

**NOTICES OF COMPLETION, NOTICES OF DETERMINATION, NOTICES OF
AVAILABILITY AND NOTICES OF EXEMPTION**

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

**Pursuant to Public Resources Code e §21152C, the following
Notice of Completion, Notice of Determination, Notice of Availability
an/or Notice of Exemption, was posted on September 13, 2024
at the:**

**SISKIYOU COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
311 4TH ST., RM. 201 , YREKA, CA 96097**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
for**

CITY OF MT. SHASTA SOUTH DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: September 13, 2024

RETURNED TO: CITY OF MT SHASTA

DATED: _____

LAURA BYNUM , COUNTY CLERK

By: _____

Deputy



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT**
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

47-09/13/2024-040

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
CITY OF MT SHASTA		09/13/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
SISKIYOU COUNTY	2024-47-040	
PROJECT TITLE		

CITY OF MT. SHASTA SOUTH DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL		PHONE NUMBER
CITY OF MOUNT SHASTA			
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
305 N. MT. SHASTA BLVD	MT SHASTA	CA	96067

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$ 4,051.25	\$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$ 2,916.75	\$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$ 1,377.25	\$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$ 850.00	\$ _____
☒ County documentary handling fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
☐ Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☒ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X ENDORSED-E. FRANCO	Esmeralda Franco Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:

- ☒ **Office of Planning and Research**
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
- ☒ **Siskiyou County Clerk**
510 N. Main St.
Yreka, CA 96097

FILED

Siskiyou County

SEP 13 2024

LAURA BYNUM, CLERK
BY: **ENDORSED-E. FRANCO**
Deputy Clerk

FROM:

City of Mt. Shasta
305 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd.
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

Project Title: City of Mt. Shasta South Downtown Infrastructure Improvements

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the City of Mt. Shasta (City) in Sections 15, 16, 21, and 22 of Township 40 North, Range 4 West of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle. As shown in **Figure 1**, project elements would be completed in the general area of South Downtown (from Old McCloud Road and South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, north to East Lake Street and North Washington Drive). Additional project improvements would be completed north of the main project area in portions of North Mt. Shasta Boulevard, East Jessie Street, and Chestnut Street. All work would occur within public road rights-of-way (ROWs) and/or public utility easements.

City: Mt. Shasta

County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging, damaged, and undersized sewer, water, and stormdrain infrastructure to eliminate existing environmental and public health risks. Improvements include the following (see **Figure 2**):

Collection System Improvements

- Replacement of existing 6-, 8-, and 10-inch-diameter sewer mains and appurtenant laterals within the public road ROWs of Chestnut Street, East Jessie Street, East Ivy Street, North Mt. Shasta Boulevard, South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Old McCloud Road, Sheldon Avenue, North A Street, South A Street, Merritt Avenue, Perry Street, Eugene Avenue, North B Street, South B Street, North C Street, Ackley Avenue, Alpine Street, Shasta Court, Brush Street, Berry Street, High Street, Mill Street, Sisson Street, Forest Street, Orem Street, Russell Street, Ream Avenue, Smith Street, Gaudenzio Street, Ida Street, East Lake Street, and North Washington Drive. Sewer mains and laterals would also be replaced within various public utility easements.
- Installation of new 6-, 8-, and 10-inch-diameter sewer mains and appurtenant laterals within the existing public road ROWs of South A Street, Sheldon Avenue, South B Street, Perry Street, South Washington Drive, Eugene Avenue, Brush Street, Berry Street, Water Street, Ream Avenue, and Ida Street. New sewer mains and laterals would also be installed within various public utility easements.
- Installation of a new 8-inch-diameter sewer main and appurtenant laterals within Siskiyou County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 057-311-220 and -250, generally west of Ream Avenue, east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and north of the Siskiyou Avenue cul-de-sac.

