

Attachment A

General Application Package

General Application Form

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: County of Tulare			
Street Address: 2800 W. Burrel Ave	City: Visalia	State: CA	Zip+4 Code: 93291
Applicant Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Tribe <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Specify:			
County: Tulare		Charter City/County: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Mailing Address: 5961 S. Mooney Blvd.	City: Visalia	State: CA	Zip+4 Code: 93277-9394
Applicant Total Population: 477,544			
Current year median household income (MHI): \$64,722 +/- \$2,241			
Congressional District(s): 22			
State Senate District(s): 14			
State Assembly District(s): 26			
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) No.: 168783512		Federal Tax ID No.: 94-6000545	
Regional Water Board where the project will take place: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (North Coast) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (San Francisco Bay) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Central Coast) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Los Angeles) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 (Central Valley) <input type="checkbox"/> 6 (Lahontan) <input type="checkbox"/> 7 (Colorado River) <input type="checkbox"/> 8 (Santa Ana) <input type="checkbox"/> 9 (San Diego)			
Authorized Representative Name: Pete Vander Poel		Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors	
Phone No.: (559) 636-5000		Email Address: clerkoftheboard@tularecounty.ca.gov	
Contact Person Name: Aaron Bock			
Phone No.: (559) 624-7050		Email Address: abock@tularecounty.ca.gov	
Local Counsel Name: Jennifer Flores			
Phone No.: (559) 636-4950		Email Address: tularecountycounselo@tularecounty.ca.gov	

II. PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Project Title: Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project		
Project Description and Objectives: <i>(Enter a brief description of the project and its objectives)</i> <small>The Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project is a sewer consolidation project with the City of Tulare via an extraterritorial services agreement to provide wastewater collection services to the Lone Oak and Soultis Tract communities.</small>		
Current Status of Plans & Specifications: Percent (%): 30%		
Amount of Assistance Requested: \$5,950,000		
Total Project Cost (If More Than the Amount of Assistance Requested):		
Project Location Street Address: 2499 W Crescent Dr.	City: Tulare	State: CA Zip+4 Code: 93274
Project Location - Latitude: 36°12'05.1"N		Project Location - Longitude: 119°22'51.1"W
NPDES Permit or WDR Order No.: CAL083691		
Population Served by Project: Residents of Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts, approximately 237 people		
Currently Estimated Project Schedule:		Estimated or Actual Date
Adopt Environmental Documents		January 2025
100% Plans & Specifications		May 2026
Start of Construction/Implementation		September 2026
Complete Construction/Implementation		September 2027

Environmental Consultations

Please list other Federal agencies that have been involved in or completed consultations related to Federal environmental requirements, their contact information if known, and brief descriptions of the status of these consultations.

None

Other Consultations

Please list other Federal agencies that have been involved in this project (e.g. planning, CEQA/NEPA consultation, funding, etc.), their contact information if known, and brief descriptions of the status of these consultations.

None

Partnering Agencies

Please list all other agencies that have an interest in this project, their contact information if known, and brief descriptions of their roles.

City of Tulare, Josh McDonnell, Assistant City Manager, 559-684-4210. Owner of WWTP.
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, Brayden Lovic, PE, 559-449-2700, Engineering Consultant.
Self-Help Enterprises, Andrea Galdamez, 559-802-1598. Technical Assistance Partner overseeing Provost & Pritchard.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Complete and attach the [SRF Flags Worksheet](#) to the General Information Package. (Required for all applications)



Complete and attach the [Priority Score Estimation Worksheet](#) to the General Information Package. (Optional)

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that I am authorized to submit this application; the information provided in this application is true and correct; the documentation has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant; and the entity possesses the legal authority to apply for the financing and enter into a financing agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and to finance and construct the proposed facilities.

Name of Authorized Representative: Pete Vander Poel

Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors

Signature of Authorized Representative: 

Date: 3/20/2025

Attachment B

Financial Application Package

FINANCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE (CONSTRUCTION)

Applicant (Entity) Legal Name: County of Tulare

Pledged Revenues And Fund(s) For The Project: None

Project Title: Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project

Contact Person: Aaron Bock

Phone: 559-624-7050

1. Amount of Assistance Requested: \$ 6,794,077

2. Term Requested: ☐ 20-Year ☒ 30-Year (If Eligible)

3. Other Project Funding Sources

Name and Type of Funding Sources	Amount	Applied	Approved	Received
None	\$			
	\$			
	\$			

4. Current Year Median Household Income: \$ 34,667

5a. Current Year Estimated Population Served: 273 people

5b. Current Year Estimated Number of Residences: 82

5c. Current Year Estimated Number of Permanently Occupied Residences: 79
(Only required if applying for grant funding/principal forgiveness)

6. Active Service Connections ☒ Not Applicable

Service Connection Type	Number of Service Connections	Average Monthly Billing (Last 12 months) Per Connection
Residential		\$
Commercial		\$
Industrial		\$
Other		\$
TOTAL		\$

Rate increase effective date for projected monthly service charges:

7. Projected Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs, Including amortized replacement costs (upon completion): \$ 52,000

8. Discussion of Material Events, Material Obligation Conditions, and Any Debt Limit

Identify any current prior material events such as bankruptcy, defaults, litigation, grand jury findings, unscheduled draws on reserve funds, substitution of insurers or their failure to perform, unscheduled draws on credit enhancements, actions taken in anticipation of filing Chapter 9, rating changes, relevant conditions in material obligations, and any local debt limit.

None

9. Rate Study

Has a rate study been conducted for your system? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If **yes**, please submit a complete copy of the Rate Study.

10. Debt Management Policy

Please provide a copy of your Debt Management Policy (If Applicable).

ATTACHMENTS (Check the box next to each item attached to your application.)

- ☒ F1 – AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OR TAX RETURNS (3 Years)
- ☒ F2 – BUDGET PROJECTIONS (REVENUE/EXPENSE) (2 years – or more if needed)
(See Sample in Application Instructions)
- ☐ F3 – TAX QUESTIONNAIRE
- ☐ F4 – REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION
- ☒ F5a – AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
- ☒ F6 – RATE ADOPTION RESOLUTION, COPY OF RATES, AND PUBLIC NOTICE OF
PROPOSITION 218 MEETING
- ☒ F7 – SCHEDULE OF ALL MATERIAL DEBT OR NO DEBT LETTER
(See Application Instructions)
- ☐ F8 – DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY (If Applicable)
- ☒ F9 – NEW SPECIAL TAX, ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, OR SERVICE CHARGE
PROJECTIONS (If Applicable)
- ☐ F10 – RELEVANT SERVICE, MANAGEMENT, OPERATING, OR JOINT POWERS
AGREEMENTS (If Applicable)
- ☐ F11 – SCHOOL DISTRICT CERTIFICATION OF INTERIM REPORT (If Applicable)

Attachment C

Technical Application Package

January 2025 Project Engineering Report

Certifications

Technical Package Form

Applicant (Entity) Name: County of Tulare	
Project Title: Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project	
Contact Person: Aaron Bock	Phone: (559) 624-7050

I. WATER RIGHTS

1. Will the Project change the point of discharge, place of use, or purpose of use of treated wastewater and decrease the flow in any portion of a watercourse per Water Code section 1211?

☒ NO (If NO, proceed to question 2.)

☐ YES - If YES, has a Petition for Change been filed with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights?

☐ YES – Provide a copy of the Petition for Change (label as Attachment **T5a**).

☐ NO – Provide the date you anticipate submitting the Petition for Change: _____

2. Will the Project divert flow from a stream or other surface water body to another location?

☒ NO (If NO, proceed to question 3.)

☐ YES - If YES,

- a. Has a Petition for Change been filed with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ N/A

- b. Has an application for a water right been filed with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights, or does the entity hold sufficient water rights for the project?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ N/A

Provide copies of the Petition for Change, application for a Water Right or Change of Use approval, or Water Right permit or license, as appropriate (label as Attachment **T5b**), or

Provide the date you anticipate submitting the petition or application: _____

3. Is the entity a water diverter and subject to section 5103 of the Water Code? ☐ YES ☒ NO

II. DELTA PLAN

1. Is the project a "covered action" under section 85225 of the Water Code?

☐ YES ☒ NO

For items 2 and 3 below, please check "N/A" if the project is not a "covered action".

2. Have you submitted the consistency certification required by section 85225 of the Water Code?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA

3. Has any person appealed the consistency certification per section 85225.10 of the Water Code?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA

III. ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING (A/E) PROCUREMENT

Do you follow a qualifications-based procurement process for A/E procurement (for services such as program management, construction management, feasibility studies, engineering, design, surveying, or mapping)?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, check below to indicate if your A/E procurement process complies with one or both:

☒ [40 United States Code Section 1101 et seq.](#)

☒ [California Government Code Section 4525 et seq.](#) (as it relates to state agencies)

IV. GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (GPR)

1. Is this project, or a portion of this project, eligible for the [CWSRF GPR](#)? ☐ YES ☒ NO If no, skip to Section VI

2. Which GPR Category(ies) are applicable and identify whether the project is categorically eligible or requires a business case to demonstrate eligibility.

% of Total Project Cost	Category	Categorically Eligible	Business Case Attached
	Green Infrastructure		
	Water Efficiency		
	Energy Efficiency		
	Environmentally Innovative		
	Total		

V. ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

Check the box next to each item attached to your application. If an item is not attached at the time you submit the Technical Application form, please indicate in the space provided below when you anticipate submitting it.

- ☒ T1 – Project Report
- ☒ T2a – General Plan Compliance Certification
- ☒ T2b – Certification for Compliance with Water Metering Form
- ☒ T2c – Certification for Fiscal Sustainability Plan ☐ N/A
- ☒ T2d – Certification for Cost and Effectiveness and Water and Energy Conservation and Efficiency ☐ N/A
- ☒ T3 – Climate Change Worksheet
- ☒ T4 – Regional Water Quality Control Board Requirements
 - Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permit or Water Recycling Requirements
 - Amended Basin Plan or Total Maximum Daily Load
 - Enforcement Orders
 - Not Applicable – Explain: _____
- ☐ T5a – Petition for Change and Order ☒ N/A
- ☐ T5b – Petition for Change/Water Right Application, Permit or License/Change of Use Approval ☒ N/A
- ☒ T6 – Certification for Water Conservation and Water Management

Water Recycling Funding Program Only

- ☐ T12 – Recycled Water Market Assurances
- ☐ T13 – User Connection Schedule

GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

PROJECT NO. Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project

APPLICANT: County of Tulare ("the Entity")

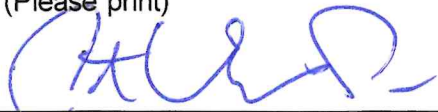
Check **first** box below if the applicant is responsible for adopting the General Plan (typical of cities and counties).

Check **second** box if the applicant is not responsible for adopting the General Plan (typical for special districts).

- ☒ I certify that the Entity has adopted the land use and housing elements of its General Plan and that the proposed project is consistent with the adopted General Plan.
- ☐ I certify on behalf of the Entity that at least seventy-five (75) percent of the area affected by the project includes cities and counties with adopted land use and housing elements. I have attached documentation that the Entity has notified the cities and/or counties responsible for adopting the applicable plan(s) and provided a reasonable opportunity to comment on the project's consistency with the plan(s). I certify that the Entity considered those comments during development of the project.

Pete Vander Poel

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)



Signature of Authorized Representative

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Title



Date

Approved as to Form:

County Counsel

By: Makenzie Walker

Deputy County Counsel

Matter No. 20241884

CERTIFICATION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH WATER METERING REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS



Funding Agency Name: State Water Resources Control Board

Funding Program Name: Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Applicant: County of Tulare

Please check one of the boxes below and sign and date this form.

- ☒ As the authorized representative for the applicant, I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant is not an agricultural or urban water supplier, as that term is understood pursuant to the provisions of section 529.5 of the Water Code.
- ☐ As the authorized representative for the applicant, I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant has fully complied with the provisions of Division 1, Chapter 8, Article 3.5 of the California Water Code (sections 525 through 529.7 inclusive) and that the ordinances, rules, or regulations submitted with this certification as listed below have been duly adopted and are in effect as of this date.

I understand that the Funding Agency will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Certification Statement may result in loss of all funds awarded to the applicant for its project.

Additionally, for the aforementioned reasons, the Funding Agency may withhold disbursement of project funds, and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

Pete Vander Poel

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)

Title

6/3/2025

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

**CERTIFICATION FOR FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
REQUIRED FOR ALL CWSRF FUNDING APPLICATIONS
FOR TREATMENT WORKS PROJECTS**



Funding Agency: State Water Resources Control Board
Funding Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
Applicant (Agency Name): County of Tulare

Section 603(d)(1)(E) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires a CWSRF financing recipient with a project involving the repair, replacement, or expansion of a treatment works¹ (including treatment, pumping, collection, distribution and storage facilities etc.) to develop and implement a fiscal sustainability plan or certify that it has developed and implemented such a plan.

¹ "Treatment works" is defined in section 212(2)(A) of the CWA. (33 U.S.C. § 1282[2][A])

Please check one of the boxes below and sign and date this form:

☒ As the authorized representative for the applicant agency, I certify that the agency shall develop and implement a fiscal sustainability plan as set forth in section 603(d)(1)(E)(i) of the

Clean Water Act no later than 06/30/2026 that includes:

- (I) an inventory of critical assets that are a part of the treatment works;
- (II) an evaluation of the condition and performance of inventoried assets or asset groupings;
- (III) a certification that the agency has evaluated and will be implementing water and energy conservation efforts as part of the plan; and
- (IV) a plan for maintaining, repairing, and, as necessary, replacing the treatment works and a plan for funding such activities

☐ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify that the agency has developed and implemented a fiscal sustainability plan that meets the requirements of section 603(d)(1)(E)(i) of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1383[d][1][E][i]).

I understand that the Funding Agency will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Certification may result in loss of all funds awarded to the applicant for its project. Additionally, the Funding Agency may withhold disbursement of project funds, and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

Pete Vander Poel

Chair

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)

Title

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

CERTIFICATION FOR COST AND EFFECTIVENESS AND WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

**REQUIRED FOR ALL CWSRF FUNDING APPLICATIONS
FROM MUNICIPAL, INTERMUNICIPAL, INTERSTATE AND
STATE AGENCY APPLICANTS**



Funding Agency: State Water Resources Control Board Funding

Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Applicant (Agency Name): County of Tulare

As the engineer in responsible charge of the project for the applicant agency, I certify that the agency has complied with Section 602(b)(13) of the Clean Water Act.

Please check the boxes below to indicate that the agency has completed the required analyses for the proposed project:

- ☒ The agency has studied and evaluated the cost and effectiveness of the processes, materials, techniques, and technologies for carrying out the proposed project or activity for which assistance is sought under this title; and

The agency has selected, to the maximum extent practicable, a project or activity that maximizes the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture, and conservation, and energy conservation, taking into account

- i. the cost of constructing the project or activity;
- ii. the cost of operating and maintaining the project or activity over the life of the project or activity; and
- iii. the cost of replacing the project or activity.

Brayden Lovic

Engineer in Responsible Charge of the Project
Date (Please print)

Registration Number & Expiration

Engineer's Signature

Date

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHEET

I. Vulnerability (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Sea Level Rise ☒ Air Quality ☐ Saltwater Intrusion/Water Quality ☐ Water Supply Depletion
☐ Heat Island ☒ Flooding/Storm Surges ☐ Drought
☐ Other:

(Label as Attachment A) Provide a detailed description of all effects of climate changes that the proposed facility are susceptible to. Include critical Threshold conditions that may cause damage to the facility or result in loss of services.

