



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

PREPARER: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

DATE: January 09, 2023

TITLE: **Adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption for the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project and Approve the Project.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council adopt a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption for the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project and approve the project.

INTRODUCTION:

Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) is the intrusion of external water into the closed sanitary sewer network via defects and damage to the system; inflow is the immediate intrusion of stormwater, and infiltration is the slower “seeping” of groundwater into manholes and sewer lines. The additional water volume resulting from I&I can be significant, can cause inundation of sewer lines resulting in sanitary sewer overflows (SSO’s), and impact the operation of the wastewater treatment plant at or above its designed limits. Arcata’s sewer network is in immediate need of repair and rehabilitation.

BACKGROUND:

Several sewer network studies have been conducted over the past thirty years, and all have indicated systemic damage to Arcata’s sewer main lines and laterals. The City completed a large I&I reduction project, and preliminary results from this past project indicate reduction of wet weather flows into the treatment facility by 0.5 million gallons per day when precipitation occurs.

Over the past two years, Engineering and Environmental Services department staff have identified and mapped the critical areas of the sewer system so that a next repair project could be prioritized. Based on these previous studies and recent mapping, staff has developed a priority list and identified the lines, manhole and laterals that need immediate attention (Attachment A: project location map). The project plans to line approximately 76,000 linear feet of sewer pipe, dig and replace 37,000 linear feet of sewer pipe (including sewer laterals), and repair 1,270 sewer cleanouts within the City right-of-way. The cost of this work is estimated to be in the range of \$12M to \$15M and may be funded using a combination of grants and loan proceeds. City applied for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and expects to receive these funds by 2023-2024. In order to complete the CWSRF application packet we need

to complete the environmental phase and submit the CEQA determination to the State Water Resources Control Board. Environmental review was conducted for the planned work, and a categorical exemption was determined to be appropriate.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This project is Categorical Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to:

Sec. 15302 Class 2 (c), Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Sec 15303 Class 3(d) Water main, **sewage**, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The maximum cost of the project is estimated to be \$15M. It is anticipated that the primary source of funding for this project will be combination of grants and a low interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. In anticipation of financing major capital projects, the City Council increased water and wastewater rates over a five-year period which will be used to cover the debt service costs on this low interest loan. Cost associated with the environmental phase work is within existing 22-23 FY budget and budgeted as below:

Account Number/Agency Responsible	Amount	Account Name
662-50-65-57500	\$50,000.00	Capital – Underground Facilities

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A- PROJECT_LOC_MAP (PDF)