

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

October 28, 2020

City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata CA 95501
(707) 825-5955

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural notification requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Arcata.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On Friday, November 13th 2020 or shortly thereafter the City of Arcata will submit a request to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the release of up to \$2,790,697 in Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to purchase and install ultraviolet (UV) disinfection equipment as part of the City's larger Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Project, for the purpose of addressing aging infrastructure and climate resiliency. Community Development Block Grant funding is limited to the UV equipment and the majority of the project's funding will be EPA loan funds administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board through the State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) Program; however, the certified Environmental Assessment analyzes the entirety of the Project Action. Treatment Facility improvements will take place within the existing Facility boundary, which includes the larger Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. The Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility is located at 601 South "G" Street in Arcata, CA 95521. Associated staging areas may be viewed on the Project "Area of Potential Effect" map in the Environmental Assessment undertaken for the proposed Project per National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidelines.

The project scope involves upgrades to the treatment facility to replace worn equipment and address National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, and is intended to serve the current City population. The Project will be undertaken in two phases. **Phase 1** will focus on rehabilitation of the current system and reconfiguring the effluent flow to a single path. Rehabilitation will be done to the natural system facilities (i.e. ponds and the wetlands) and to the aging infrastructure. It will include replacing and installing new equipment (UV system, new pumps, aerators, and monitoring equipment), and increasing the resilience of facilities for treatment and hydraulic capacities. **Phase 2** will focus on constructing the additional secondary treatment system, as well as additional site improvements within the City of Arcata Corp Yard and larger Treatment Facility. In general Phase 2 builds on the performance of Phase 1 improvements. Resiliency efforts including levee augmentation to protect the treatment plant from storm events are also planned. A full project description and the environmental assessment may be found online at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/856/Wastewater-Treatment-Facilities-Improvement>

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Arcata has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file with the Community Development Department at Arcata City Hall, 736 F Street, Arcata California 95521, and may be examined or copied weekdays 11 A.M to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Environmental Review Record to the City of Arcata Community Development Department (attention: David Loya, Community Development Director /Environmental Coordinator/Certifying Officer). All comments received by Thursday November 12th will be considered by the City of Arcata prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing (either the Finding of No Significance or the Request for Release of Funds).

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Arcata certifies to the State of California Community Development Department that David Loya, in his capacity as City Community Development Director, City Environmental Coordinator, and NEPA Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The California Housing and Community Development Department's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Arcata to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Arcata will accept objections to its release of fund and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Arcata; (b) the City of Arcata has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the California Housing and Community Development Department; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the administration office of the California Department of Housing & Community Development, CDBG Programs, 2020 West El Camino Avenue Sacramento, CA 95833. Potential objectors should contact the California Housing and Community Development Department to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

*Mr. David Loya
Community Development Director/Environmental Coordinator/Certifying Officer
City of Arcata*