Notice of Exemption

To: ☐ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: PECSD
200 Lundy Lane
Blairsden, CA 96103

☒ County Clerk
County of Plumas
520 Main Street #102
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Plumas Eureka Community Services District Water Treatment Facility

Project Location – Specific: 204 Lundy Lane, Blairsden, CA 95685 (APN 129-010-036).

Project Location – City: Blairsden **Project Location – County:** Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Project would develop an arsenic water treatment facility to treat water from the existing water supply and associated conveyance piping to comply with primary federal and state drinking water standards. The 1,500 square foot facility, resembling a residential unit would house the treatment equipment and materials and booster pump station. The Project includes associated 10-inch diameter raw water (1,425 LF) and treated water (1,485 LF) pipelines, and 4-inch diameter sanitary sewer forcemain pipeline (260 LF) between the facility and existing transmission mains in existing roadway right-of-way in Lundy Lane, Poplar Valley Road, and Cottonwood Drive. A gravel pad housing a metering/valve vault, a lift station, propane tank, and backup emergency generator. An evaporative cooler would be located on the south side of the building. No increase in capacity would occur. The Project benefits the existing PECSD customers by providing potable water that meets current primary drinking water standards.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Plumas Eureka Community Services District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Plumas Eureka Community Services District

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));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: Section 15303 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures:

a. The project is on land owned by the PECSD and is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and zoning as the County has determined zoning is not applicable per CA Gov. Code Section 53091(e). Piping would be located beneath existing roadway pavement and in the public right-of-way.
b. The Project is the size of and is designed to have the characteristics of a small residence from the exterior, and the extension of piping to the existing systems in the roadway is consistent with the provision of utility extensions under a Class 3 exemption.
c. The portion of the site to be developed contains scattered pines and no special-status habitat or protected species. The site would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to tree removal to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No disturbance to the creek or riparian vegetation would occur and erosion control measures are included in the project to ensure sediment control during construction.
d. There are no cultural resources known to occur on the site and the site is currently partially disturbed with mailboxes, shed, and a gravel parking area.
e. The Project is not located on a hazardous site and is not visible from a designated scenic highway.
f. Development and operation of the treatment system would not result in significant traffic, noise, air or water quality impacts, and would result in a beneficial water quality impact. Treatment materials and equipment will be enclosed.
g. The area is served by utilities and public services, and the Project would not impact supply or existing infrastructure, resulting in a beneficial impact. The Project is not designed for additional capacity above the existing system maximum day demand of 509,167 gallons per day, and the additional wastewater generated would be well within the existing wastewater treatment plant capacity.

Doc# 2018-008
Rec# 32-03152018-08

Notice of Exemption

Lead Agency Contact Person: John Rowden, General Manager Phone: (530) 836-1953

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: John Rowden Date: 3/14/18 Title: General Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

POSTED: MAR 15 2018

FILED

MAR 15 2018

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS,
PLUMAS CO. CLERK-RECORDER
BY Julie Hagwood DEPUTY

Doc# 2018-8

Ref # 32-03152018-08

Plumas Eureka Community Services District Water Treatment Facility

Project Description

The Plumas Eureka Community Services District Water Treatment Facility Project (Project) is the construction and operation of a water treatment facility and associated conveyance piping required to reduce arsenic levels in the potable water supply to meet the reduced arsenic maximum contaminant level threshold and to reduce iron and manganese concentrations. After assessing various options, including an unsuccessful search for a supply with lower arsenic levels, the PECSD proposes to construct and operate a treatment facility to mitigate elevated arsenic in the drinking water supply. The maximum contaminant levels for arsenic (10 micrograms/L) are currently exceeded at Wells 1-B and 2, which have average levels of 9.3-13.7 micrograms/L of arsenic.

Located on parcel 129-010-036 at 204 Lundy Lane, the project site currently contains a small shed, mailboxes, utility boxes, and a parking pad, along with Jeffrey pine scattered onsite. The utility boxes, mailboxes, and parking pad would remain in place west of the proposed facility, but the PECSD shed would be removed. Twenty-two trees would be removed and protective fencing would be placed around the remaining 12 trees in the construction footprint. The remaining trees onsite located outside the construction area would also be retained. The site drops off into a riparian area and creek located on the southern portion of the parcel; however, the project grading and footprint would be kept to the flat portion of the site, near the roadway and no impact on riparian habitat or the creek would occur. There are no cultural resources located on the site.