☒ **Attachment A included**

II. Adaptation

- ☐ Alternative Energy Sources ☒ Drought and Flooding Contingency
☐ Permeable Pavements ☐ Elevated construction, Sea Walls, and Levees
☐ Green Roofing
☐ Other:

(Label as Attachment B) Provide a detailed description of all applied adaptation measures considered by the applicant. Include adaptation measures deemed unnecessary and explain why such measures were eliminated.

☒ **Attachment B included**

III. Mitigation

- ☐ Renewable Energy Sources ☐ Energy Conservation
☐ Water Conservation ☐ Methane Harvesting
☒ Other:

(Label as Attachment C) Provide a detailed description of all mitigation measures considered by the applicant. Include mitigation measures deemed unnecessary and explain why such measures were eliminated.

☒ **Attachment C included**

WATER CONSERVATION & WATER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION FORM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DIVISION 6 OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE

REQUIRED FOR ALL CWSRF FUNDING APPLICATIONS



Funding Agency Name: State Water Resources Control Board

Funding Program Name: Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Applicant: County of Tulare

Please check one of the boxes below and sign and date this form.

☒ As the authorized representative for the applicant, I certify under penalty of perjury that the applicant is a water supplier, as that term is understood pursuant to the provisions of the California Water Code and has complied with all applicable provisions of Division 6 of the Water Code.

☐ As the authorized representative for the applicant, I certify under penalty of perjury that applicant is not a water supplier, and the applicant certifies that the water suppliers in its service or project area have complied with all applicable provisions of Division 6 of the Water Code.

I understand that the Funding Agency will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Certification may result in loss of all funds awarded to the applicant for its project. Additionally, for the aforementioned reasons, the Funding Agency may withhold disbursement of project funds, and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

Pete Vander Poel

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)

Title

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

3/18/2025

Approved as to Form:

Deputy County Counsel
Matter No. 20241884



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
Division of Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 944212, Sacramento, CA 94244-2120



Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program Potential CWSRF **Flags** Worksheet

To avoid potential delays later in your CWSRF application process, review the following list of questions and statements, and place a check () beside each question or statement where your answer is “yes” or “true”.

If you answer “yes” or “true” to any of the questions or statements on this worksheet, we recommend that you discuss the specifics of your answers with the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, staff at your earliest opportunity so we can identify issues up front that may require supplementary information or additional review time.

Applicant (Entity) Name County of Tulare

Project Title Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project

Contact Person Aaron Bock, Assistant Director **Email:** abock@tularecounty.ca.gov

✓ if Yes or True	LEGAL Question / Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is there doubt about whether your governing statutes allow you to finance your project through the CWSRF?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Is there existing or pending litigation regarding the source of repayment or implementation of the project?
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Are there any existing or pending inquiries or investigations of your agency by outside entities, for example, the Grand Jury?
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Was there a significant level of protests during the most recent rate setting process?
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Is there an existing or pending rate rollback initiative on an upcoming ballot, or are there any efforts within the community to initiate a rate rollback? Have rates been rolled back in the past due to a voter initiative?
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Has there been or is there currently significant disagreement within the community about the project?
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Will the project involve a public-private partnership?
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Are you a small community or a dependent special district with limited financing experience?
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Are you a State agency, a Native American Tribe, or a non-governmental entity?
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Are you a Joint Powers Authority or are there agreements with other entities related to the project?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. Do you need to purchase or otherwise obtain legal access rights to the project property for the term of the financing to implement the project?



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
Division of Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 944212, Sacramento, CA 94244-2120



<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Does the application include the purchase of land or other assets?
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Do you expect to use eminent domain so that you can implement your projects?

✓ if Yes or True	<u>TECHNICAL</u> Question / Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you anticipate that the plans & specifications will be out for bids before receiving an executed financing agreement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The project bidding is complete, but the specifications did not include the American Iron and Steel, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and Davis-Bacon requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Will the project move, reduce, or eliminate an existing discharge to surface water?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Is this a septic-to-sewer project or a regionalization project, or will the project be a joint effort with other agencies?
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Is your project a non-point source or estuary project?
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Our project is a recycled water project, but the technical report does not address the key components of Appendix B within the Water Recycling Funding Program Guidelines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Our project is a recycled water project, but the expected deliveries are less than 50 percent of the recycled design capacity at completion of construction.

✓ if Yes or True	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL</u> Question / Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. The environmental documents were not prepared to meet "federal cross-cutting" requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Will the project impact any cultural resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Will the project impact any listed state or federal species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Will the project require consultations with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service?
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Will the project's air quality emissions (construction and operation) exceed the federal de minimis levels, and require a general conformity determination?
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Will the project require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and a Section 401 Certification?
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Is there any significant controversy related to the project CEQA document?



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
Division of Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 944212, Sacramento, CA 94244-2120



<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The date the project CEQA document was approved by our Agency will be more than five years from the expected date the CWSRF financing is approved?
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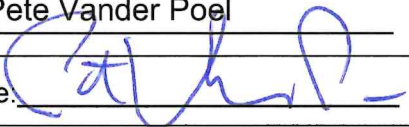
✓ if Yes or True	<u>FINANCIAL</u> Question / Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Are you planning to pledge a repayment source other than Net Revenues of your Wastewater Enterprise Fund?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Are your annual revenues currently insufficient to cover annual expenses?
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Will you be requesting approval of your CWSRF financing before rates, assessments, or other charges used to support repayment are adopted?
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Are you missing any portion of the necessary Project funding aside from what is being sought as part of this application? Please enter "N/A" in the box if no additional funding sources are necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Have you ever failed to make timely and sufficient payments on existing loans within the past 10 years? If none, please enter "N/A" in the box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do you have outstanding fines or penalties due to non-compliance with a permit or order?
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Do you have existing debt that relies on the same source of revenue as the source you plan to pledge for repayment of the CWSRF financing?
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Do your existing debt covenants affect your ability to incur new parity debt, and/or are non-compliant with existing debt covenants?
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Will the Project be co-funded with funding other than the Clean Water State Revolving Fund?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. Was the last rate study completed over five years ago?
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Have you had a prior material event such as a bankruptcy, default, unscheduled draw on reserve funds, substitution of insurers on their failure to perform, or unscheduled draw on a credit enhancement in the preceding 10 years?
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Are you subject to a lien on any portion of the system property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. If you are a government entity, do you have a local debt limit?
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Have you taken actions in anticipation of the sale of significant system assets?
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Have you taken actions in anticipation of restructuring, dissolution or filing of bankruptcy protection?
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Have you had a ratings downgrade within the last 12 months?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17. Are you in compliance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), as issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) or its successor?



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
Division of Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 944212, Sacramento, CA 94244-2120



<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Have you received audit findings in the last three years?
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CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
To the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information provided in this Worksheet is true and correct.	
Name of Authorized Representative: <u>Pete Vander Poel</u>	Title: <u>Chair</u>
Signature of Authorized Representative: <u></u>	Date: <u>6/3/2025</u>

Approved as to Form:
County Counsel
By: Makenzie Walker
Deputy County Counsel
Matter No. 20241884

Tulare County

Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project

Engineering Report

Tulare County, CA
January 2025

Prepared for
Self-Help Enterprises
County of Tulare

Prepared by:
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
455 W. Fir Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611

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Report Prepared for:

Self-Help Enterprises

Contact:

Andrea Galdamez
(559) 802-1648

County of Tulare

Contact:

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Appendices

Appendix A: Geotracker Database

Appendix B: NRCS Database

Appendix C: Cost Estimate

Appendix D: Selected Alternative Map

Abbreviations

ACS	American Community Survey
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
City	City of Tulare
Communities	Souls and Lone Oak Tract Communities
County	County of Tulare
CWSRF	SWRCB Clean Water State Revolving Fund
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DFA	Department of Financial Assistance
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ECHO	Enforcement and Compliance History Online
EOPCC	Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
fps	feet per second
gpcd	gallons per capita per day
gpd	gallons per day
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MDB&M	Mount Diablo Base and Meridian
MGD	million gallons per day
MHI	median household income
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
ROW	Right(s)-of-Way
RWD	Report of Waste Discharge
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SHE	Self-Help Enterprises
SMWC	Souls Mutual Water Company
SOI	Sphere of Influence
SSS	Sewer System Evaluation Survey
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TID	Tulare Irrigation District
TSS	total suspended solids
UDB	Urban Development Boundary
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WWTP	City of Tulare Wastewater Treatment Plant

1 PROJECT AREA

The proposed project area is located in Tulare County (County), near the City of Tulare (City). The site is approximately 60 miles east of the Coast Range Mountains and 25 miles west of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Topographically, the site is at an average elevation of approximately 250 feet above mean sea level and has a general gradual slope from east to west.

All of the Souls and Lone Oak Tract Communities (Communities) are situated in Section 9 Township 20 South, Range 24 East Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M), in the USGS 7-½' (1:24,000) "Tulare" Quadrangle.

The Communities have a similar climate to that of the City of Tulare with cool damp winters with average temperature ranges of 40-61 degrees Fahrenheit in December and hot dry summers with average temperature ranges between 67-99 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Snow is a rare occurrence.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) overlay the Communities– Flood Insurance Rate Map number 06107C1250E and is located in a Zone X area. Zone X areas have a minimal risk of flooding¹.

1.1 VICINITY AND PROJECT BOUNDARY

1.1.1 PROJECT BOUNDARY

As previously mentioned, the Communities are separated into two segments, Souls and Lone Oaks Tracts. Both Communities are within the City's sphere of influence (SOI). The Communities are made up of approximately 82 dwellings on 79 residential lots. The two tracts are generally located south of West Inyo Avenue (SR 137), North of West Bardsley Avenue between Enterprise Street and Haven Street (See Figure 1-1)

Souls Tract is generally bounded by Haven Street to the east, West Souls Drive to the northwest, and Tulare Irrigation District's Lemos Ditch to the south that serves as a physical barrier which separates Souls Tract from the Lone Oak Tract.

The Lone Oak Tract is generally bounded by Road 84 to the west and ditches to the north, east, and south that serve as physical barriers to separate the Lone Oak Tract.

1.1.2 AGENCY BOUNDARIES

The Communities are located entirely within the County of Tulare's jurisdiction; however, they also fall within the City of Tulare SOI and are part of the City's Urban Development Boundary (UDB). The County currently maintains much of the public infrastructure in the Communities' area.

The City has a population of approximately 70,500. The City provides wastewater collection, transmission, and treatment services at the City of Tulare Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The WWTP has an industrial treatment train with a capacity of 12 million gallons per day (MGD) and a domestic train with a capacity of 6 MGD.

¹ [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#)

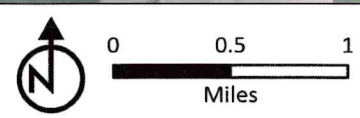
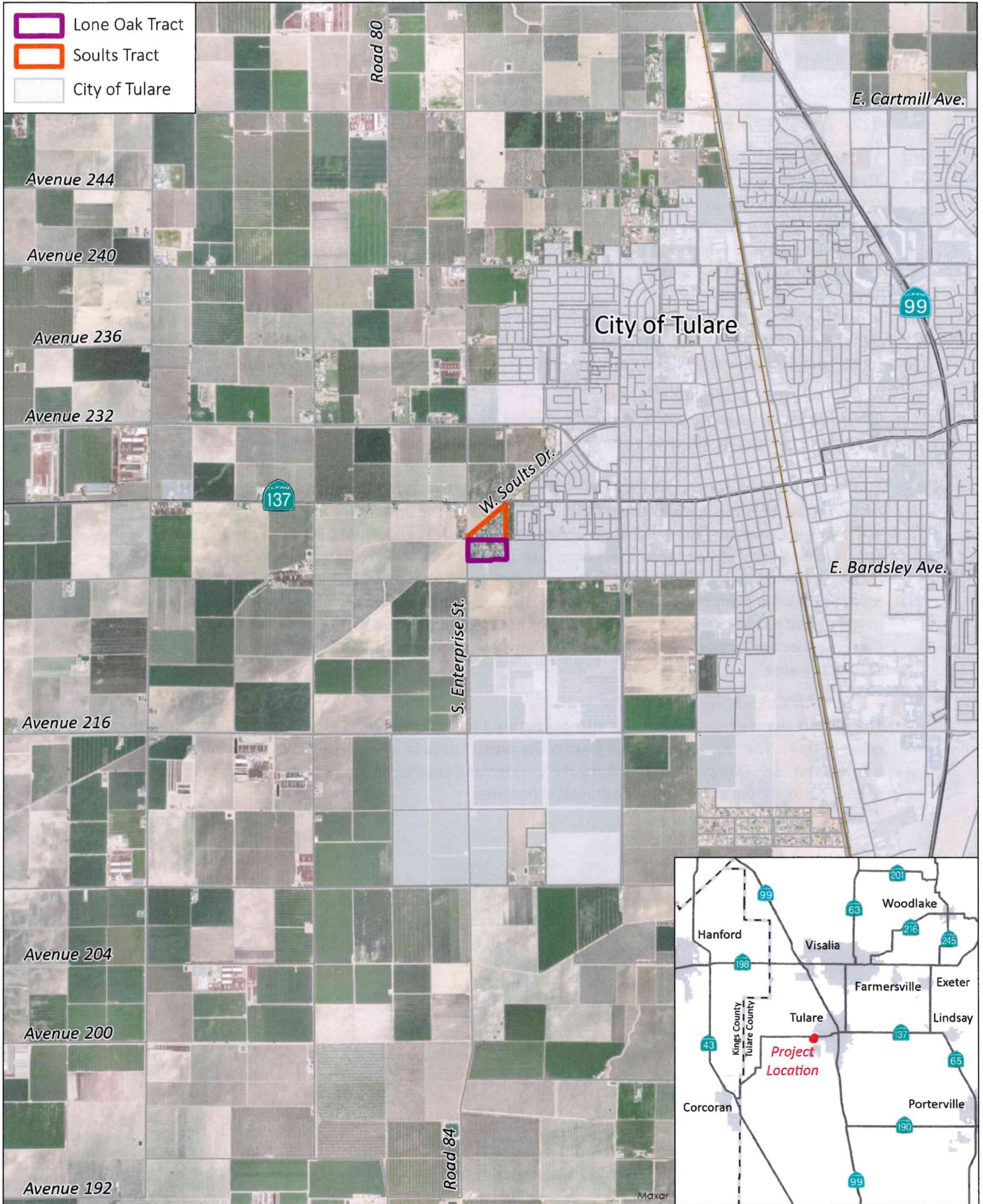


Figure 1-1 Vicinity Map
Souls and Lone Oak

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1.2 EXISTING FEATURES

1.2.1 HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES

The Communities are located within the Tulare Irrigation District (TID) boundary. TID has a ditch (Lemos Ditch) located in the project site as well as Hooper ditch bordering the project site (as shown on **Figure 1-2**). The homes within the Communities are all connected to the City water system for domestic water supply. The irrigation ditches which surround the communities are approximately 6 feet deep and approximately 15-20 feet wide.

Water for the Souls community is provided by the Souls Mutual Water Company (SMWC) via a master meter through a connection with the City. Water for the Lone Oak community is provided directly by the City through individual services. City water is supplied by domestic groundwater wells.

1.2.2 GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

There is one soil category within the Communities identified by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Nord Fine Sandy Loam.