Water System Improvements

Replacement and/or installation of water mains within the public road ROWs of South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Old McCloud Road, Sheldon Avenue, South A Street, Merritt Avenue, Perry Street, Eugene Street, South B Street, Brush Street, Berry Street, Alpine Street, High Street, Mill Street, Sisson Street, Forest Street, Ream Avenue, Smith Street, Gaudenzio Street, Ida Street, East Lake Street, South Washington Drive, Maple Street, Chestnut Street, West Lake Street, and North Washington Drive.

Stormdrain Improvements

Cold Creek Restoration

- Construction of a new concrete headwall and riprap energy dissipator at the western end of Water Street.
- Installation of new 12-, 18-, 24-, 30-, 36-, 41-, and 42-inch-diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) stormdrain pipes, and replacement and installation of new stormdrain inlets and manholes within the public road ROWs of Water Street, Mill Street, South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, Smith Street, South A Street, and South Washington Drive.
- Installation of 50 linear feet of curb and gutter within the public road ROWs of Mill Street and Water Street.

Washington Drive Connection to Mt. Shasta Boulevard

- Replacement and upsizing of existing 18- and 30-inch-diameter stormdrain pipes, and replacement of existing inlets and manholes within the public road ROWs of Old McCloud Road and South Mt. Shasta Boulevard. Installation of new stormdrain pipeline within South Mt. Shasta Boulevard and Old McCloud Road.
- Repaving and installation of curb, gutter, sidewalk, and Low Impact Development (LID) design features within the public road ROW of Washington Drive.

McCloud Avenue Improvements

- Replacement and upsizing of existing 6-, 8-, 12-, 16-, and 18-inch-diameter stormdrain pipes, and replacement of existing inlets and manholes within the public road ROWs of Mill Street, Alpine Street, South Mt. Shasta Boulevard, McCloud Avenue, and South Washington Drive. Installation of new 36-inch-diameter HDPE pipe within the public road ROW of McCloud Avenue.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Mt. Shasta

Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: City of Mt. Shasta

Local Agency Contact Person: Todd Juhasz, City Manager

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):

Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities)

Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction)

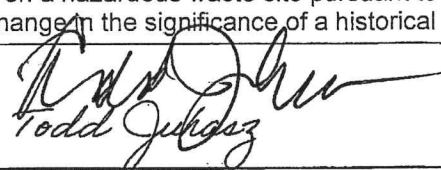
Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

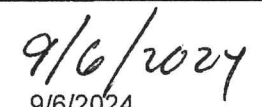
The Class 1 exemption covers the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Class 2 exemption covers replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The Class 3 exemption covers the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, including water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, as well as street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of repair, maintenance, and minor alterations to the City's existing sewer mains and appurtenant laterals, water mains, and stormdrain pipes; installation of a limited number of new facilities including sewer mains, water mains, and stormdrain pipes, inlets, manholes, and culverts; the majority of the pipelines would be placed in previously disturbed areas within the public road ROW and in public utility easements; and the ground surface would be restored following construction. As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature:


Todd Juhasz
City Manager, City of Mt. Shasta

Date:


9/6/2024

Attachments:

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2: Study Area Boundary for All Improvements

Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL FEE FORM

On 9-13-24, TODD JUHASZ filed an application
(Date) (Name)
for development with the CITY OF MT. SHASTA. Before the application
(Name of City)
is accepted as complete for processing, fees in the following amount(s) must be deposited with
the County Clerk.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| ☒ | Clerk Processing Fee | \$50.00 |
| ☐ | Negative Declaration | \$2,916.75* |
| ☐ | EIR | \$4,051.25 |
| ☒ | Categorically Exempt | \$0.00 |
| ☐ | Statutorily Exempt | \$0.00 |
| ☐ | Fee Exemption issued by the DFG | \$0.00 |
| ☐ | Other _____ | \$ _____ |

No project shall be operative, vested or final until the required fee is paid. *Public Resources Code §21089 (b)*

On 09/13/2024, City of Mt. Shasta deposited \$ 50.00,
(Date) (Name)

ENDORSED-E. FRANCO

with the Siskiyou County Clerk _____
(Attest)

Application No. NA
(To be completed when application is received for processing)

Receipt # 2024003587
47-09/13/2024-040

* If it is determined by Siskiyou County that the fee required for a Negative Declaration does not apply to your project a refund will be granted.