The project would construct a 1,500 square foot one-story structure to house the arsenic mitigation equipment, a paved driveway, and a gravel driveway on which associated equipment and utilities would be located, such as a propane tank, generator, meter/ valve vault, and a lift station. In addition, the Project includes 1,425 lineal feet of 10-inch diameter raw water pipeline, 1,485 lineal feet of 10-inch diameter treated water pipeline, which would be located beneath the westbound travel lane or shoulder in Lundy Lane and connect to the existing transmission main lines in Poplar Valley Road. 260 lineal feet of 4-inch sanitary sewer forcemain pipeline would run from the treatment plant west to an existing manhole connection in Cottonwood Drive. The new pipelines would not increase system capacity or result in a change in demand or supply. The raw and treated water mains are conveyance lines to and from the treatment plant and connect to existing transmission system. This conveyance allows raw water to be treated for arsenic at the proposed treatment facility and treated water to be returned to the existing water transmission line to the water storage tanks. The sanitary sewer pipeline lateral connects the treatment facility to the existing sanitary sewer line so that wastewater generated by the arsenic treatment facility can be discharged to and treated through the District's sewer treatment facilities.

The structure would have the outward appearance of a small residence. A 916 square foot asphalt concrete driveway measuring 27 feet in length and 31 feet (at structure) to 52 feet (streetside) in width would serve the 50-foot by 30-foot (1,500 square foot) building and a concrete patio would be installed around all four sides of the building. The structure would be constructed with concrete blocks and would have Hardy Plank lap siding and insulation that has the appearance of wood siding around the exterior. This provides a residential appearance and provides increased insulation of the building to meet energy efficiency requirements and dampen operational noise. Insulation would also be placed within the building attic space to further improve energy efficiency and reduce noise. The front of structure would appear similar to residences in the area and would include three window gables on the roof with glass block windows and 12-inch louvered wood shutters, a large glass block window with 18-inch open louvered wood shutters, a front entryway with a residential-type door with side windows and lighting on each side of the door, and a 16-foot by 12-foot automatic metal roll up "garage" door. The entry door

would be set back into the front of the building to create a more residential appearance. The gable ends on the east and west exterior include 16-inch by 14-inch gable end vents. The west side of the building would house electrical switchgear in an attached and roofed enclosed compartment, similar to a small attached shed, and the western exterior includes an 8-foot by 10-foot metal roll-up "garage door," a 24-inch by 24-inch louvered vent near ground level, and an exterior light fixture. A 48-inch by 56-inch louvered vent, an exterior light fixture, and an evaporative cooler would be located on the south side of the building. The east side of the building would only include the louvered gable vent and an exterior light fixture. Wall mounted exterior lighting would be located on each side of the roll-up door on the front of the building and at the west, south, and east sides of the building and would be downward facing to direct light toward ground level. The roof would have a 6:12 pitch, covered with asphalt concrete roofing shingles similar to those on adjacent homes. Rain gutters and downspouts would be installed to collect and direct rainwater and 2x8 rough sawn fascia would be installed along the gable ends. Building corners would be trimmed with 1x4 vertical trim. Total height of the building at the top pitch would be approximately 23.5 feet. The front of the structure would feature a concrete patio or walkway and a swale would be located at the south elevation to collect storm runoff and a French drain installed along the eastern side of the building to capture runoff. Additional landscape treatments may be added to the design to further blend into the existing neighborhood.

A gravel driveway covering approximately 1,810 square feet would be located west of the building. The approximate dimensions of the gravel driveway are 51 feet by 34 feet. Within the driveway, the Project would include a meter/valve vault, lift station, generator, and propane tank. The vault and lift station lids would be approximately at ground elevation, with a concrete collar two to three inches above elevation to avoid drainage into the vaults. These features would not be visually prevalent. Four-foot bollards would be installed in front of the propane tank and generator to provide safety protection.

The treatment facility would house storage, system controls, storage shelving, a booster pump station, Stage 1 and Stage 2 treatment skids, a work bench, sink, pumping and dosing manifold, and a chemical room and storage area with appropriate spill containment. Interior LED industrial light fixtures and exit signs would be located within the building. A booster pump station would be installed within the building to adjust for headloss associated with the treatment plant pressure filters, appurtenances, and additional length of transmission mains. Staff would be able to adjust pumping rates, depending on water source, seasonal fluctuations, and operational efficiencies. Treatment is achieved by coagulating and filtering arsenic from the raw water, which involves the application of an iron salt chemical mixture to the raw water that cause the arsenic to bond into particles that can be removed in a series of tanks. Chemicals stored within the treatment facility would be located in the chemical room, which is a contained area with a separate access through both exterior and interior doors, and spill containment. The chemical room would contain two 55-gallon drums of 32% hydrochloric acid to adjust pH levels, two 55-gallon drums of 50% sodium hydroxide to adjust pH levels, one 1000-gallon double-walled tank of 12.5% sodium hypochlorite for oxidation and disinfection, and two 300-gallon totes of 40% ferric chloride to coagulate the constituents for removal. No chemicals would be stored outside or released from the facility. A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system would be used for operations, system monitoring and control, and alarming. This communications system allows for communications, and remote data collection and distribution between the water treatment plant, wells, storage tank, and firehouse.