The Nord Fine Sandy Loam consists of well drained soils that formed from alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. These soil slopes range from 0 to 1 percent. The annual precipitation is about 10 inches, and the average annual temperature is about 68 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the NRCS, a typical soil profile consists of fine sandy loam from 0 to 11 inches, stratified sandy loam to loam from 11 to 38 inches, stratified loamy coarse sand to course sandy loam from 38 to 50 inches, and stratified sandy loam to silt loam from 50 to 72 inches. Nord Fine Sandy Loam is typically used for prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season. As the Communities are located within the City SOI there are no proposed significant impacts to the existing soils in the area.

1.2.3 TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The project site is generally flat with approximately 3 feet of downward elevation gradient from the east to west limits. The TID's Lemos Ditch bisects the project area in an east-west direction and Hooper Ditch borders the Lone Oak project area along the eastern and southern boundary, but the project site is otherwise free from significant topographical features.

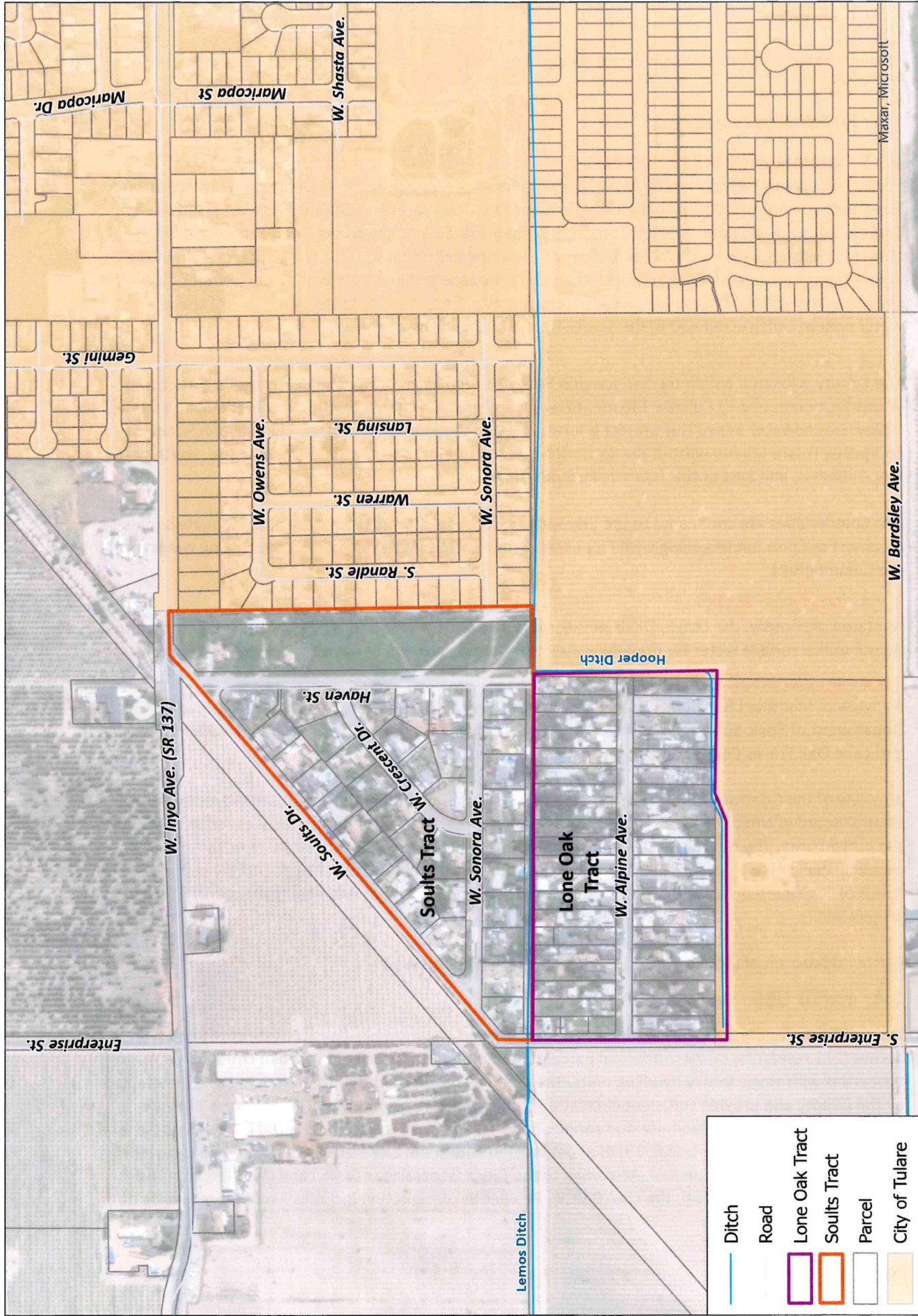


Figure 1-2 Project Area Map

Soules and Lone Oak

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1.3 WATER RESOURCES

1.3.1 COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY

Souls Tract is currently served by SMWC for potable water service and is served potable water through a master meter connection with the City. The Lone Oak Tract receives potable water supply from the City via individual services through a separate agreement. SMWC has an executed agreement with the state to construct a new water system that will provide individual services to each house within the Souls Tract. Both agreements authorize the City to operate and maintain both water systems and enforce water-related ordinances outside the city limits. Once the City takes ownership of the new water system constructed within the Souls Tract, SMWC will be dissolved.

1.3.2 GROUND WATER

The County is located within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118 identifies several groundwater subbasins within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. This project is located within the Kaweah Subbasin. The Kaweah Subbasin comprises Tulare County west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, north of the Tule Subbasin, south of the King Subbasin, and east of the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

The Communities are connected to the City water system, which has redundant and adequate supplies to serve the Communities along with City users. Groundwater is the only source of drinking water for the Communities.

As stated previously, the Lemos Ditch runs through the project area and is run by TID. The Communities do not utilize surface water for drinking water or irrigation and do not have any surface water rights.

1.3.3 HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

A review of Identified Hazardous Waste Sites on the EnviroStor Database, which is maintained by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, determined that there are no hazardous sites within the Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Communities.

A review of the Geotracker Database (**Appendix A**), which is maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) does not identify any locations where constituent cleanup was required within the project area. The Geotracker Database identifies two Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cleanup sites, Trajano Borges (T0610700044) and Tulare Irrigation District (T0610700297) with a cleanup status of “Completed – Case Closed” located approximately 4200 and 4500 feet respectively from the project site.

Further discussion of groundwater quality can be found in **Section 2**.

1.4 LAND USE

The Communities are two, adjacent, small, disadvantaged communities consisting of approximately 82 homes (273 residents) on 79 residential parcels. The Communities are comprised of residential properties with single family dwelling units. The area has paved roads which are owned and maintained by the County and provide sufficient circulation throughout the community. The County is the agency that determines property land use and zoning; however, the area is also considered in the City’s General Plan (The Planning Center DC&E, 2014) and is located within the City’s 2035 UDB. The area is currently zoned as Low Density Residential. According to the City’s General Plan 2035 Land Use Element (The Planning Center DC&E, 2014), the Low-Density Residential designation includes a minimum lot size of

4,000 square feet and 3.1-7.0 dwelling units per gross acre. The area to the north, south, and west of the project area is comprised of permanent agricultural uses (orchards) while the area directly to the west of the project area is primarily vacant property.

1.4.1 COUNTY OF TULARE

The County's 2030 General Plan (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2012), adopted August 2012, identifies the Communities within the UDB of the City². As discussed previously, the area is characterized primarily by residential lots. By County definition, the area is comprised of low density residential (12,500 square feet to 1 acre lots) land uses.

1.4.2 CITY OF TULARE

The City updated their General Plan Land Use Map in 2015; the plan identifies the Communities within the City's SOI and within the City's UDB with the land use designation Low Density Residential. The community is surrounded by land use designated as Suburban Residential, bordered on the northwest by Parks & Recreation designated land use, and bounded to the west by the UDB.

1.5 SYSTEM USERS

1.5.1 EXISTING SYSTEM USERS

The Communities are comprised of 79 residential parcels, with 79 water service connections, serving approximately 273 residents. Each has a private septic system for sewage disposal. Since the Communities do not have a wastewater system, there are no treatment facilities available within the Communities.

There are no commercial, industrial, or undeveloped properties within the community.

1.5.2 FUTURE USERS

It is not anticipated that new connections will be added to the system in the future.

1.6 PROJECT AREA POPULATION

1.6.1 CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION

According to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS), the population of the Communities is 273 people. The County of Tulare General Plan (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2012) assumes 3.37 people per dwelling unit for residential development. The population for this area is assumed to remain stable as the area is fully built-out and generally consistent with both the County of Tulare and the City of Tulare zoning.

The Communities are located within the City's SOI. According to the US Census Bureau, the City had a population of 70,693 in 2022. The City's 2035 General Plan (The Planning Center DC&E, 2014) has an annual population growth rate projection of 2.7%. Using this population growth projection, it can be assumed the City would have a population of 145,137 in 2050.

1.6.2 SOCIAL ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The DWR has conducted a needs assessment of these smaller private systems which serve an undesignated community by conducting outreach to gather socio-economic information of these areas. According to the DWR Community Water Needs Assessment Tool, the Communities have median household incomes (MHI) of \$34,667³ which is 41.2% of the \$84,097 statewide MHI for the same period.

² [Microsoft PowerPoint - 1 - GPR Cover 2012 \(tulare.ca.us\)](#)

Any community with an MHI less than 80% or 60% of the statewide MHI is identified as a Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged Community (DAC or SDAC), respectively. Based on the information provided, the Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract are both considered SDACs³.

³ [Community Water Needs Assessment Tool For the Tulare-Kern Funding Area \(tularelakebasin.com\)](https://www.tularelakebasin.com/)

2 WASTEWATER CHARACTERISTICS, EXISTING FACILITIES, AND CURRENT WATER QUALITY

2.1 EXISTING FACILITIES

2.1.1 EXISTING SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Communities' residents use private septic systems located on each lot to dispose of their wastewater discharge. The septic systems are assumed to consist of a concrete tank providing rudimentary wastewater treatment, which then discharges effluent to a leach field or leach pit. The septic tanks are typically located behind the primary or first residence constructed on the property; leach field locations vary and are not necessarily part of the public record.

The City has an existing 30-inch sewer main located in Enterprise Avenue. This sewer main serves as a primary trunk line for the system and conveys wastewater to the City's WWTP located at the corner of South West Avenue and West Paige Avenue, which is approximately one mile from the project area.

2.2 EXISTING FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

2.2.1 LOT SIZES

As discussed in **Section 1**, the lots are characterized as Low Density Residential in the County of Tulare General Plan where lot sizes can vary between 12,500 square feet to 1 acre, the largest in the community being approximately 0.6 acres. Based on visual inspection, there are 82 dwellings within the Communities on 79 parcels.

2.2.2 WASTE GENERATION ESTIMATES

Provost and Pritchard prepared a Preliminary Wastewater Generation Estimate for the Communities in October of 2019. The estimate is based on the following assumptions:

- *Soultis tract contains 37 dwellings*
- *Lone Oak contains 45 dwellings*
- *Total population served in both Communities is approximately 273 people, based on the average household size of 3.37*
- *Wastewater generation is based on the City's Wastewater Master Plan average day demand in gallons per capita per day (gpcd) of 93 gpcd*

Based on these assumptions, the average day demand for the Communities is approximately 25,389 gallons per day (gpd). For the purpose of this report, the findings from the above estimate will be deemed appropriate. The following table shows the unit flowrates used.

Table 2-1: Waste Generation Estimate

Type of Use	Unit Flowrate
Residential	93 gpcd

As discussed above, there are approximately 273 people in the Communities based on the average household size of 3.37. The community wastewater estimate is 25,389 gpd or 93 gpcd. This value is well

below the threshold of 120 gpcd set by the SWRCB that would require a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES); an SSES will not be prepared for this project.

2.2.3 WASTEWATER CHARACTERISTICS

As the Communities are made up solely of single-family dwellings, it is assumed that the raw wastewater characteristics of the Communities fall within the City's influent quality assumptions. The City defines their WWTP influent characteristic properties on the City's Public Works website⁵. The Communities do not contain any wastewater producers who would require a wastewater discharge permit through the City.

2.2.4 SEASONAL VARIATIONS

The Central Valley region historically has seasonal variations in water use due to climactic factors. During the summer months (May through August), the climate is hot and dry, necessitating more outdoor water use for irrigation and recreation. Wastewater generation is exacerbated by summer break from school for children, increasing the daily average loading. For design purposes, dry weather conditions are used to account for the highest wastewater generation.

2.2.5 SYSTEM DISCHARGE VIOLATIONS

System discharge violations are tracked and reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are available through the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) interface. None of the properties in the Communities have been identified as having been issued a discharge violation in at least the past ten years⁴.

2.3 EXISTING OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

As there are no wastewater facilities within the Communities, there are no existing operations and maintenance (O&M) practices in place.

The City has standard operation procedures and O&M practices in place and are in compliance with requirements associated with their Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), therefore it is assumed their O&M practices are appropriate and effective.

2.3.1 PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS SYSTEM ISSUES

As the Communities are made up of private septic systems and are not under the jurisdiction of a utility company or other similar agency to manage wastewater, any improvements, or efforts to address system issues would be the responsibility of each individual homeowner. It is unknown if past efforts for operational improvements have been attempted by the homeowners or the County. The City has expressed that they are a willing consolidation partner to help relieve the existing system issues.

2.3.2 EXCESSIVE INFLATION/INFLOW EVALUATION

As there is not currently an existing collection system for the Communities, this section does not apply.

⁴ [Facility Search Results | ECHO | US EPA](#)

3 TREATMENT OBJECTIVES FOR DISCHARGE

3.1 PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND EXPECTED BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

3.1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The problem to be addressed through the project is the lack of a sustainable, long-term wastewater collection plan for the Communities. The ongoing use of the existing septic systems could negatively affect the groundwater quality in the area.

This report analyzes the wastewater disposal needs of the community, identifies and analyzes three potential alternative solutions, and recommends a preferred alternative. Once the preferred alternative has been selected and key issues dealt with in a manner to allow the project to move forward, the environmental documents, construction documents and other related work will be completed. This report will then serve as the basis for a construction finance application.

3.1.2 OBJECTIVE/ EXPECTED BENEFITS

The objective of the project is to provide the Communities with a viable, sustainable solution for their wastewater disposal needs.

The expected benefits of the project include the following:

- *Eliminating the continuation of groundwater contamination due to septic system usage*
- *Provide assistance to an SDAC*
- *End reliance on aging and failing individual septic systems*
- *Eliminate individual exposure to major repair costs*
- *Establish an affordable and stable wastewater disposal solution for the Communities*
- *Reflect the objectives of the State of California to consolidate and eliminate small sewer systems.*

3.2 PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS FOR EFFICIENT TREATMENT

Typically, wastewater treatment and disposal systems for small communities must provide efficient treatment of wastewater generated by the community by exhibiting the following performance characteristics:

- *Efficient reduction of levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) in the influent wastewater.*
- *Provide cost effective treatment of wastewater that is affordable (both in capital and operational costs) to the community.*
- *Provide treatment processes that are easily operated and maintained by the Communities and meet the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) WDRs for the treatment facility.*

3.3 HEALTH-RELATED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

The wastewater system design must consider several items as they relate to water characteristics and community health including, on-site operation and discharge requirements.

The wastewater collection system must comply with Title 22 minimum separation requirements, minimum slope and velocity requirements (discussed in further detail in **Section 5**), and other relevant system requirements to be further defined with the selection of a recommended alternative.

Operation of a wastewater collection and/or treatment system must comply with RWQCB WDRs and the jurisdictional agency requirements which will also be further defined with the selection of a recommended alternative.

WDRs are discussed in the following section.