Laura Bynum
Siskiyou
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters
311 4th St., Rm. 201
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-8084

Public

Receipt No.: RPT20240000000636

Finalization No.: 2024003587

Cashier: 28

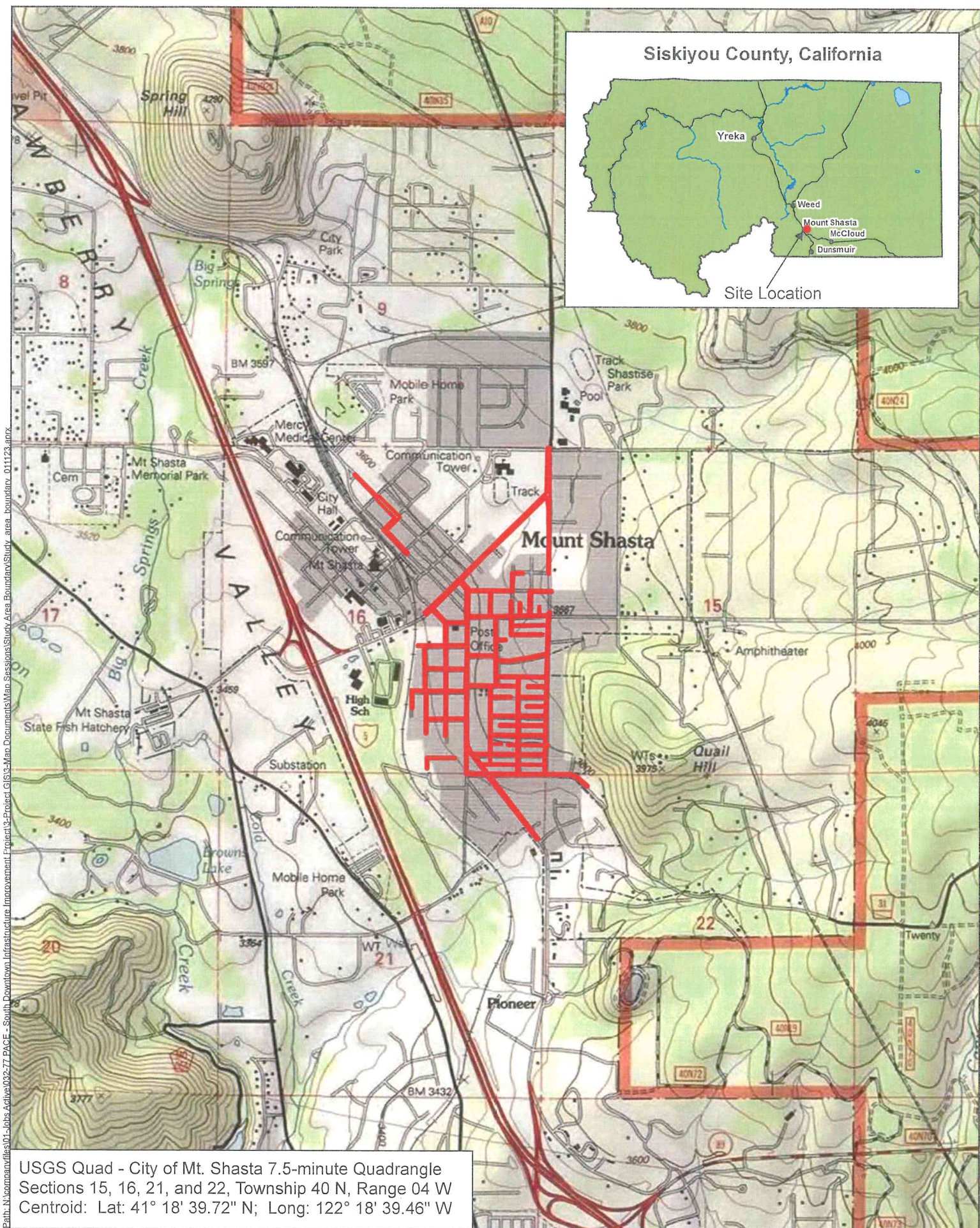
Register: CLK-044

Date/Time: 09/13/2024 01:35 PM

Description	Fee
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION	
Filing Time:	01:35 PM
Filing Total:	\$50.00
Filing Fee:	\$50.00
Total Amount Due:	\$50.00
Total Paid	
Cash Tendered:	\$60.00
Change	\$10.00
Amount Due:	\$0.00

THANK YOU
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE





Path: \\knoanman\files\01-Jobs Active\032-27-PACF - South Downtown Infrastructure Improvement\Project\2-Project GIS\3-Map Documents\Map Sessions\Study Area Boundary\Study area boundary_011123.aprx

USGS Quad - City of Mt. Shasta 7.5-minute Quadrangle
Sections 15, 16, 21, and 22, Township 40 N, Range 04 W
Centroid: Lat: 41° 18' 39.72" N; Long: 122° 18' 39.46" W



Figure 1
Project Location and Vicinity

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 06.10.24



ATTACHMENT A
Documentation for Categorical Exemption
City of Mt. Shasta South Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1-Existing Facilities); §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction); and §15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Location. *Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The proposed project is supported in part by a Class 3 exemption. As documented below, no evidence has been found to suggest that the project location is particularly sensitive. Likewise, the project is not expected to affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Class 3 exemption is applicable to the proposed project.

2. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves improvements to the City's sewer system, water system, and stormdrain infrastructure. There are no other closely related reasonably foreseeable future projects in the project area that would cause related impacts. In addition, the project would not result in a significant increase in capacity. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

3. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

The sewer mains, sewer laterals, water mains, and stormdrain pipes would be subsurface, and the stormdrain inlets and manholes would be flush with the ground. The curb, gutter, sidewalk, and related design features would be visually compatible with infrastructure in the surrounding area and would not result in a significant visual change.

Paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved at completion of the improvements, and other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored as necessary. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease upon the completion of the improvements; no unusual circumstances apply and no significant impacts would occur.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

Improvements would occur in an urban area within the public road ROW and public utility easements. There are no forest resources or properties in agricultural use in the project area. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants and GHGs during construction. ROG and NO_x emissions would be associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ would be generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality or GHG emissions that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

A Biological Study Report (BSR) was completed by ENPLAN to identify the project's potential effects on special-status species and natural communities. The study included a records search and field evaluation. Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records for special-status plants, animals, and natural communities; California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records for special-status plants in the City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and candidate plant and animal species under jurisdiction of the USFWS; USFWS records for Birds of Conservation Concern; and National Wetlands Inventory maps. The CNDDB records search covered an approximate five-mile radius around the study area.

Field evaluations were conducted by an ENPLAN biologist on July 22, 2021, March 22 and April 5, 2022, and May 23, 2023. Some of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted; however, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics.

Special-Status Species:

Special-Status Plants

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified one federally listed plant species, Lassics lupine (Federally Endangered [FE], State Endangered [SE], California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1B.1), as potentially occurring in the project vicinity. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species.

Review of CNDDB records showed that four special-status plant species have been broadly mapped in the project area: broad-nerved hump moss (CRPR 2B.2), marsh skullcap (CRPR 2B.2), northern adder's tongue (CRPR 2B.2), Siskiyou clover (CRPR 1B.1), subalpine aster (CRPR 2B.3), woodnymph (CRPR 2B.2), and woolly balsamroot (CRPR 1B.2).