Raw water would enter the treatment facility below ground elevation from Lundy Lane at the northeast side of the building. Treatment includes a two-stage treatment train of oxidation-filtration followed by adsorptive polishing involving coagulation with ferric chloride, pH adjustment with hydrochloric acid, and oxidation with sodium hypochlorite. Water runs through two stage 1 vessels each sized to treat up to 180 gallons per minute and a stage 2 vessel sized for 180 gallons per minute. The water would travel

through the treatment vessels and the treated water would exit the facility toward Lundy Lane at the northeastern side of the building. The process creates a backwash that is discharged to the sanitary sewer for treatment and disposal at PECSD's wastewater treatment plant 7, which is a permitted action. Each stage 1 vessel is backwashed once every 24 hours, creating a maximum wastewater volume of 14,120 gallons per day. This additional flow would result in the wastewater treatment plant operating at approximately 50% capacity. Constituent concentrations in the backwash would be approximately 0.051 lbs/day arsenic, 0.26 lbs/day manganese, and 1.96 lbs/day iron. The wastewater would be piped beneath the treatment facility to the lift station located under the gravel driveway for pumping through a 4-inch sanitary sewer forcemain to the existing manhole in Cottonwood Drive, directly west of the treatment facility. Operation of this centralized treatment facility will eliminate the existing chlorine systems at the two wellhouses, consolidating and updating chlorination application and extending the lifespan of the wellhouses by removing the existing chlorine systems.

Project Environmental Compliance Measures

Vegetation removal would be minimized as feasible and fencing would be erected to prevent equipment and vehicles from traveling beyond the grading limit. Disturbed areas exposed following construction would be revegetated with native seed. Retained trees within the construction limit would be fenced for protection, with the fencing placed at least one foot outside the tree dripline. If tree removal is scheduled to occur between February 1 and August 15, a preconstruction survey for nesting birds is included in the project action to ensure no nesting birds are disturbed in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A preconstruction survey, would be conducted during the nesting season immediately prior to initial Project construction (e.g., excavation, grading and tree removal), to identify any active raptor or migratory bird nest sites not previously identified. If nests are identified, a qualified biological monitor would be present during initial construction activities to evaluate disturbance and would have the authority to stop construction near occupied trees if it appears to be having a negative impact on nesting raptors, migratory birds or their young observed within the construction zone. If construction must be stopped, the monitor would consult with CDFW or USFWS (if applicable) staff within 24 hours to determine appropriate actions to restart construction while reducing impacts to identified raptors or migratory bird nests.

Dust and sediment control includes the use of a water truck as needed, a vacuum sweeper truck to be used daily, or more frequently if needed, and temporary placement of crushed rock to prevent track out. Stockpiled materials shall be stabilized. If there are concentrated construction flows, they shall be channelized to temporary or permanent sediment treatment facilities so that no sediment laden waters enter the natural drainage or public storm drain system. No material shall be placed in drainage ways and the existing drainage patterns would be retained. All haul trucks shall have a minimum freeboard of six inches and would be covered to prevent spillage and dust. Vehicles are required to park on existing paved or compacted roadway surfaces. If no activity occurs for 30 days, disturbed areas shall be stabilized with a dust palliative and disturbed areas left undeveloped for more than 90 days shall be hydro-seeded with an approved native seed mix and tackifier and irrigated until firmly established.

Prior to construction, entrances and equipment parking area shall be stabilized, sediment control devices would be installed, and wash down area would be installed. Fiber rolls would be placed within and adjacent to the construction site fencing delineating the construction limit. In addition, silt fencing would be installed five feet outside the perimeter of construction fencing. This limit is located on the flat portion of the site, prior to the commencement of the site slope on the southern portion of the site. The fencing and erosion control BMPs would remain in place during construction and removed only after final site stabilization has concluded.

Traffic controls would also be included during construction. Streets would remain open to local traffic at all times and residences would have access to their driveways at all times. Traffic control plans and construction plans for cutting and repaving the roadway shall be submitted to Plumas County for approval.

If any bone is uncovered that appears to be human, work would cease in the immediate area of discovery, and the Plumas County Coroner must be contacted by law (State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resource Code Section 5097.98). If the coroner determines that the bone most likely represents a Native American interment, the Coroner has 24 hours to contact the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento so that they can identify the most likely descendants, who would then help determine what course of action shall be taken in handling the remains.

Noise would be controlled during construction by limiting construction activity to between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. All construction vehicles and equipment are required to be equipped with mufflers. Solenoid pavement breakers would be used in lieu of air powered jack hammers where feasible. Equipment idling shall be minimized as feasible.

PECSD would continue to implement safety standards and procedures within the treatment facility. Chemicals would be handled in accordance with the chemical safety data sheets for each chemical. The Operation and Maintenance Plan for the facility will contain a chemical hygiene section which also addresses chemical handling and safety procedures. A shower, sink, and hose are included within the facility to address safety.

