

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
For the Applegate Regional Sewer Pipeline Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 9 awarded a grant to the County of Placer to fund a wastewater treatment plant closure and pipeline project. EPA Region 9's award of a grant for the proposed project is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f. In accordance with NEPA, Council of Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28, and U.S. EPA NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6, U.S. EPA Region 9 has prepared an environmental information document (EID), which EPA has adopted as an environmental assessment (EA). The EA describes the potential environmental impacts associated with, and the alternatives to, the proposed project. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents U.S. EPA Region 9's decision that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Project Location and Description**

Applegate, CA is a community in Placer County (County) located approximately 9 miles northeast of the city of Auburn along Interstate 80. The County provides public sewerage to the portion of Applegate that falls within the County Service Area. The proposed project would retire the treatment ponds at Applegate Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and install a pump station and a force main to convey Applegate's wastewater to the existing sewer collection system that flows to the Sewer Maintenance District (SMD) #1 WWTP. The wastewater would be treated at the SMD 1 WWTP and discharged to Rock Creek.

**Purpose and Need**

The intent of the proposed project is to meet the requirements of the Settlement Agreement reached by the County and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in December 2006. Under the proposed project, the Applegate WWTP would be decommissioned and wastewater would be rerouted to the SMD 1 WWTP via the new pipeline. This would enable the County to meet the terms of the Settlement Agreement and would eliminate the need to temporarily store and haul wastewater to prevent the ponds from overflowing during the winter months.

**Environmental Consequences**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires federal agencies to consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to ensure that the project actions do not

jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species. EPA's Biological Assessment (BA) found that, while the project area is suitable habitat for California red-legged frog (CLF), surveys found no detection of CLF in the project area. FWS concurred with EPA that this project is not likely to adversely affect the California red-legged frog. FWS recommended, and Placer County agreed to follow, conservation measures to reduce potential effects on CLF.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act defines the purpose and requirements of the federal review process to ensure that historic properties are considered during federal project planning and execution. Based on a site and literature review, it was determined that no historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). In addition to consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), EPA consulted with the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). The THPO requested that a cultural monitor be present for ground disturbing activity within two portions of the APE. The SHPO concurred that there were no historic properties eligible for listing in the NRHP within the APE and advised accommodation of the THPO's concern. The County is continuing to work with the THPO to address their concerns.

To obtain additional information about the project, please contact Jared Vollmer by email at: [vollmer.jared@epa.gov](mailto:vollmer.jared@epa.gov) or by calling 415-972-3447.

### **Finding**

Based on the information contained in the EA, and after opportunity for public comment, U.S. EPA Region 9 has determined the proposed project will not result in significant impacts to the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This FONSI will be final upon signature. U.S. EPA Region 9 will not re-circulate this FONSI for public review, but will make it available to any individual upon request.

### **Public Review**

The EA/FONSI is available for public review and comment at the offices of the EPA Region 9 Office in San Francisco, CA.

In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/nepa/epa-generated.html>.

The EA is also available for public review at the following Placer County locations:

Auburn Public Library  
350 Nevada Street,  
Auburn, CA

Meadow Vista Public Library  
16981 Placer Hills Road

Meadow Vista, CA

All interested persons may submit comments to EPA Region 9 by December 31, 2011. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of the comment period. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Jared Vollmer at the address listed below.

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Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

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Date

Attachment:  
EID