The following special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: Aleppo avens (CRPR 2B.2), Gasquet rose (CRPR 1B.3), Klamath fawn lily (CRPR 2B.2), Oregon fireweed (CRPR 1B.2), pallid bird's-beak (CRPR 1B.2), rattlesnake fern (CRPR 2B.2), rosy orthocarpus (CRPR 2B.1), Shasta chaenactis (CRPR 1B.3), Waldo daisy (CRPR 2B.3), and Wilkin's harebell (CRPR 1B.2). Three non-status plant species, Baker's globe mallow (CRPR 4.2), Pacific fuzzwort (CRPR 4.3), and three-ranked hump moss (CRPR 4.2), also have been reported within the search radius.

CNPS records identified one additional special-status plant species, northern slender pondweed (CRPR 2B.2), reported in the USGS City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle. Six additional non-status plant species were reported in the USGS City of Mount Shasta 7.5-minute quadrangle: California lady's-slipper (CRPR 4.2), California pitcherplant (CRPR 4.2), clustered lady's-slipper (CRPR 4.2), marsh claytonia (CRPR 4.3), rough harebell (CRPR 4.3), and slender cottongrass (CRPR 4.3). No special-status plant species were observed in the project site during the field surveys and based on observed habitat characteristics, none are expected to be present.

Special-Status Wildlife

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified the following federally listed wildlife species as potentially being present in the project area: conservancy fairy shrimp (Federally

Endangered [FE]), Franklin's bumble bee (FE, State Candidate Species [SC]), gray wolf (FE), monarch butterfly (Federal Candidate [FC]), North American wolverine (Federally Threatened [FT]), northern spotted owl (FT), northwestern pond turtle (Federally Proposed Threatened [FPT]), vernal pool fairy shrimp (FT), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (FE), and yellow-billed cuckoo (FT). The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study area for any federally listed wildlife species.

CNDDDB records showed that four special-status wildlife species have been broadly mapped in the project area: spotted bat (State Species of Special Concern [SSSC]), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (SC), western bumble bee (SC), and western yellow-billed cuckoo (FT, State Endangered [SE]). The following special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: bald eagle (Federally Delisted [FD], State Fully Protected [SFP], SE), bank swallow (State Threatened [ST]), black swift (SSSC), Cascades frog (SC, SSSC), fisher (SSSC), foothill yellow-legged frog (SSSC), Franklin's bumble bee (FE, SC), American goshawk (SSSC), Sierra Nevada red fox (ST), western mastiff bat (SSSC), and yellow rail (SSSC). The following non-status wildlife species also have been mapped within the search radius: American peregrine falcon, great blue heron, long-eared myotis, Natural Bridge megomphix, North American porcupine, obscure bumble bee, osprey, Pacific marten, and silver-haired bat. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field surveys.

Based on habitat observations, two special-status species have the potential to be present in the project area: monarch butterfly and Franklin's bumble bee. The monarch butterfly relies on milkweed plants for development and survival. No milkweed plants were observed in the study area during the botanical surveys; therefore, although monarch butterflies may occasionally pass through the area, they are not expected to rely on the project site for critical life-stage activities. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts on monarch butterflies would occur.

Franklin's bumble bee has a very limited geographic distribution; according to California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) and CNDDDB records, the species was last observed in California in 1998, and in Oregon in 2006. It is considered possibly extinct in many locations. The species relies on flowering plants for food and is presumed to overwinter in soft, disturbed soil or under leaf litter or other debris. In the project area, flowering plants are located primarily in the yards of residences adjacent to the project area and would not be affected by the project. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts on Franklin's bumble bees would occur.

Natural Communities

As a result of the field surveys, three communities were identified in the study area: urban, stream/riverine, and wetland. The urban habitat consists of paved roads, driveways, and both residential and commercial structures adjacent to the study area. The stream/riverine habitat consists of Cold Creek and several unnamed intermittent streams and drainages throughout the study area, some of which pass under streets in culverts. Potential wetlands were identified at the western end of Water Street east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and outside of the study area adjacent to proposed improvements on East Lake Street and Chestnut Street.

Improvements within the potential wetland feature at the western end of Water Street include the construction of a new concrete headwall and riprap energy dissipator. Work would be completed in accordance with resource agency permit conditions; needed permits may include a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, a Nationwide Permit from the USACE, and/or a Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB.

