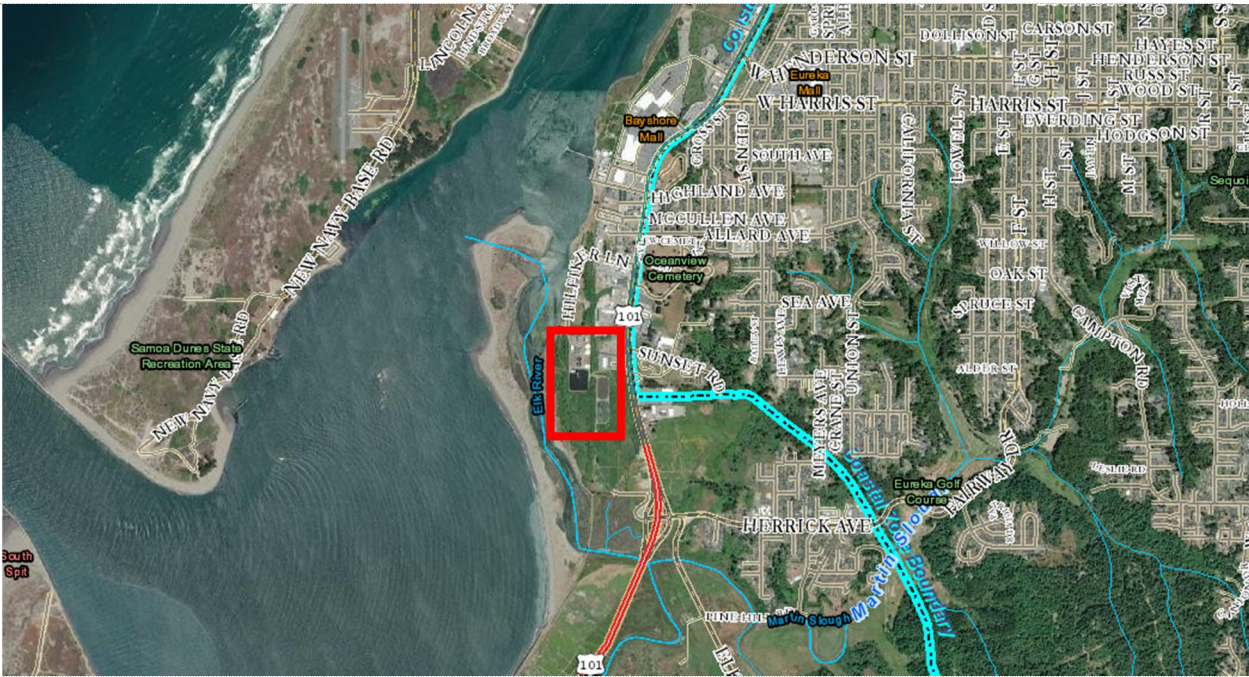


Figure 2: Site Map



PROJECT SUMMARY

One of the most important and fundamental responsibilities of the City is to maintain the integrity of the City's capital facilities. In order for Eureka to remain a great place to live, work, and play, the streets, sewers, parks, water system, and other public facilities must be well maintained. Functioning facilities are also vital for the success of commerce and industry in the community. Planning for capital improvements is an ongoing process. As the City's infrastructure ages, and as needs change, capital programs and priorities must be

adjusted.

Each year, the Planning Commission is required to review the CIP for consistency with the General Plan (Eureka Municipal Code §152.01[B] [6]), and with the Land Use Plan for projects located within the Coastal Zone. Since this year's project is located within the Coastal Zone, consistency must be found with the adopted and certified Land Use Plan portion of the Local Coastal Program. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a comprehensive document which reflects the City's capital priorities and realistically depicts the resources available to finance the work; it represents a balance between finite resources and an ever-increasing number of competing City

priorities and needs. There is a great difference between the CIP and the Operating Budget. The Operating Budget itemizes day-to-day operational expenses, such as salaries and supplies. The CIP identifies the physical facilities and improvements planned for the City. Typically, capital improvements are large expenditures which extend the useful life of the City's physical infrastructure and City-owned buildings or facilities. New construction may be required to accommodate increased demand, while existing infrastructure, including roads, water and sewer lines, and storm drains require periodic rehabilitation or replacement to protect the City's earlier capital investment. The City of Eureka's continued investment in its infrastructure and facilities is necessary to support and enhance its neighborhoods, stimulate the economy, and make City services more efficient. Please note, the Planning Commission is not deciding on the fiscal viability of the proposal in the CIP; the Commission is only tasked with determining conformance with the City's adopted General Plan and Land Use Plan.

Public Works - Engineering is responsible for preparing the CIP, with input from all other City departments. The resulting document is a compilation of proposed projects affecting all areas of capital improvement within the City. As each year passes, completed projects are removed from the CIP list. For pending or incomplete projects, the project description, time frame, and budget are often revised. This process keeps the CIP current and accurate.

This year's CIP proposes one (1) new project, located in the Coastal Zone. As with all CIP projects, whether new or on-going, they must implement the goals and policies of the General Plan and Land Use Plan, and the Eureka Municipal Code requires the Planning Commission find any project listed in the CIP conforms to the goals and policies of the City's adopted General Plan and Land Use Plan. Staff has reviewed the new project proposed in CIP 2023, and has determined the proposed project is in conformance with the adopted Land Use Plan. Attachment 2 to this staff report lists the specific goals and policies which support the new CIP project. For the Commission's reference, a copy of the adopted Goals and Policies of the Land Use Plan is included in Attachment 3. A finding with regard to conformance with the Land Use Plan is only needed for the new project, since the other projects are being carried over from previous CIPs for which General Plan and Land Use Plan conformance findings have been made in previous years.

WWTP Improvements – Eliminate Bypass. The City of Eureka's Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharges to Humboldt Bay. Discharges are regulated by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) through application of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In 2016, the RWQCB issued Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0012, and the WWTP began operating under a new NPDES permit, Order No. R1-2016-0001, which specifically disallows the historical practice termed, 'blending'. Blending is the bypassing of primary-treated wet weather flows in excess of 12 million gallons per day (MGD) around the biological treatment system and directly to disinfection. The City's approach to eliminating bypass is to make improvements to the WWTP, including increasing secondary treatment capacity and providing primary effluent equalization storage.

Eliminating bypassing at the WWTP will require either rehabilitation of the existing, or installation of a new, Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT) system to increase the biological treatment capacity of the Trickling Filters (which include additional pumping capacity to increase biological treatment from 12 to 23-24 MGD), and increase biological treatment of the Secondary Clarifiers (SC) (which include increasing the Return Secondary Solids pumping capacity and SC biological treatment capacity from 12 to 23-24 MGD). Storage of peak wet weather flows will be provided via a new primary effluent equalization basin (which includes storage for approximately 8 MGD of primary effluent peak wet weather flows) by repurposing an existing Facultative Sludge Lagoon (FSL).

ENVIRONMENTAL

Review and adoption of the CIP qualifies for a Statutory Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is a fiscal feasibility and planning study which does not commit the City to a specific project and is not legally binding on the City (CEQA Guidelines §15262).

STAFF CONTACTS

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DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- Attachment 1: Planning Commission Resolution 2023-____
- Attachment 2: General Plan and Land Use Plan Consistency
- Attachment 3: Goals and Policies of the adopted and certified Land Use Plan
- Attachment 4: Draft 2023 CIP New Project Page