3.4 ANTICIPATED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

The Communities do not have a community wastewater system and therefore do not have WDRs at this time; however, at such a time that a recommended alternative is defined, it may be required to prepare a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) and/or an Antidegradation Analysis. Additional details are provided within the description of the selected project, as necessary.

If the recommended alternative is to connect to the City's existing wastewater system, discharges to the system should meet the City WDRs as the source of all wastewater production in the Community is residential. A brief explanation of whether or not expansion or upgrades would be necessary to accommodate additional flow from the Community can be provided, however it is assumed given the size of the Communities and given their location within the City SOI that this would not be required.

3.5 OPERATION AND SITE REQUIREMENTS

O&M requirements will vary depending on the selected alternative. Wastewater treatment and disposal alternatives are presented later in this report and will include a paragraph describing the operation requirements for each alternative presented.

3.6 PROJECTED FUTURE FLOW RATES

As discussed previously, growth is not anticipated in the community as the City's General Plan (The Planning Center DC&E, 2014) identifies the Communities zoning as low density residential. As mentioned in the City's Sewer System Master Plan (Carollo, 2009), the City estimates wastewater flows to be 93 gpcd. The Communities encompass approximately 41 acres with a population of 273 people for a wastewater generation of 25,389 gpd. No growth, development or redevelopment is anticipated for the area.

3.7 ADDITIONAL FACILITIES OR ACTIONS NEEDED

It is anticipated that no additional action will be required. Depending on which project alternative is selected, additional analysis may be required to determine if a RWD or outline of WDRs would be required. The purpose of **Section 5** is to identify and discuss all such potential future facilities and address actions needed.

4 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The following is a discussion of potential alternatives to address the issues described in **Section 2** and **Section 3**. These include lack of a community sewer system and aging septic tanks that likely require significant repairs or replacement.

A description of each alternative along with discussion of alternative-specific requirements is included. In addition, an analysis of alternatives has been included to identify the preferred alternative. The following alternatives are discussed:

- Alternative 1: A Gravity Collection System and Consolidation with the City of Tulare
- Alternative 2: A Gravity Collection System with a Community Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Alternative 3: No Project

Alternatives 1 and 2 fulfill the first State Planning Priority, which is stated in Government Code, 65041.1(a):

“To promote ... equity by rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving existing infrastructure that supports ... appropriate reuse and redevelopment of previously developed, underutilized land that is presently served by transit, streets, water, sewer, and other essential services, particularly in underserved areas...”

Each of these project alternatives provides a solution for wastewater service in a SDAC.

Alternatives 1 and 2 have opportunities to be water and energy efficient.

- Alternative 1 will help conserve energy and limit the impact on the environment, as it will consolidate with a system with an already existing wastewater treatment plant and will not require the construction of additional impactful facilities. The abandonment of the existing septic systems with this alternative will help preserve the quality of the local groundwater.
- Alternative 2, while it would have additional electricity requirements with the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, high-efficiency electrical equipment could be used to minimize electricity use.

This alternatives analysis will include estimates of capital and ongoing O&M costs, possible scenarios for governance structure and potential funding mechanisms for construction of the improvements.

4.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S EXISTING SYSTEM

4.1.1 DESCRIPTION

This alternative would include construction of a wastewater collection system within both Communities and connection to the City's existing 30-inch sewer main in Enterprise Street at Alpine Avenue for the Lone Oak Tract and at Enterprise Street at Souls Drive for the Souls Tract. In this alternative, the wastewater system for both tracts would be consolidated with the City, which would provide treatment at the City's domestic WWTP. Existing septic systems would require proper abandonment and new sewer services and onsite plumbing would be required to connect each new property. The components of this project alternative would entail the following items:

- Construction of approximately 5,070 feet of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer main, approximately twenty-one sewer manholes, up to seventy-nine (79) 4-inch sewer services and onsite connection to existing homes
- Connection to the City's existing 30-inch sewer main in Enterprise Street at Alpine Avenue for the Lone Oak Tract and at Enterprise Street at Souls Drive for the Souls Tract.
- In place abandonment of up to seventy-nine (79) existing septic systems and leach fields
- New Utility account setup for all residents with the City
- Payment of capacity fees to the City for each property

The City has confirmed there is available capacity in the 30-inch sewer main located in Enterprise Street and would be able to accommodate the additional 25,389 gpd generated by the Communities.

4.1.1.1 WILLINGNESS OF NEIGHBORING SYSTEM

The City indicated it was willing to cooperate with requests for information to facilitate the analysis of the alternative. As previously noted in the report, the Communities are within both the City's SOI and the General Plan boundaries. Willingness to be identified in the Report does not indicate willingness to approve the alternative, if it is identified as the preferred alternative. Additional discussions and review of the alternative analysis by the City, as well as positive action by the City Council to approve the consolidation, would be required prior to acceptance of the alternative.

4.1.1.2 CAPACITY OF NEIGHBORING SYSTEM

The City's WWTP has two components, a Domestic Plant and an Industrial Plant. The capacity of the domestic plant is 6 MGD. The City treats approximately 4.15 MGD in the domestic plant. Existing development in the City uses 4.15 MGD and approved future development will utilize 0.2 MGD, for a total committed capacity of 4.35 MGD, which is approximately 73% of the total permitted capacity. Of the remaining 1.65 MGD capacity, the Communities use would be 0.025 MGD, bringing the plant to 73.4% of available capacity.

The Industrial Plant has a permitted capacity of 12.0 MGD with a total committed capacity of 7.6 MGD, approximately 65% of the permitted capacity.

4.1.2 DESIGN CRITERIA

The existing and future wastewater flow projections are discussed in detail in **Section 2.2.2** and **Section 3.6** respectively. The new system would be assumed to be sized for flows based on the current land use of the Communities – low-density residential.

Regarding construction, design standards of the City will be followed in regard to pipe materials, minimum depth of sewer main, slope of main, location in the roadway, sewer service installation, manholes, and backfill and compaction. Trenching and pavement restoration would follow the standards of the County since the proposed improvements are outside the City limits. County standards and records will also be utilized for proper abandonment and disconnection of the existing septic sewer systems. The City design standards are summarized as follows:

- *Sewer mains shall not be smaller than 8" in diameter. For the purpose of this report, it is assumed that the proposed sewer main will be 8-inches in diameter due to the small volume of flow.*

- *8" mains shall be sloped at a minimum grade of 0.33, or 0.20 if sewer can be extended to prevent the construction of a lift station*
- *Sewer laterals shall be 4" in diameter in residential areas and be PVC SDR-26.*
 - *Depth of lateral must not be less than 3' from the top of pipe and shall slope at a ¼" per foot.*
- *Sewer main shall be PVC unless otherwise noted.*
- *Manholes are required at 350-foot spacing minimum, as well as at the end of mains, change in slopes, junctions, and changes in pipe size. Spacing shall never exceed 450-feet.*
- *Sewer velocity shall not exceed 12 feet per second at average flow*
- *Minimum pipe cover shall not be less than 2.25 feet; however, cover must also allow for adequate installation of sewer laterals.*
- *Sewer main shall be installed 6' minimum east or north (as applicable) of the street centerline*

4.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental impacts related to this project would be temporary and related to construction.

- *Noise will be generated during construction. Construction hours of operation will be limited to daytime in conformance with any local ordinances to minimize impacts to residences.*
- *Dust prevention measures would need to be implemented to prevent the nuisance of airborne particulates and comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District requirements during construction.*
- *Best management practices will need to be employed to prevent storm water pollution during construction. Construction will need to comply with local requirements and the statewide general construction permit (if applicable).*
- *Environmental review would be required if this alternative is selected. It is anticipated the environmental clearance documents will show either no impacts or mitigable impacts to the environment.*
- *Traffic control will be required along Souls Drive, Sonora Avenue, and Alpine Avenue to minimize impacts to neighboring properties during construction.*

This Alternative would have little to no effect on climate change and will be minimally affected by changes in the climate. The expected wastewater generation is dependent on land use and should not be impacted by drought or change in the climate. The wastewater intends to be treated at an already existing wastewater treatment plant with adequate capacity, therefore this project will not result in the need of any additional treatment facilities.

4.1.4 LAND REQUIREMENTS

This Alternative does not require easements or land acquisition. The project improvements would be within County-owned rights-of-way (ROW). The County and City would expand their existing agreement allowing the City to access their sewer system within the County road ROW. The proposed improvements would be located within the City SOI. Right-of-entry agreements would be required for any work performed on private property to disconnect the existing septic systems and connect the on-site sewer to the newly constructed sewer laterals.

4.1.5 CONSTRUCTION AND SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Special construction and site considerations are not anticipated to negatively impact Alternative 1. Typical construction considerations such as traffic control, dust control, and worker protection are routinely managed by construction contractors and will be enforced by local agencies.

It is anticipated that a site biological and cultural survey will be required for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Any ministerial permit requirements and/or mitigation identified as a result of surveys will be complied with during construction, however no major obstacles are anticipated.

4.1.6 LIFE CYCLE COST OF ALTERNATIVE

The initial capital costs of this alternative include constructing a wastewater collection system, abandonment of the existing septic systems, permitting fees and connection/ Development Impact fees. The capital, operation and maintenance costs are briefly summarized in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1: Alternative 1 Cost Summary

Item Description	Subtotal
Construction Cost Subtotal	\$4,756,620
Non-Construction Costs Subtotal	\$1,341,384
Planning Phase Costs	\$120,500
Project Total	\$6,218,504
Estimated Annual O&M Costs	\$51,097
Present Worth of O&M Cost [1]	\$760,197
Total Lifecycle Cost	\$6,978,701
Notes: [1] Present Worth of Annual O&M Costs are calculated using a 3% interest rate and 20 years of the total annual City of Tulare sewer rate from the Communities.	

The ongoing responsibility for O&M costs and replacement costs of the project would be borne by the City; the funding for those expenses would be built into the sewer rates paid by the residents of the Communities. The City's latest fee update for 2020 lists Single Family Sewer/Wastewater Services fee at \$53.90 per account on a monthly basis; this would be the minimum monthly cost per connection. The current fees would amount to \$51,097.20 annually for the 79 new connections in this alternative. The current sewer rate is approximately 1.9% of the Communities MHI.

4.1.7 ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Alternative 1 presents the following advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages include:

- *Wastewater collection and treatment becomes a responsibility of the City.*
- *Existing septic tank facilities will be abandoned and prevent future potential for groundwater contamination and other public health concerns.*
- *Homeowners will not be responsible for maintaining their own septic systems, and will not be at risk to face the costs associated with repairs and maintenance.*
- *The costs to own and operate an individual wastewater treatment plant are avoided; the community would benefit from certain economies of larger-scale operation.*
- *Capital expenditure may be eligible for grant funding.*
- *New special district formation is avoided.*
- *Initial costs typically required to connect to the City are borne by the project funding and not the residents.*

Disadvantages include:

- *The local community may have little input into the ongoing operation of the system and perceive loss of control.*
- *Residents will be required to pay a new monthly fee for sewer service.*

4.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: COMMUNITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

4.2.1 DESCRIPTION

This option is similar to Alternative 1 in that a new wastewater collection system would be constructed to provide sewer service and existing septic sewer systems would be abandoned. However, instead of connection to the City, a new wastewater treatment and disposal system would be constructed near the Communities to provide treatment and disposal of wastewater at a centralized location for the Communities.

For a system of this size, treatment and disposal would be similar to individual septic tank and leach field systems commonly used for an individual private residence, but on a larger scale. Centralized treatment may also provide more options for higher levels of treatment. A typical system would include a larger septic tank with aerobic treatment that could include pumping oxygen into a treatment tank or using fixed-film for passive aerobic treatment. Effluent would be dispersed underground using conventional leach fields, chamber system, or drip distribution. For the purpose of alternative cost comparison, it is assumed that centralized treatment for the Communities would include a passive aerobic treatment system. This system would incorporate a single large septic tank which would allow for solids settling prior to the effluent being moved through a media filter membrane and ultimately being discharged via several perforated discharge pipes. The effluent would move through these pipes, which contain skimmer tabs and coarse green fibers, that help to remove additional contaminants such as grease and suspended solids, providing a higher level of wastewater treatment in comparison to the existing septic systems in the area. Installation of this system would require additional land acquisition in order to construct the required discharge piping. The soil in the project area consists primarily of Nord Fine Sandy Loam and would allow for good infiltration of the treated wastewater. Solids from the septic tanks would need to be removed periodically and disposed at a facility permitted to receive sludge.

A new wastewater collection and treatment system would require ownership and operation by a public agency or private entity. The agency would be responsible for O&M of the system and administrative functions such as billing customers and paying operating expenses. In addition, a new wastewater treatment plant would require approval from the RWQCB and a waste discharge permit. The environmental study requirements would be more substantial for compliance with CEQA. Approval from the RWQCB to develop a new wastewater treatment plant for a small domestic system would be challenging considering the City has sewer collection facilities along the western boundary of the project limits that can serve the Communities. Furthermore, the customer sewer rates would likely be significantly higher in order to recover operating costs with such a small customer base.

This alternative is not discussed in detail due to the low feasibility. However, a budgetary estimate of construction and operating costs for a small wastewater treatment system is provided in **Section 4.2.5** for alternative comparison.

4.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental impacts related to this project would be as follows:

- *Noise will be generated during construction. Construction hours of operation will be limited to daytime in conformance with any local ordinances to minimize impacts to residences.*
- *Dust prevention measures would need to be implemented to prevent the nuisance of airborne particulates and comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District requirements during construction.*

- *Best management practices will need to be employed to prevent storm water pollution during construction. Construction will need to comply with local requirements and the statewide general construction permit (if applicable).*
- *Environmental review would be required if this alternative is selected. It is anticipated the environmental clearance documents will show either no impacts or mitigable impacts to the environment. The site selected to construct the community treatment plant would need to be investigated for endangered species and a cultural survey would be required.*
- *Traffic control will be required along Souls Drive, Sonora Avenue, and Alpine Avenue to minimize impacts to neighboring properties during construction.*
- *Implementation of a leach field type wastewater treatment and disposal system could have potential impacts on local groundwater quality if not maintained properly.*

This alternative would have little to no effect on climate change and will be minimally affected by changes in the climate. The expected wastewater generation in the community is dependent on land use and should not be impacted by drought or change in climate.

4.2.3 LAND REQUIREMENTS

Alternative 2 would require additional land acquisition by the community or governing body of the system in order to construct the necessary treatment and leach field facilities. Sewer collection infrastructure would be constructed within County-owned ROW through an encroachment permit and the Community would have a blanket encroachment permit initiated each year to maintain the system. The proposed improvements would be located within the City SOI. While there is undeveloped land near the Communities, it is likely this land would come at a premium given the residential zoning in the area and rapid development around the City.

4.2.4 CONSTRUCTION AND SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Special construction and site considerations are not anticipated to negatively impact Alternative 2. Typical construction considerations such as traffic control, dust control, and worker protection are routinely managed by construction contractors and will be enforced by local agencies.

It is anticipated that a site biological and cultural survey will be required for compliance with CEQA/NEPA. Given the significance of the development of a treatment plant, it is likely that a full environmental report would be required. Any ministerial permit requirements and/or mitigation identified as a result of surveys will be complied with during construction, however no major obstacles are anticipated.

4.2.5 LIFE CYCLE COST ESTIMATE

The ongoing operation and maintenance costs of a wastewater treatment plant would be solely borne by sewer rates paid by the Communities. Actual operation could be by employees of the operating entity or contracted out to a private firm specializing in plant operation services.