Findings

CEQA Findings

The project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 15303 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures] of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Project is not located on a hazardous site or within a sensitive resource area and is not visible from a designated scenic highway. The Notice of Exemption is attached.

Section 15303 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures. The Project is exempt based on the following:

a. The project is on land owned by the PECSD and is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and zoning designation and regulations and the County has determined zoning is not applicable per CA Gov. Code Section 53091(e). Piping would be located beneath existing roadway pavement and in the public right-of-way.
b. The Project is the size of a small residence and is designed to have the characteristics of a small residence from the exterior, consistent with a Class 3 exemption, and the extension of piping to the existing system in the roadway is consistent with the provision of utility extensions under a Class 3 exemption.
c. The portion of the site to be developed contains scattered pines and no special-status habitat or protected species. The site would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to tree removal to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No disturbance to the creek or riparian vegetation would occur and erosion control measures are included in the project to ensure sediment control during construction.
d. There are no cultural resources known to occur on the site and the site is currently partially disturbed with mailboxes and a gravel parking area.
e. The Project is not located on a hazardous site and is not visible from a designated scenic highway.

f. Development and operation of the treatment system would not result in significant traffic, noise, air or water quality impacts, and would result in a beneficial water quality impact.
g. The area is served by utilities and public services, and the treatment facility would not impact supply or existing infrastructure and would be a beneficial impact. The Project is not designed for additional capacity above the existing system maximum day demand of 509,167 gallons per day, and the additional wastewater generated would be well within the existing wastewater treatment plant capacity.

Land Use Findings

The proposed facility would be located at 204 Lundy Lane, which is currently owned by the PECSD, and beneath the roadway pavement and right-of-way of Lundy Lane, Cottonwood Drive, and Poplar Valley Road. The County has determined that the County zoning ordinance is not applicable to the facility based on their interpretation of CA Government Code Section 53091 (e) and a special use permit is not required:

> e) Zoning ordinances of a county or city shall not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water, or for the production or generation of electrical energy, facilities that are subject to Section 12808.5 of the Public Utilities Code, or electrical substations in an electrical transmission system that receives electricity at less than 100,000 volts.

Plumas Eureka Community Services District
Plumas County, State of California
Resolution No. 2018-3

A resolution to approve the Plumas Eureka Community Services District Water Treatment Facility Project and find the project is categorically exempt from CEQA.

Whereas the Plumas Eureka Community Services District on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, held a public hearing on the proposed Plumas Eureka Community Services District Water Treatment Facility after properly noticing said hearing; and

Whereas the District Board of Directors did, at the public hearing, receive a report from District staff, receive input from the engineer, and receive testimony from the public, and at the closing of said public hearing did deliberate and consider the same; and

Whereas the Board of Directors finds that the project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 15303 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures] of the State CEQA Guidelines based on March 2018 Initial Study and the following findings:

a. The Project complies with State Water Resources Control Board Compliance Order Number 01-02-16R-002-A1 to ensure that the District's drinking water reliably meets state and federal standards for arsenic.
b. The project is on land owned by the PECSD and is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and zoning designation and regulations and the County has determined zoning is not applicable per CA Gov. Code Section 53091(e). Piping would be located beneath existing roadway pavement and in the public right-of-way.
c. The Project is the size of a small residence and is designed to have the characteristics of a small residence from the exterior, consistent with a Class 3 exemption, and the extension of piping to the existing system in the roadway is consistent with the provision of utility extensions under a Class 3 exemption.
d. The portion of the site to be developed contains scattered pines and no special-status habitat or protected species. The site would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to tree removal to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No disturbance to the creek or riparian vegetation would occur and erosion control measures are included in the project to ensure sediment control during construction.
e. There are no cultural resources known to occur on the site and the site is currently partially disturbed with mailboxes and a gravel parking area.
f. The Project is not located on a hazardous site and is not visible from a designated scenic highway.
g. Development and operation of the treatment system would not result in significant traffic, noise, air or water quality impacts, and would result in a beneficial water quality impact.
h. The treatment facility would not impact supply of water provided to the District or existing infrastructure and would be a beneficial impact.

Resolved, by Plumas Eureka Community Services District Board of Directors, that the District hereby approves the Water Treatment Facility Project and finds the Project to be Categorically Exempt from CEQA.

Adopted by the Plumas Eureka Community Services District on this 14th day of March 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Melinda Bennett, Steve Jarovick, Dan Bastian, Dave Stone

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Frank Shepard

ATTEST:

I, Jillian Cole, Acting Clerk of the Board of The Plumas Eureka Community Services District, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on the 14 day of March, 2018.

DATED: This 15 day of March, 2018.

J Cole

Acting Clerk of the Board of the Board