

City of Ferndale
834 Main Street
Ferndale, CA 95536
Phone: (707) 786-4224
Fax: (707) 786-9314



Contract City Planner
1125 16th Street, Suite 200
Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 825-8260
Fax: (707) 825-9181

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance

County of Humboldt Recorder's Office
825 5th Street Fifth Floor
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: City of Ferndale Wastewater Treatment Facility

Lead Agency: City of Ferndale

Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN):

100-162-020 & 100-161-008

General Plan Designation and Zoning:

Public Facility (PF)

Project Address and Location:

The project site is located on Port Kenyon Road between Market Street and California Street, north of Ferndale city limits.

Description of Project:

The proposed WWTF consists of the following components:

- Replacement of the existing Influent Pump Station
- Expansion of the existing headworks facility
- Stormwater Basin, 3.5 million gallons (MG) in size
- Treatment building, 6,000 square feet in size, with two aeration tanks and clarifiers south of Port Kenyon Road
- Two disc filters
- Disinfection building, 4,275 square feet in size, with ultraviolet disinfection, south of Port Kenyon Road
- Wetland, approximately 5.17 acres in size
- Control building, 1,140 square feet in size
- Spray irrigation fields and point of discharge

The existing headworks building is located in a fenced area, on the south side of Port Kenyon Road. This site is partially developed with the remainder being covered with vegetation (grass). The project proposes to increase the site elevation by three to four feet prior to construction and partially pave it. The project will develop a majority of this site with a new, expanded headworks building and new treatment, disinfection, and control buildings.

All influent will be treated on this site and then pumped to the proposed wetland on the north side of Port Kenyon Road; then the effluent will be discharged, either to irrigation or to Francis Creek. The existing aeration pond located off the north side of Port Kenyon Road will be split into two separate areas, a stormwater basin and a wetland area. The proposed stormwater basin and wetland area will cover the same footprint as the existing aeration pond and treatment facilities.

Environmental Setting:

The project area is located on the gently sloping alluvial plain of the lower Eel River Basin north of the Ferndale city limits in an unincorporated area of Humboldt County, California. The subject site is located near the confluence of the Salt River and Francis Creek (SW ¼, Sec 35, T3N, R2W, Humboldt Baseline and Meridian). The lower Eel River basin has been modified by agricultural activities since the mid-1800s. Most of the bottomland now contains native and non-native pasture grasses used for animal grazing.

Declaration:

As a result of the Initial Study, prepared by the City of Ferndale dated February 6, 2009, it has been found that the proposed project will not have any significant effects on the environment. A recommendation will be made to the Ferndale City Council to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Review Period:

February 10, 2009 to March 12, 2009 the public is hereby invited to submit written comments regarding the environmental findings and Mitigated Negative Declaration determination. Such comments may be submitted prior to or during the Council's hearing(s).

Public Hearing Dates:

City Council Meeting will be held on March 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at 834 Main Street, Ferndale, California, in the Council Chambers.

Document Availability:

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available for public review at the following locations between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday:

- City of Ferndale, 834 Main Street, Ferndale, CA 95536
- Ferndale Library, 807 Main Street, Ferndale, CA 95536

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Prepared by:

Planwest Partners Inc. (Contract City Planners)
1125 16th Street, Suite 200
Arcata, CA 95521

Contact: George Williamson AICP
Title: Principal Planner
Telephone: (707) 825-8260
Fax: (707) 825-9181

Signature: Vanessa Terli

Date: 2/6/09