For the purpose of this evaluation, it is assumed that annual operating costs would be on the order of magnitude of \$260,000 annually for administration, financial management, labor for operator, and operating expenses. The residential sewer rate is estimated to be approximately \$270 per month for residential users, which is approximately 11% of the community's MHI. The monthly rate would exceed the 1.5% affordability level for sewer service.

Table 4-2: Alternative 2 Total Cost Summary

Item Description	Subtotal
Construction Costs Subtotal	\$8,926,620
Non-Construction Costs Subtotal	\$2,103,000
Planning Phase Costs Subtotal	\$245,000
Project Total	\$11,274,620
Estimated Annual O&M Costs	\$266,394
Present Worth of O&M Costs [1]	\$3,963,268
Total Lifecycle Cost	\$15,237,888
Notes:	
[1] Present Worth of Annual O&M Costs is calculated using 3% interest rate and 20 years	

4.2.6 ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES

Alternative 2 presents the following advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages include:

- Existing aging septic systems are abandoned and prevent future potential for groundwater contamination and other public health concerns.
- Homeowners will not be responsible for maintaining their own septic system.
- Capital expenditure may be eligible for grant funding.

Disadvantages include:

- The capital cost of the project is higher compared to Alternative 1.
- Land acquisition would be required and no property is currently owned.
- The cost to operate a small wastewater system would be unaffordable.
- Property would need to be purchased for treatment and disposal facilities and permit approval would need to be obtained from the RWQCB.
- A new utility agency would need to be formed to oversee operations and management of the wastewater system.
- This alternative would not be consistent with SWRCB policy encouraging consolidation of smaller communities close to larger wastewater systems.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE 3: NO PROJECT

4.3.1 DESCRIPTION

This alternative would entail no improvements to the Communities; the existing septic systems would remain unimproved. As existing septic systems fail, they would either remain in use after failure or be replaced with similar systems, which would continue to impact the groundwater quality in the area. Ultimately, this alternative does not provide a solution to the stated problems and is not considered further in this report.

4.4 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

4.4.1 CRITICAL CONCERNS

Alternative 2 has multiple critical concerns that must be analyzed when considering the feasibility of this alternative whereas Alternative 1 only has two minor concerns.

For Alternative 2, it is the preference of all parties involved to avoid the creation of any new special districts as they are often unsustainable and challenging to manage. It is also unlikely that the necessary land required for Alternative 2 will be achievable. Alternative 2 also does not fall in line with state agency priorities of protecting groundwater and centralizing wastewater treatment for regional areas, and therefore would struggle to be permitted. It will be a challenge for the Communities to obtain the proper permitting and permission to construct a wastewater treatment plant from the RWQCB, due to the proximity of the City's WWTP.

4.4.2 SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

Alternatives 1 and 2 are compared in the following table, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Alternative 3 is not considered a viable alternative as it does not accomplish the main goal of the project, therefore it will not be compared against the other Alternatives.

Table 4-3: Alternatives Comparison

Alternative	Total Project Cost	Total Life Cycle Cost	Qualitative Analysis Discussion	
			Advantages	Disadvantages
1: Consolidation with City of Tulare	\$6,218,504	\$6,978,701	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This alternative will abandon existing septic systems. The Communities will receive safer, reliable sewer service from the City This alternative is consistent with State desire to consolidate small sewer systems. Avoids formation of a special district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Communities will have to pay a monthly fee for the City to provide sewer service The local community will have little control over the system and changes moving forward.
2: New Wastewater Treatment Plant for Souls/Lone Oaks Communities	\$11,274,620	\$15,237,888	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This alternative will abandon existing septic systems This alternative provides safe, reliable wastewater treatment for the Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest capital and life cycle cost of both alternatives. The cost to operate a small wastewater system would be unaffordable Requires land acquisition Requires the formation of new entity Does not conform to State's policy encouraging consolidation of smaller systems
3: No Project	\$0	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No capital or additional O&M costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This alternative does not solve the stated problems.

Alternative 1 is the least expensive option, has the least number of construction challenges and concerns, and addresses all of the issues stated in the problem statement in an effective and efficient manner. For these and other reasons as discussed earlier, Alternative 1 is the preferred alternative and the project recommendation moving forward in this report.

Financing of the improvements could be financed through a grant or loan program or combination thereof. The cost of any loan component could be passed along to the Souls and Lone Oak Tracts residents.

An agreement with the City will need to be obtained to proceed with the consolidation for Alternative 1.

5 SELECTED PROJECT

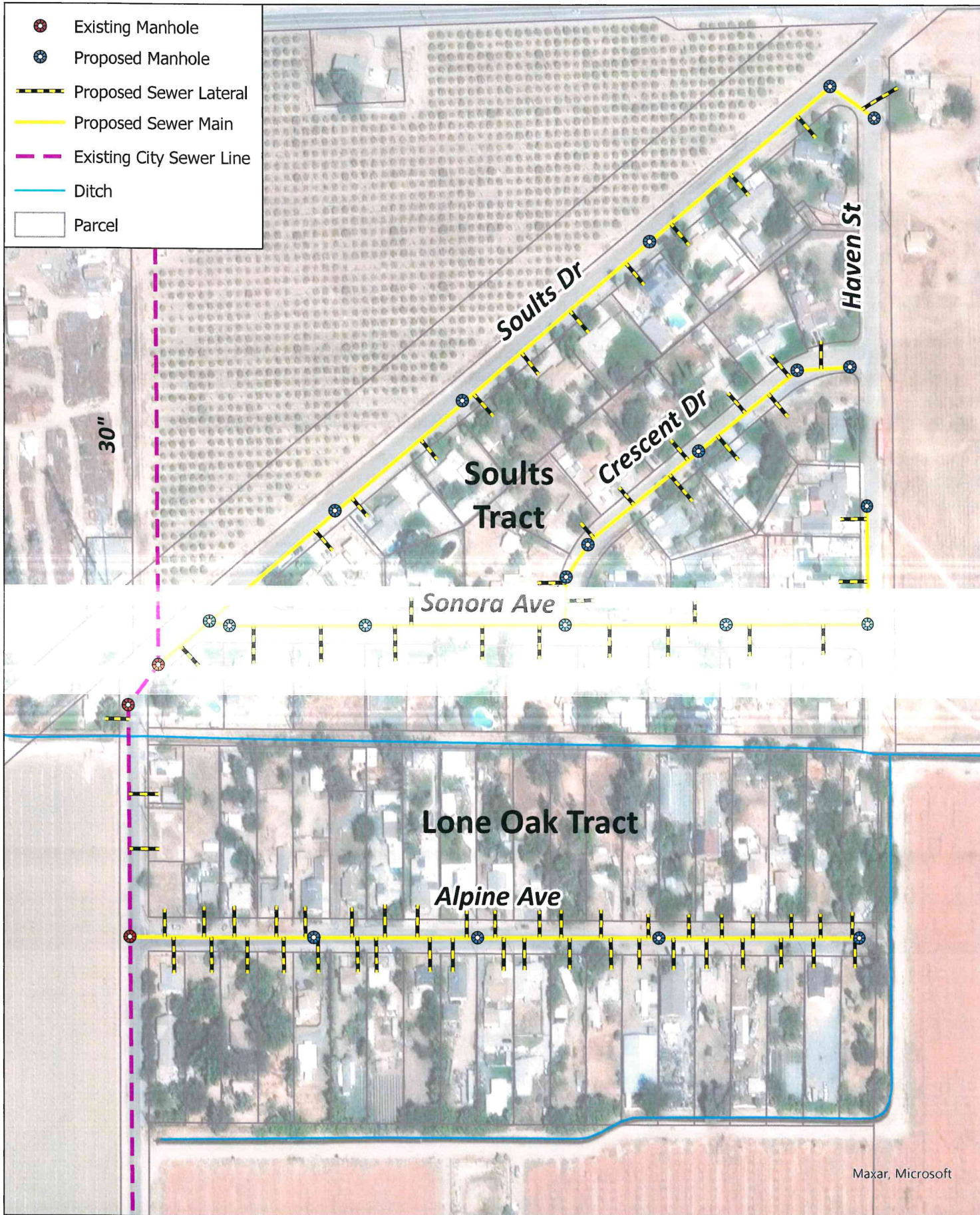
According to the alternative comparison presented in **Table 4-3** above, the preferred alternative for the Communities is Alternative 1, as it is the only Alternative resolving all problems stated in **Section 2** and **Section 3**. The following sections detail the selected project in greater detail.

5.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Alternative 1, consolidation with the City, is the preferred alternative. This alternative includes construction of a wastewater collection system within the Communities. The new system would connect to the City's 30" sewer main in Enterprise Avenue. This alternative also includes the abandonment of existing septic systems and the construction of new sewer services to connect each property to the new wastewater collection system. The preliminary layout of proposed improvements for the selected project are shown in **Figure 5-1**. The components of this alternative would include the construction of the following components:

- *5,070 feet of 8-inch PVC sewer main,*
- *Up to seventy-nine (79) 4-inch sewer services and connections*
- *Twenty-one (21) 48" sewer manholes*
- *Abandonment of up to seventy-nine (79) existing septic systems*
- *Connection to the City's wastewater collection system in two locations*

The City would own and operate the new sewer collection system improvements constructed as a part of this project. The residents served by the new collection system would become customers of the City and would pay the City sewer rates for sewer service. The Communities would not be annexed into the City. The Communities would be served under an extraterritorial service agreement with the residents.



0 100 200
Feet

Project Alternative

Souls and Lone Oak

**PROVOST &
PRITCHARD**

5.2 BASIS FOR SELECTION

The basis for selection considered a present-worth analysis of capital and O&M costs, construction concerns, and critical issues for each alternative. Given the high annual maintenance and service costs associated with Alternative 2, as well as the difficulties anticipated with permitting a wastewater treatment plant with the RWQCB and procuring the land necessary to construct a plant, Alternative 1 was deemed the ideal project alternative on a cost and project feasibility basis, for resolving all state problems.

5.3 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Communities do not have a unified group that meets regularly to discuss concerns or issues within the Communities. Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) has executed a grant with the State Water Resources Control Board through the Technical Assistance Provider program to provide services to small, disadvantaged communities. SHE conducts community outreach and has been and will continue to coordinate with the Souls and Lone Oak community through implementation of the project.

5.4 AGENCY RECEPTIVENESS

The City has indicated receptiveness to consolidate with the Community and provide sewer service to homes during preliminary discussions. The City already has a major sewer trunk line in the area which feeds directly to the City's WWTP. The City has adequate capacity within the trunk line and at the WWTP to take on the additional sewer flows from the Communities.

5.5 DESIGN CRITERIA AND USEFUL LIFE OF THE PROJECT

The design criteria for the project were defined previously and are summarized in **Table 5-1**. The system will be made up of PVC pipe, which will have a useful life of more than 50 years if properly maintained. Design flows, slopes, pipe depth, and separation are all set by the City Sewer Standards and the Sewer Master Plan. Manholes, cleanouts, and sewer service installation will be in conformance with City Standard Details. Existing septic tank systems will be abandoned utilizing County standards and specifications.

Table 5-1: Collection System Design Criteria

Parameter	Units	Design Value
Average Daily Flow	gpd	25,389
Minimum Separation (from existing Water main)	feet	12
Minimum Cover	feet	2.25
Maximum Manhole Spacing	feet	350
Gravity Sewer Velocity	feet per second	12
Gravity Sewer Slope, minimum	ft/ft	0.0033
Lateral Slope, minimum	in/ft	¼ : 1
Pipe Material	-	PVC

5.6 PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

A detailed Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost is provided in detail in **Appendix C**. A summary of those costs is provided in the following table. The cost summary includes all major construction components, non-construction components, O&M present worth costs, and contingencies.

Table 5-2: Project Cost Estimate

Item Description	Subtotal
Construction Cost [1]	\$4,352,620
3-Year Inflation Factor Bidding (5%/Year)	\$404,000
Subtotal	\$4,756,620
Non-Construction Costs	
Complete Construction Documents (Agency Approvals and Final Bid Packages)	\$75,000
City Connection Fees [2]	\$235,420
Bid Support	\$15,000
Engineering During Construction	\$40,000
Construction Staking	\$15,000
Construction Observation and Field Review for Sewer Main and Laterals	\$225,000
Construction Observation for Onsite Plumbing Connection and Septic Abandonment	\$160,000
Biologist for Preconstruction Surveys (If Required)	\$9,000
City & County Administrative Costs	\$205,900
Materials Testing	\$42,500
Labor Compliance	\$75,000
Grant Administration	\$20,000
15% Contingency	\$223,564
Subtotal	\$1,341,384
Construction Phase Total	\$6,098,004
Planning Phase Costs (funded through SWRCB Technical Assistance Program)	
Environmental Documents [3]	\$30,000
Land Surveying	\$13,500
Preliminary Engineering Report	44,000
Schematic Design Construction Documents	\$23,000
Funding Application	\$10,000
Planning Phase Total	\$120,500
Project Total	\$6,218,504
Notes:	
[1] See Appendix C for a preliminary Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.	
[2] Cost per sewer connection is \$2,980 per City of Tulare's Master Fee Schedule.	
[3] Cost includes technical studies.	

5.7 PROJECT SCHEDULE

Once the construction funding agreement is executed, the following project schedule is anticipated for implementation of the selected project, **Table 5-3**. This schedule does not include items prepared as part of the funding assistance application, only those needed after receipt of the funding from the SWRCB.

Table 5-3: Selected Alternative Project Schedule

Project Task	Duration	Notes
Prepare Final Construction Documents	8 months	
Construction Bidding	6 months	Timing provides for preparation of bidding documents and actual bidding phase
Construction	8 months	Timing is based on construction of similar sized and types of projects
Project Closeout	2 months	
Total Project Time	24 months	

5.8 PERMITS REQUIRED FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

If residents agree to connect to the City and the City approves consolidation, SHE will prepare and submit a funding assistance application through the SWRCB Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This report has been prepared in accordance with the program requirements. Additional items including draft construction documents, environmental compliance documents, and technical information will also be prepared for including with the application.

Once the application has been submitted, it will proceed through the SWRCB's review process. If approved, a funding agreement for construction grant funds will be executed between the SWRCB and the City to fund construction of the recommended improvements.

The project will require permitting during the planning stage as well as construction permits. Table 5-4 lists the permits that will be required and during what phase of the project they will be required; this list may not be exhaustive depending on the timing of construction and permit requirements at that time.

Table 5-4: Selected Alternative Required Permitting

Permit Name	Approving Agency	Project Phase
Indirect Source Review	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Planning
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	SWRCB	Design
Encroachment Permit	County of Tulare	Construction
Right to Entry Agreements	Individual Homeowners	Construction

5.9 KEY ISSUES

The key issues for this alternative include:

- *County Acceptance*
 - *The County will have to approve the selection of this alternative prior to moving forward with discussions with the City. The County is not expected to have any issues with the consolidation.*
- *Souls and Lone Oak Community Acceptance*
 - *Further community outreach and discussion must be held to ensure the Communities' residents support the solution and are willing to abandon their private wastewater collection systems.*

- *Project funding amount will be reliant on the number of properties that agree to consolidate.*
 - *Each landowner will have to execute a right of entry agreement to perform the onsite improvements for connection to the City's system.*
- *City Acceptance*
 - *An Extraterritorial Service Agreement (ESA) will have to be executed between the City and each individual landowner. The ESA will detail all the terms and conditions of the sewer service provision.*
 - *The City has expressed interest in being a consolidation partner, however, terms of approval will need to be discussed.*
- *Obtain Construction Funding*
 - *It is expected that the total capital improvement cost of this project can be covered by the funding source if additional funding is approved by the Deputy Director of the Department of Financial Assistance (DFA). \$125,000 per connection is provided – with 79 connections a total of \$9,875,000 is over the total expected funding request of \$6,218,504.*
 - *If additional funding is required, per connection funding can be increased to \$175,000 with approval from the Deputy Director of the DFA.*

6 WORKS CITED

Carollo. (2009). *City of Tulare Sewer System Master Plan*.