Indirect effects could potentially occur if sediments or other pollutants enter surface waters and degrade habitat in the project area and/or downstream. However, existing City policies require that all development projects in the City implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion/sediment control during construction. BMPs may include limiting construction to the dry season, using straw wattles and silt fences to prevent sediment from discharging to surface waters and sensitive habitats, and/or revegetating temporarily disturbed areas as necessary.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being present in the project area: bald eagle, California gull, Cassin's finch, chestnut-backed chickadee, Clark's grebe, evening grosbeak, golden eagle, oak titmouse, olive-sided flycatcher, rufous hummingbird, western grebe, western screech-owl, and wrentit. Construction activities are not expected to directly affect nesting birds because nearly all work would be completed in surfaced roadways and no trees would be removed. If vegetation is removed during the nesting season (between February 1 and August 31), a pre-construction survey would be completed in accordance with the City's standard construction measures. Indirect effects such as nest abandonment by adults in response to loud noise levels are not expected given the urban character of the work area. Any birds that may nest adjacent to the work area would be accustomed to periodic loud noises and other human-induced disturbances.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, natural communities, wetlands, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Energy

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use during construction of the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone is the Cedar Mountain Fault Zone, approximately 24 miles to the east. The California Geological Survey (CGS) identifies two potentially active unnamed faults northeast of the project area. One is a north-south trending fault running through the top of Mount Shasta ~7 miles to the northeast; the other is an east-west trending fault that runs from the top of Mount Shasta to a point north of Black Butte ~6 miles to the north. However, this is not unique to the project. Soils within the project area are mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Deetz gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes; Diyou loam, peat substratum; and Ponto-Near complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes. These soil types are found throughout the Mt. Shasta area and are not unique to the project site.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. BMPs for erosion/sediment control would be implemented during earth-disturbing activities in accordance with standard construction practices, which would minimize potential impacts to surface and groundwater quality.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06093C3025D, effective January 18, 2011), the proposed improvements are not located within a designated flood hazard zone. There are no unique circumstances related to hydrology or water quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Land Use and Planning:

The proposed project would not conflict with the City's General Plan, Municipal Code, or other regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Further, the project does not include any components that would physically divide an established community.

Mineral Resources:

The CGS identified two active mines near the project site. The Spring Hill Mine is located within the City limits, east of Interstate 5 at the north end of the City, ~2.15 miles north of the proposed improvements on Chestnut Street. In addition, the Mt. Shasta Pit Mine is located outside the City limits on the west side of Interstate 5, ~1.9 miles northwest of the proposed improvements on Chestnut Street. Due to the distance

from the project area, the project would have no impact on existing mining operations. In addition, the City's Zoning Code allows mineral resource extraction and production as a conditional Use in the Resource Lands (R-L) zone district. According to the City's Zoning Map, there are presently no lands in the City limits that are zoned R-L. Further, the project site is in an urbanized area that is not conducive to mining operations.

Noise:

The project does not include any components that would result in an increase in noise levels in the long term. Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area; however, this is a temporary impact that would cease at completion of the project. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging, damaged, and undersized sewer, water, and stormdrain infrastructure to eliminate existing environmental and public health risks. Because the project would not significantly increase capacity in the City's water distribution system and wastewater collection system, the project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan.

Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area beyond that currently projected in the City's General Plan, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services. Further, there would be no increased demand for utility services.

Transportation/Traffic:

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic or vehicle miles traveled. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Further, this is a temporary impact and would cease upon completion of the improvements.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

- 4. Scenic Highways.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in 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.*

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area; therefore, there would be no impact.

- 5. Hazardous Waste Sites.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.