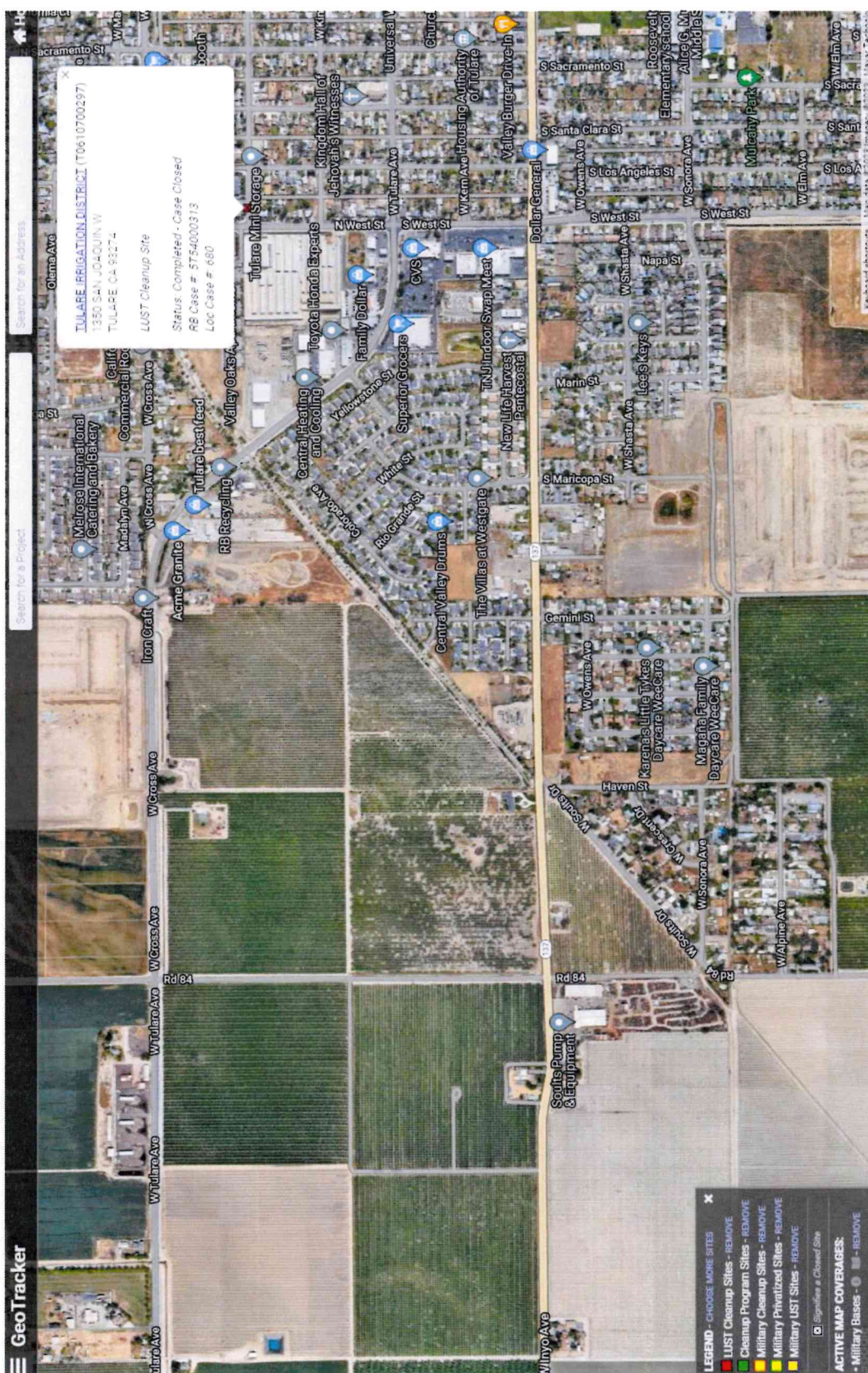
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Tulare County Resource Management Agency. (2012). *2030 Update Tulare County General Plan*. Tulare County.

Appendix

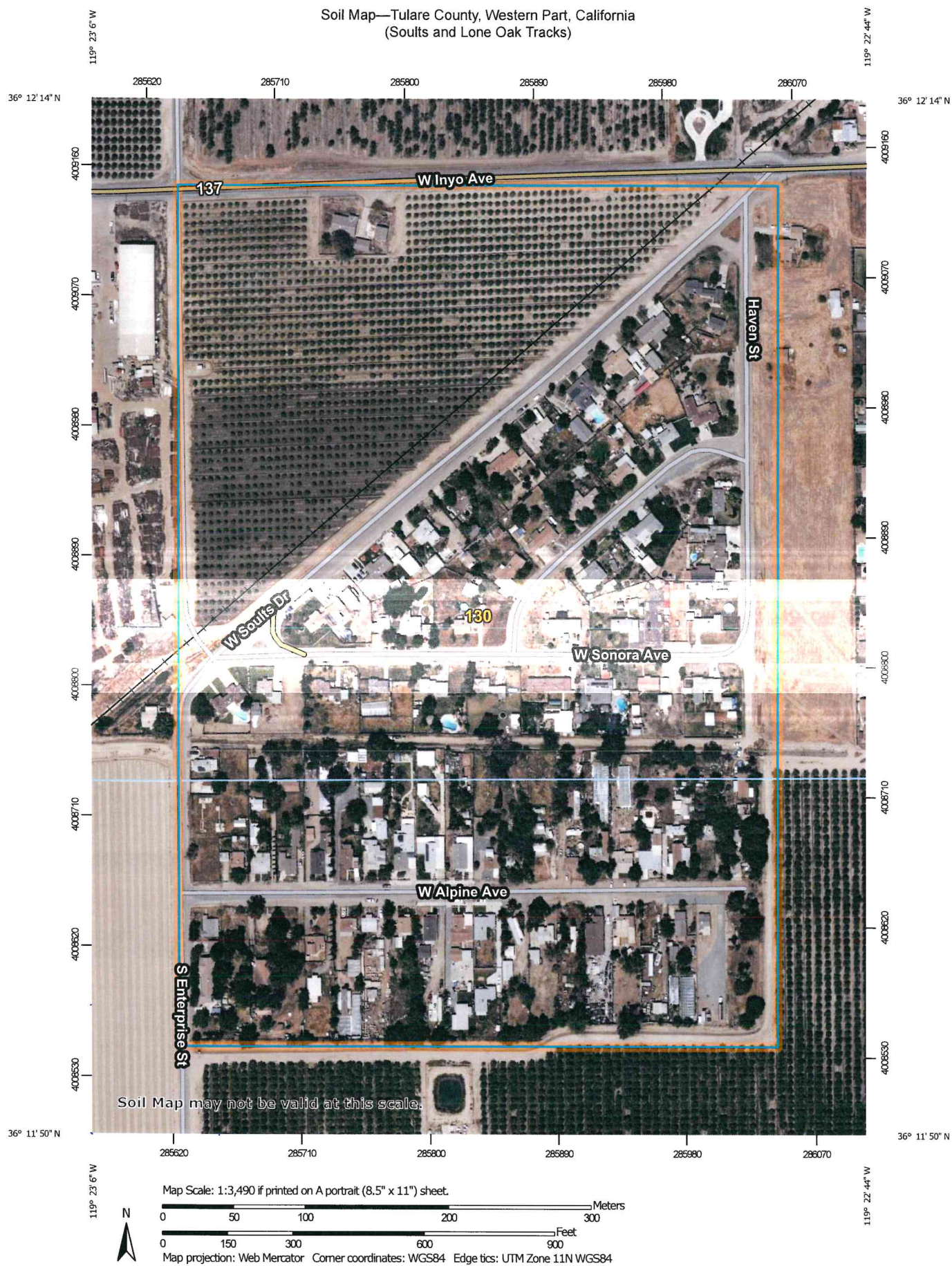
Appendix A: Geotracker Database





Appendix B: NRCS Database

Soil Map—Tulare County, Western Part, California
(Souls and Lone Oak Tracks)



MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

Soil Map Unit Polygons

Soil Map Unit Lines

Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features

Blowout

Borrow Pit

Clay Spot

Closed Depression

Gravel Pit

Gravelly Spot

Landfill

Lava Flow

Marsh or swamp

Mine or Quarry

Miscellaneous Water

Perennial Water

Rock Outcrop

Saline Spot

Sandy Spot

Severely Eroded Spot

Sinkhole

Slide or Slip

Sodic Spot

Water Features

Streams and Canals

Transportation

Rails

Interstate Highways

US Routes

Major Roads

Local Roads

Background

Aerial Photography

Other

Spoil Area

Stony Spot

Very Stony Spot

Wet Spot

Other

Special Line Features

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Tulare County, Western Part, California

Survey Area Data: Version 16, Sep 1, 2022

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 16, 2022—May 30, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
130	Nord fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	61.9	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		61.9	100.0%

Tulare County, Western Part, California

130—Nord fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hp51

Elevation: 190 to 520 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 8 to 12 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 61 to 64 degrees F

Frost-free period: 250 to 275 days

Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Map Unit Composition

Nord and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Nord

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans, flood plains

Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope, toeslope

Landform position (three-dimensional): Base slope

Down-slope shape: Linear

Across-slope shape: Convex, linear

Parent material: Alluvium derived from mixed

Typical profile

Ap - 0 to 11 inches: fine sandy loam

C1 - 11 to 38 inches: stratified sandy loam to loam

C2 - 38 to 50 inches: stratified loamy coarse sand to coarse sandy loam

2Btb - 50 to 72 inches: stratified sandy loam to silt loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches; More than 80 inches

Drainage class: Well drained

Runoff class: Negligible

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.60 to 2.00 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: Very rare

Frequency of ponding: None

Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 4 percent

Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)

Sodium adsorption ratio, maximum: 10.0

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 4.9 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 1

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4c

Hydrologic Soil Group: B

Ecological site: R017XY906CA - Non-Alkali San Joaquin Valley Desert

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Hanford

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Landform: Alluvial fans, flood plains

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: No

Tujunga

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Landform: Flood plains

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: No

Grangeville, saline-sodic

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Landform: Alluvial fans, flood plains

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: Yes

Akers

Percent of map unit: 2 percent

Landform: Fan remnants

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: No

Tagus

Percent of map unit: 2 percent

Landform: Fan remnants

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: No

Colpien

Percent of map unit: 2 percent

Landform: Fan remnants

Ecological site: R017XY904CA - Subirrigated Deep Alluvial Fans

Hydric soil rating: No

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Tulare County, Western Part, California

Survey Area Data: Version 16, Sep 1, 2022

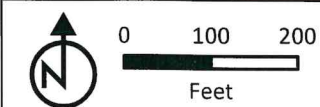
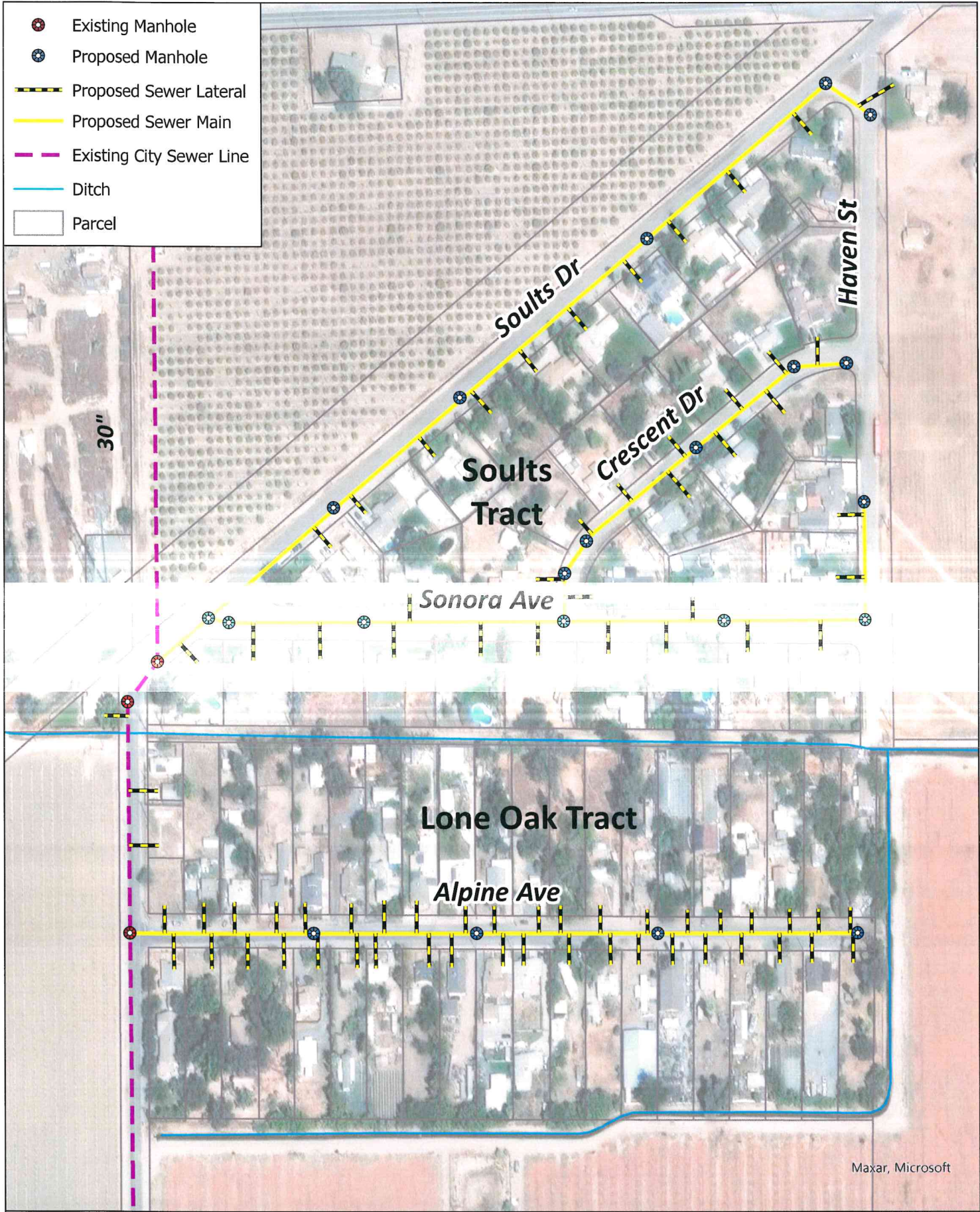
Appendix C: Cost Estimate

PROJECT BUDGET					
SELF HELP ENTERPRISES					
SOULTS & LONE OAK SEWER CONSOLIDATION					
November 18, 2024					
ITEM NO.	BID ITEM DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL	
System Improvements					
1	Mobilization, Demobilization, Bonds, Insurance and Permits	1	LS	\$120,000	\$120,000
2	Worker Protection	1	LS	\$12,000	\$12,000
3	Traffic Control	1	LS	\$40,000	\$40,000
4	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) - Preparation and Implementation	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
5	Dust Control	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
6	Temporary Facilities and Misc. Operations	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
7	Utility Potholing	1	LS	\$30,000	\$30,000
8	Permanent Trench Resurfacing	5,070	LF	\$50	\$253,500
9	Temporary Trench Resurfacing	5,070	LF	\$20	\$101,400
10	Signage and Striping	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000
11	8-inch PVC SDR-35 Sewer Main	5,070	LF	\$250	\$1,267,500
12	4-inch Sewer Service Connection	79	EA	\$3,000	\$237,000
13	On-Site Sewer Piping (estimated 100 LF per lot)	79	EA	\$5,000	\$395,000
14	Pothole and Locate Existing On-site Septic	79	EA	\$1,000	\$79,000
15	Abandon Septic System	79	EA	\$10,000	\$790,000
16	County of Tulare Septic Abandonment Permit	79	EA	\$60	\$4,740
17	County of Tulare Onsite Plumbing Permits	79	EA	\$120	\$9,480
18	48" Sewer Manhole w/ Pamrex Frame and Cover	21	EA	\$10,000	\$210,000
19	County of Tulare Encroachment Permit	1	LS	\$2,000	\$2,000
				Subtotal	\$3,626,620
				20% Contingency	\$ 726,000
				Total with Contingency	\$ 4,352,620
				3-YEAR COST ESCALATION ¹	\$404,000
				CONSTRUCTION TOTAL	\$4,756,620
Non-Construction Costs					
	Complete Construction Documents ² (Agency Approvals and Final Bid Packages)			\$	75,000
	City Connection Fee ³			\$	235,420
	Bid Support ⁴			\$	15,000
	Engineering During Construction Support ⁵			\$	40,000
	Construction Staking			\$	15,000
	Construction Observation and Field Review for Sewer Main and Laterals ⁵			\$	225,000
	Construction Observation for Onsite Plumbing Connection and Septic Abandonment			\$	160,000
	Biologist for Preconstruction surveys (If Required) ⁵			\$	9,000
	County of Tulare Administrative Costs ⁵			\$	205,900
	Materials Testing			\$	42,500
	Labor Compliance			\$	75,000
	Grant Administration			\$	20,000
				NON-CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL	\$1,117,820
				15% Contingency	\$223,564
				Total with Contingency	\$1,341,384
				PROJECT CONSTRUCTION TOTAL	\$6,098,004
Planning Phase Costs					
	Environmental Study and Documents (NOE & Technical Studies)			\$	30,000
	Land Surveying			\$	13,500
	Preliminary Engineering Report			\$	44,000
	Schematic Design Construction Documents			\$	23,000
	Funding Application (Technical Package)			\$	10,000
				ENGINEERING FEES SUBTOTAL	\$120,500
				TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE:	\$ 6,218,504

Notes:

1. It is anticipated that construction will begin in approximately 3 years. Cost is escalated by 3% per year from current estimates.
2. Fee amount based on original engineer to complete the construction documents.
3. \$2980 per connection per City of Tulare Master Plan Fee Schedule
4. Support during bidding phase to review RFIs and Submittals
5. Budget assumes 5 month construction duration
6. This cost was provided directly from the County of Tulare

Appendix D: Selected Alternative Map



Project Alternative
Souls and Lone Oak

**PROVOST &
PRITCHARD**

GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

PROJECT NO. Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project

APPLICANT: County of Tulare ("the Entity")

Check **first** box below if the applicant is responsible for adopting the General Plan (typical of cities and counties).

Check **second** box if the applicant is not responsible for adopting the General Plan (typical for special districts).

☒ I certify that the Entity has adopted the land use and housing elements of its General Plan and that the proposed project is consistent with the adopted General Plan.

☒ I certify on behalf of the Entity that at least seventy-five (75) percent of the area affected by the project includes cities and counties with adopted land use and housing elements. I have attached documentation that the Entity has notified the cities and/or counties responsible for adopting the applicable plan(s) and provided a reasonable opportunity to comment on the project's consistency with the plan(s). I certify that the Entity considered those comments during development of the project.

Pete Vander Poel

Name of Authorized Representative
(Please print)

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Title

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Approved as to Form:



Deputy County Counsel
Matter No. 20241884

**CERTIFICATION FOR FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
REQUIRED FOR ALL CWSRF FUNDING APPLICATIONS
FOR TREATMENT WORKS PROJECTS**



Funding Agency: State Water Resources Control Board
 Funding Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
 Applicant (Agency Name): County of Tulare

Section 603(d)(1)(E) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires a CWSRF financing recipient with a project involving the repair, replacement, or expansion of a treatment works¹ (including treatment, pumping, collection, distribution and storage facilities etc.) to develop and implement a fiscal sustainability plan or certify that it has developed and implemented such a plan.

¹ "Treatment works" is defined in section 212(2)(A) of the CWA. (33 U.S.C. § 1282[2][A])

Please check one of the boxes below and sign and date this form:

☒ As the authorized representative for the applicant agency, I certify that the agency shall develop and implement a fiscal sustainability plan as set forth in section 603(d)(1)(E)(i) of the

Clean Water Act no later than _____ that includes:

- (I) an inventory of critical assets that are a part of the treatment works;
- (II) an evaluation of the condition and performance of inventoried assets or asset groupings;
- (III) a certification that the agency has evaluated and will be implementing water and energy conservation efforts as part of the plan; and
- (IV) a plan for maintaining, repairing, and, as necessary, replacing the treatment works and a plan for funding such activities

☐ As the authorized representative for the agency, I certify that the agency has developed and implemented a fiscal sustainability plan that meets the requirements of section 603(d)(1)(E)(i) of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1383[d][1][E][i]).

I understand that the Funding Agency will rely on this signed certification in order to approve funding and that false and/or inaccurate representations in this Certification may result in loss of all funds awarded to the applicant for its project. Additionally, the Funding Agency may withhold disbursement of project funds, and/or pursue any other applicable legal remedy.

 Name of Authorized Representative
 (Please print)

 Title

 Signature of Authorized Representative

 Date

Attachment D

Environmental Application Package

Notice of Exemption

ENVIRONMENTAL PACKAGE (CONSTRUCTION)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Applicant (Entity) Name: County of Tulare	
Project Title: Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project	
Environmental Contact Person: Gary A. Mills	Phone: 559-624-7199
Email: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov	
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project is a sewer consolidation project with the City of Tulare via an extraterritorial services agreement to provide wastewater collection services to the Lone Oak and Soultis Tract communities.</p>	
II. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) STATUS	
<p>CEQA Lead Agency¹: County of Tulare</p> <p>Environmental Document Status: In Progress</p> <p>Is the project categorically or statutorily exempt? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Has the CEQA process started for this project²? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Has compliance with the federal cross-cutting requirements started? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Provide the State Clearinghouse Number³:</p> <p>What type of CEQA document (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) was prepared for this Project?</p> <p>Public Hearing/Meeting Date(s) for CEQA Document Adoption/Certification and Project Approval⁴: Categorical Exemption</p> <p>List and describe all related <u>environmental</u> permits, approvals, and certifications required for the project:</p> <p>Categorical Exemption</p>	
<p><i>¹If the CEQA lead agency has not been identified, please contact the the Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff for guidance.</i></p> <p><i>²The CEQA process and applicable federal cross-cutting requirements must be completed prior to receiving a financing agreement for the project.</i></p> <p><i>³All environmental documents must be circulated through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.</i></p> <p><i>⁴The Clean/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs require at least one (1) public hearing/meeting, for projects that are not exempt under CEQA, in which the CEQA document(s) must be adopted/certified. All environmental documents must be less than five (5) years old at the time a financing agreement is executed for the project.</i></p>	

Project Setting:

Describe the current resource condition(s) and types of land use(s) in the project area and surrounding properties, and indicate if the project is located on tribal and/or federal land(s):

Currently there are existing aging septic systems on the Project site. The proposed Project is not located on tribal and/or federal land(s).

Environmental Setting:

Will the project:

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located in or adjacent to a sensitive biological area? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve potential impacts to state or federally listed threatened or endangered species? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located on or adjacent to wildlife migration routes? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located in or adjacent to recreational facilities or resources? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located on or adjacent to a unique stream or water body, or involve disturbance in a waterway or wetland? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve removal of mature trees or trees of local importance? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve a substantial alteration of ground contours? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve new or increased use of a critically over-drafted groundwater basin or groundwater basin subject to salinity intrusion? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located in an area with important geological resources (e.g., paleontological resources, mineral resources, etc.)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve substantial excavation and soil removal? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Produce substantial quantities of dust, ash, smoke, fumes, odors, or other air quality pollutants? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve substantial change in noise or vibration levels beyond the project area or be located in an area with sensitive noise receptors? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located on slopes with a grade of 10 percent or more, on highly erodible soil, or in a geologically unstable area? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve disposal of hazardous, flammable, or explosive materials? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located within a 100-year flood zone and have the potential to redirect flood flows? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Increase traffic above existing levels, or cause potential traffic related impacts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve substantial increase in energy consumption (e.g., electricity, oil, natural gas)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Contribute to significant cumulative impacts associated with successive projects of the same type, at or near the project site, over time? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Include a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve growth inducing activities? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involve damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Be located on a hazardous waste site that is included on any lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Increase health risks associated with hazardous chemicals? |

- ☐ ☒ Be located on a site or area that has the potential to be contaminated by hazardous materials?
- ☐ ☒ Impact additional utilities services areas (e.g., gas lines, sewers, landfills, etc.)?
- ☐ ☒ Involve a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?

If answers to any of the above questions are "Yes", explain:

III. CEQA EXEMPTION INFORMATION

Categorical Exemptions (CE): California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, sections 15300 et seq. Identify the class(es) (e.g. Class 1: Existing Facilities, Class 2: Replacement of Reconstruction, etc.) that apply:

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction

Statutory Exemptions (SE): CCR, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 18, sections 15260 et seq. Check the statute(s) that apply:

- ☐ 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies: A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.
- ☐ 15282, Other Statutory Exemptions: The installation of new pipeline or maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline as set forth in Section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length.
- ☒ Other (list specific code reference): 15302(c)

Attach photos of the project area, as well as any documentation used to support the exemption determination. Explain how the project is consistent with the above listed SE(s) or CE(s) requirements by thoroughly describing the screening process and/or steps that were taken to determine if an exemption was appropriate for the project, including, but not limited to, the Initial Study:

The proposed Project is constructing new wastewater pipelines to serve the Souls and Lone Oaks Tracts and to connect the new system to the City of Tulare. This system will replace the existing septic system. Therefore, it would be consistent with Class 2 Section 15302(c).

The expanded Categorical Exemption is attached.

IV. EVALUATION SECTION FOR FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

Potential Co-Funding Sources

Will the project potentially be co-funded by any other federal agencies?

- ☒ No – No other federal agencies will provide funding for the project.
- ☐ Yes – The project will potentially receive funding from other federal agency(s). Please list the agency(ies) and explain the funding status:

United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Other Federal Land
(<http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5>) (<https://www.blm.gov/california>)

Is any portion of the proposed project site located on the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or any other federally managed land? [For an interactive map outlining federally managed land, please visit:
<https://www.blm.gov/maps/frequently-requested/california>.]

- ☒ No – The proposed project will not be located on the USFS, the BLM, or any other federally managed land.
- ☐ Yes – The proposed project will be located on the USFS, the BLM, or other federally managed land. Please explain or indicate where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.), and attach a colored map identifying the project location with respect to the USFS, the BLM, or other federal land. Attach a copy of the appropriate authorization/permit for the use of federal land (e.g., USFS Special-Use Authorization, BLM Land Use Permit) or indicate the status of the authorization/permit below.

Please indicate the USFS Office, the BLM District, or other federal regional unit in which the project is located and the contact information of the associated federal representative with whom the water system has been in contact:

USFS Office/BLM District/Federal Regional Unit:

(<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/about-region/offices>) (<https://www.blm.gov/office/california-state-office>)

Contact Person:

Contact E-Mail/Phone Number:

Environmental Alternative Analysis

The SRF Programs require an environmental alternative analysis for projects that have a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the CEQA.

Please attach a copy of the environmental alternative analysis or indicate where it can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report): N/A

Please briefly summarize the direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with each project alternative considered, including a "no project/no action" alternative, and the environmental considerations behind the selected project alternative:

Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA)

(<https://www.nps.gov/archeology/tools/laws/AHPA.htm>)

Will the project cause the irreparable loss or damage to a significant archaeological or historic resource or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction (i.e., flooding, building of access roads, or construction of a reservoir) and require compliance under the AHPA?

☒ No – The project construction will not cause an irreparable loss or damage of significant archaeological or historic resources or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project does not require compliance with the AHPA.

☒ No – The project construction will not cause an irreparable loss or damage of significant archaeological or historic resources or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project does not require compliance with the AHPA. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found [e.g., Historic Properties Identification Report (HPIR; see the National Historic Preservation Act below), CEQA document, etc.]:

Cultural Resources Assessment, page(s) 37-38

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act.php>)

The purpose of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is to not agitate the bald and golden eagle to the extent of not 1) Abusing an eagle, 2) Interfering with its substantial lifestyle, including shelter, breeding, feeding, or 3) Nest abandonment.

Will the project conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act?

☒ No – The project does not conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

☐ Yes – The project may conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
Explain:

Clean Air Act (<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-air-act>)

Identify Project Air Basin: (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/ei/maps/statemap/abmap.htm>)

Identify Local Air District: (<https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/dismap.htm>)

Complete the following table: The project construction and operational air emissions can be estimated by using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) (<http://caleemod.com/>)

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment, Maintenance, or Unclassified)	Nonattainment Rates (i.e., marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme)	Threshold of Significance for Project Air Basin (if applicable – contact Local Air District)	Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Ozone (O ₃)	Nonattainment	Extreme	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment	--	100tpy	0.15	0
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	N/A	--	10tpy	0.10	0

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	N/A	--	10tpy	0.01	0
Lead (Pb)	No Designation	--	N/A	N/A	N/A
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5})	Nonattainment	--	15tpy	<0.005	0
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀)	Nonattainment	--	15tpy	<0.005	0
Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)	Attainment	--	N/A	<0.005	0

Is the project subject to a General Conformity Determination?

☒ Yes – The project is in a nonattainment area or maintenance area subject to maintenance plans for a federal criteria pollutant and project emissions are above the federal de minimis levels. The project is subject to General Conformity Determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.):

☐ No – The project is located in an attainment or unclassified area for all federal criteria pollutants, and/or the project emissions are below the federal de minimis levels. The project is not subject to General Conformity Determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.):

CalEEMod Report, page(s) 4-5, shows that potential emissions are below thresholds.

Coastal Barriers Resources Act

(<https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/coastal.html>)

Will the project impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters? (Note: Since there

are currently no coastal barrier units in California, projects located in California are not expected to impact the Coastal Barrier Resources System. If there is a special circumstance in which the project may impact the Coastal Barrier Resource System, indicate your reasoning below.)

☒ No - The project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters.

☐ Yes –The project will impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets and near-shore waters. Describe the project location with respect to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.). Please provide the status of any consultation with the appropriate Coastal Zone management agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

Coastal Zone Management Act

(<http://coastal.ca.gov/cdp/cdp-forms.html> and/or <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/>)

Is any portion of the project site located within the coastal zone? [NOTE: California's coastal zone generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line, but may extend further if the area is located in significant coastal estuarine, habitat, and/or recreational areas, or to a lesser extent if the area is located in a developed urban area or within a coastal zone of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.] (To help determine if the project is located within a coastal zone, please visit <https://coastal.ca.gov/maps/>, or contact your local California Coastal Commission office or the city or county in which the project is located.)

☒ No – The project is not within the coastal zone.

☐ Yes – The project is located within the coastal zone. Attach a copy of the coastal zone permit or coastal exemption, or indicate the status of the coastal zone permit below (http://www.coastal.ca.gov/enforcement/cdp_pamphlet.pdf). Describe the project location with respect to coastal areas, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, biological report/assessment, etc.)

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

(<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-endangered-species-act>)

- **Required documents:** Attach a project-level biological report/assessment prepared by a qualified professional biologist that includes an up-to-date field survey and species list information (from the USFWS, the NMFS, the California Natural Diversity Database, and the California Native Plant Society) analyzing the project's direct and indirect impacts on special status species in the project area. An official species list is required from the USFWS and the NMFS. Refer to the USFWS Midwest Region website for guidance on preparing a biological report/assessment that meets ESA, Section 7 requirements:

<https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/section7/index.html>.

Refer to the following resources for information regarding possible biological impacts and to obtain official and unofficial species lists for analysis: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>,

<http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/>,

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/consultations#endangered-species-act-consultations>, and/or <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB>.

Biological Field Survey Date(s): April 05, 2024

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operation activities that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat, that are known or have a potential to occur on the project site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?

- ☒ No – The project will not have an impact on any federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Biological Report, page(s) 28

- ☐ Yes – The project will have an impact on one or more federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please provide information on the federally listed species that could potentially be affected by the project and any proposed avoidance and conservation measures. Please indicate below where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.). If any consultations with state or federal agencies have been conducted for the project, please discuss the consultation efforts:

Environmental Justice

(<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>)

Does the project involve an activity that is likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations?

☒ No – The project is not likely to be of any particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found: This project will benefit two minority, low-income communities by providing them connections to sewer.

☐ Yes – The project is likely to be of particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations.

Check the appropriate box(es):

- ☐ The project is likely to affect the health of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to affect the environmental conditions of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to present an opportunity to address an existing disproportionate impact of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to result in the collection of information or data that could be used to assess potential impacts on the health or environmental conditions of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to affect the availability of information to these populations.
- ☐ Other reasons (please describe):

Please explain the selection above, or indicate where this information can be found:

Farmland Protection Policy Act

(http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?cid=nrcs143_008275)

Is any portion of the project located on prime, unique, or important farmland? (Please refer to the following resources regarding important farmland: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/> and or <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>)

☒ No – The project is not located on and will not impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.): Categorical Exemption for the Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project

The project will not be constructed on any farmland.

☐ Yes – The project is located on and/or will impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Attach documents/assessments evaluating the conversion of prime/unique farmland and farmland of statewide/local importance to non-agricultural uses, as well as any consultation(s) conducted with relevant agencies. Include information on the acreage that would be converted from important farmland to other uses. Indicate if any portion of the project boundaries is under a Williamson Act Contract, and specify the amount of acreage affected. Include this information here or indicate it can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)

(<https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/es-library/pdfs/fwca.pdf>)

Will the project impact any bodies of water by impounding, diverting, deepening a channel, or otherwise controlling/modifying flow (including navigation and drainage)?

☒ No – The project will not impact any bodies of water and will not require compliance with the FWCA.

☐ Yes – The project will impact a body of water and will require compliance with the FWCA. Consultation with the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required. Please discuss the potential project impacts to the water body, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Floodplain Management: Executive Orders 11988, 12148 and 13690

(<https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>, <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12148.html>, and <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/executive-order-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and->)

- **Required documents:** Attach an official floodplain map that includes the project area. Please refer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center for official floodplain maps: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. If the project area is unmapped by the FEMA, please explain below.

Is any portion of the project located within a 100-year floodplain as depicted on a floodplain map or otherwise designated by the FEMA?

☒ No – The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

☐ Yes – The project or a portion of the project is located within a 100-year floodplain. Attach any reports (floodplains/hydrological assessment) completed for the project, and provide information of any consultations completed with relevant agencies. Describe the floodplain and any proposed measures that will be implemented to minimize or avoid redirection of the flood flow by the project, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., floodplains/hydrological assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/magnuson-stevens-fishery-conservation-and-management-act>)

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities or changes in water quality/quantity that may impact Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)? (Please refer to the NMFS Mapper to help determine the project's proximity and potential direct/indirect impacts to EFH, and to obtain a NMFS species list for the project location: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast>.)

☒ No – The project will not impact EFH. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, EFH impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.): Biological Report, page(s) 30

☐ Yes – The project may adversely impact EFH and consultation with the NMFS will be required. Describe how EFH could potentially be impacted by this project and any proposed avoidance and conservation measures, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, EFH impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.). Please attach an official NMFS species list, obtained through the NMFS Mapper link above, and explain any previous consultations/coordination conducted with the NMFS for the project:

Marine Mammal Protection Act

(<https://www.fws.gov/international/laws-treaties-agreements/us-conservation-laws/marine-mammal-protection-act.html>)

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities or changes in water quality/quantity that may impact marine mammals?

☒ No – The project will not impact Marine Mammals.

☐ Yes – The project may adversely impact marine mammals and consultation with the NMFS and/or the USFWS will be required. Describe how marine mammals could potentially be impacted by this project and any proposed avoidance and conservation measures, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, marine mammals impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.). Please attach an official copy of the USFWS/NMFS species list(s), and explain any previous consultations/coordination conducted with the USFWS/NMFS for the project:

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

(<http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>, and/or <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>)

Will the project impact protected migratory birds that are known or have a potential to occur on the project site, or the surrounding area? (Please refer to the USFWS's IPaC tool to request an official list of "birds of conservation concern" with the potential to occur in the project area: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>)

☒ No – The project will not impact protected migratory birds. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Biological Report, page(s) 27

☐ Yes – The project may impact protected migratory birds. Attach documentation (e.g., biological report/assessment) that includes an official copy of the USFWS IPaC list of all the "birds of conservation concern" that could occur where the project is located. Discuss the project's direct and indirect impacts (such as noise, vibration impacts, or modification of habitat) to migratory birds, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Please indicate where more information can be found [e.g., page number(s) of the biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.]:

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)/Historic Sites Act (HSA)

(<http://www.achp.gov/>

<https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/hsact35.htm>)

- **Required documents:** A Historic Properties Identification Report (HPIR) written by a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology or Architectural History (www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm), as appropriate. The report must include a current records search (not older than five years) from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) extending to a half-mile beyond the project's area of potential effects (APE), maps showing all recorded resources and surveys in relation to the APE, records of Native American outreach (<http://nahc.ca.gov>), and resource records from the CHRIS search and newly identified resources. Please contact Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff to receive additional details. Refer to the California Office of Historic Preservation website (under Section 106 Submission Checklists header) for guidance regarding the information required to consult under Section 106 of the NHPA:
http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1071/files/106Checklist_Details.pdf.

If the project is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, a HPIR is not necessary. Contact the Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff to discuss this. This decision is based on the type of activities, not on the presence or absence of historic properties.

Note: Please do not upload confidential documents to the FAAST system. Contact the Project Manager or Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff for guidance regarding submission of confidential documents.

Identify Section 106 of the NHPA finding of effect contained in the cultural resources report:

- ☒ No Historic Properties Affected
- ☒ No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties
- ☐ Adverse Effect to Historic Properties

If relevant, please justify compliance with both the HSA and the NHPA. Provide a brief explanation for the above identified determination, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., HPIR or Cultural Report):

Cultural Resources Assessment, page(s) 37-38

Protection of Wetlands

(<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/protection-wetlands>)

Will any portion of the project be located in or potentially affect a wetland?

(The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory contains a Wetlands Mapper that may help identify wetland locations: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>)

☒ No – The project will not be located in and/or will not potentially affect a wetland. Please explain, or indicate this information can be found (e.g., wetland assessment/delineation report, biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.): Biological Report, page(s) 29

☐ Yes – The project will be located in and/or will potentially affect a wetland. Attach a wetland assessment/delineation report consistent with the United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) guidance (<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/wetlands/documents/sacramento-district-minimum-standards-for-delineations-reports>) describing the project's potential impacts to wetlands and/or potential wetland areas; and the avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures that will be implemented to reduce such impacts. Please indicate where more information can be found (e.g., wetland assessment/delineation report, biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

(<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/section-10-rivers-and-harbors-appropriation-act-1899>)

Will the project involve the construction of structures or any other regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States? (NOTE: Regulated activities include the placement/removal of structures, work involving dredging, disposal of dredged material, filling, excavation, or any other disturbance of soils/sediments or modification of a navigable waterway.)

☒ No – The project is not located in or near navigable waters of the United States. There will be no construction of structures, modification of existing structures, or any other regulated activity work in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States.

☐ Yes – The project will involve the construction of structures and/or one or more of the listed regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, and will require a Section 10 Permit. Please provide a copy of the permit obtained from the USACE, or the current status of the permit. Indicate below where more information on the project's construction and regulated activities can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report, CEQA document, etc.):

Safe Drinking Water Act/Sole Source Aquifer Protection

(<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/sourcewater/protection/index.cfm>)

Is the project located in an area designated by the USEPA, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer? (Please refer to the USEPA's website for an interactive map of the Sole Source Aquifer locations: <https://www.epa.gov/dwssa>). Sole Source Aquifers in California include the Fresno County Aquifer, Santa Margarita Aquifer, Campo/Cottonwood Creek Aquifer or the Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer.

☒ No - The project is not within the boundaries of a Sole Source Aquifer.

☐ Yes – The project is located in and/or will impact a Sole Source Aquifer:

Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the State Water Board to initiate consultation with the USEPA, Region 9, Ground Water Office, or indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

(<http://www.rivers.gov/california.php>)

Identify the watershed within the project location: East Branch Cross Creek-Middle Branch Cross Creek, and Bates Slough
(<https://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>)

Will the project affect a wild and scenic river?

Wild and Scenic Rivers in California include: Amargosa River, Lower American River, North Fork American River, Bautista Creek, Big Sur River, Black Butter River, Cottonwood Creek, Eel River, Feather River, Fuller Mill River, Kern River, Kings River, Klamath River Merced River, Owens River Headwaters, Palm Canyon Creek, Piru Creek, San Jacinto River (North Fork), Sespe Creek, Sisquoc River, Smith River, Trinity River, and Tuolumne River.

☒ No – The project will not impact any of the wild and scenic rivers listed above. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.): Biological Report, page(s) 29

☐ Yes – The project will impact a wild and scenic river. Attach a map of the impacted wild and scenic river and identify the wild and scenic river as well as the relative project location.

Explain how the project will impact the wild and scenic river, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

Wilderness Act

(www.justice.gov/enrd/wilderness-act-1964)

Except as specifically provided for in this Wilderness Act (Act), and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such areas.

Is the project located in an area designated as wilderness?

☒ No - The project is not within the boundaries of a Wilderness Area.

☐ Yes – The project is located in and/or will impact a Wilderness Area:

Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff to coordinate with the USEPA to complete the consultation with the National Park Service and indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

V. ENVIRONMENTAL PACKAGE ATTACHMENTS

E1 - CEQA DOCUMENTS⁵

Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Required Attachments:

- Notice of Exemption filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk

Negative Declaration (ND)

Required Attachments:

- draft and final Initial Study/Negative Declaration
- comments and responses
- resolution/minutes adopting the ND and approving the project
- Notice of Determination (NOD) filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk

Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Required Attachments:

- draft and final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- comments and responses
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan/Program (MMRP) resolution/minutes adopting the MND and approving the project
- NOD filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Required Attachments:

- draft and final Environmental Impact Report
- comments and responses
- statement of overriding considerations, if applicable
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan/Program (MMRP) resolution/minutes certifying the EIR and approving the project
- NOD filed with the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerk

⁵If a Joint CEQA/NEPA document is prepared for the project, please submit all relevant documents.

E2 - FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING DOCUMENTS

- United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Other Federal Land – Map of Federal Lands and the Federal Land Use Authorization/Permit, if applicable
- Environmental Alternative Analysis, if applicable
- Clean Air Act – CalEEMod Report or Other Air Quality Models/Studies Used, Required**
- Coastal Zone Management Act – Coastal Permit or Coastal Exemption, if applicable
- Endangered Species Act, Section 7 – Biological Report/Assessment, Required**
- Farmland Protection Policy Act – Farmland Conversion Assessment, if applicable
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act – Assessment of Impacts to Water Body, if applicable
- Floodplain Management –
 - Official Floodplain Map (required) and
 - Floodplains/Hydrological Assessment, if applicable
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act – EFH Impact Assessment, Official NMFS Species List, if applicable
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act – List of Migratory Birds (May be Included in the Biological Report/Assessment), if applicable
- National Historical Preservation Act, Section 106 – Historic Properties Identification Report, Required**
- Protection of Wetlands – Wetland Assessment/Delineation Report, Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification and/or Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, if applicable
- Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10 – Section 10 Permit, if applicable
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act – Map of Wild and Scenic Rivers Watershed, if applicable
- Other Federal Cross-Cutting Documentation (i.e., Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Environmental Justice, etc.), if applicable -
- Other Documentation –
- Other Documentation –

** If your project is exempt, these documents may not be required. Please contact Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff for clarification.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

Lead Agency: County of Tulare, c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277(559) 624-7000

Project Title: Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project

Project Location - Specific: Both Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract, comprising 79 residential lots in total, are within the City of Tulare's (City) sphere of influence and situated south of West Inyo Avenue (SR 137). Souls Tract is generally bounded by Haven Street to the east, West Souls Drive to the northwest, and Tulare Irrigation District's Lemos Ditch to the south, which serves as a physical barrier separating Souls Tract from the Lone Oak Tract. The Lone Oak Tract is generally bounded by Road 84 to the west and ditches to the north, east, and south. The two communities abut single-family development within the City to the east. Areas to the north, west, and south of the communities are largely devoted to agriculture.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 9, Township 20, Range 24

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project (Project) is a sewer consolidation project involving the communities of Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract consolidating with the City of Tulare via an extraterritorial services agreement. The proposed Project involves construction of wastewater pipelines within both communities that have been relying on aging septic systems. The wastewater pipelines for both tracts would then be consolidated with the City, which would provide treatment at the City's domestic WWTP. To consolidate Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract with the City, the Project would include construction of approximately 5,070 feet of eight-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer main, approximately 21 sewer manholes, and up to 79 four-inch sewer services and onsite connections to existing residences. The systems would connect to the City's existing 30-inch sewer main in Enterprise Street at Alpine Avenue for Lone Oak Tract and at Enterprise Street at Souls Drive for Souls Tract. Existing septic systems in Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract would require proper abandonment once construction is complete. The Project would alleviate the two communities' need for a sustainable, long-term wastewater collection plan as well as prevent the existing septic systems from negatively affecting the groundwater quality in the area.

The expected benefits of the Project include the following:

- Eliminating the continuation of groundwater contamination due to septic system usage;
- Aid a severely disadvantaged community;
- End reliance on aging and failing individual septic systems;
- Eliminate individual exposure to major repair costs;
- Establish an affordable and stable wastewater disposal solution for the Communities; and,
- Reflect objectives of the State of California to consolidate and eliminate small sewer systems.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

- ☐ Common Sense Exemption: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 2 Section 15302(c), Replacement or Reconstruction**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed Project is constructing new wastewater pipelines to serve the Soultis and Lone Oak Tracts and to connect the new system to the City of Tulare. This system will replace the existing septic system that serve the communities of Soultis and Lone Oak. Therefore, it would be consistent with Class 2 Section 15302(c), replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Environmental Assessment Officer: Reed Schenke, P.E., Resource Management Agency Director, EA)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Amy Wilson, Senior Planner

Telephone: (559) 636-1166

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Chief Planner
Gary A. Mills Environmental Planning Division

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: _____