- SWRCB GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The EnviroStor database identified one clean-up site in the project area:

The Landing – Old Mill Section

The Landing clean-up site is located on City-owned property southwest of the southern extent of improvements on South Mt. Shasta Boulevard (DTSC, n.d.). The site was formerly used for lumber milling and log storage from 1900 until the late 1960s. Historical mill operations resulted in contamination of the site. Site investigations and remediation activities commenced in 2014. All required removal/remedial actions have been completed, and a Removal Action Completion (RAC) Report was prepared by Geocon Consultants, Inc., and submitted to the DTSC on May 24, 2024 (Geocon, 2024). On June 6, 2024, DTSC approved the RAC Report and determined that all appropriate removal/remedial actions have been completed, and soil with contamination exceeding the established project cleanup goals was removed to allow for future commercial and industrial usage of the site (DTSC, 2024).

The GeoTracker database identified one open clean-up site in the project area:

Red-Dye Fuel Release of Unknown Origin – N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard

The "Red-Dye Fuel Release of Unknown Origin" clean-up site is located ~250 feet northwest of proposed sewer main and stormdrain improvements in E. Jessie Street. According to Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) records, on September 25, 2018, City Public Works staff discovered dyed red fuel in groundwater while replacing a water meter in the City ROW located in the alley east of North Mt. Shasta Boulevard.

On November 19, 2018, the CVRWQCB sent a letter to the City and nearby property owner requesting completion of a work plan for a preliminary site investigation that would assess the soil and groundwater in the vicinity of the encountered diesel release. No work plans were submitted; however, in November 2019, the City removed obviously contaminated soil, removed remaining water from the excavation, collected a grab groundwater sample, placed hydrocarbon-absorbing material into the excavation, and filled the excavation with clean fill. The groundwater sample had small blebs of fuel, and the City's contractor found that highly contaminated groundwater remained on-site.

In January 2020, CVRWQCB staff observed groundwater flowing along the southern margin of the structure at 622 N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard, entering a drainage inlet, and discharging to the ditch/stream adjacent to the railroad tracks. The volume of water suggests that it may be discharging from the alley drain line, which intercepts groundwater migrating from upgradient areas to the east. Further investigation by the CVRWQCB to determine the source of contamination and to determine the potentially responsible parties will take place. No further action has been posted on the GeoTracker database since January 2020, and the site has been marked as "open – inactive" on the GeoTracker database since November 30, 2020.

As noted above, it appears the source of the contamination may be from a drain line in the alley between N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard and Chestnut Street, and groundwater appears to be flowing south/southeast to a drainage inlet and discharging to the ditch/stream adjacent to the railroad tracks. No work is proposed in these areas, and it is not expected that contamination from this clean-up site will be encountered during installation of the proposed improvements. In the event that contaminated soil or groundwater are encountered, the City would be responsible for the proper handling and disposal of the contaminated material in accordance with State and local requirements.

6. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

A Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) was completed for the proposed project by ENPLAN. The study included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search included review of records at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Points of Historic Interest, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), the directory of properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Siskiyou County, historical maps, and aerial photographs.

A records search was conducted by the NEIC/CHRIS on May 23, 2023, and covered a 1/2-mile radius around the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE includes all areas in which improvements would occur, and areas for staging and temporary construction access, as well as sufficient area for construction.

The records search revealed that 28 archaeological surveys have been conducted within a 1/2-mile radius of the APE, six of which encompassed minimal portions of the APE within the public road ROW. The record search revealed that 28 archaeological sites have been recorded within a 1/2-mile radius of the APE; none of these sites are within the APE.

On October 28, 2022, the NAHC conducted a search of the Sacred Lands File; the search did not reveal any known Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted on January 11, 2023, with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. One response was received from Wiyaka Bennett, ecologist, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation on February 1, 2023. Ms. Bennett stated that they knew of no resources in the project area but that ENPLAN should contact them in the event Native American resources were found. No other responses were received.

Archaeological fieldwork took place on April 15, 2023, during which the APE was intensively surveyed to identify cultural resources that would be potentially affected by the proposed project. No cultural resources were found within the APE.

The CRI concluded that the project would have no effect on historical or prehistoric cultural resources. However, because there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during site excavation, the following standard construction measures would be included in construction contracts for the project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the City shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the City shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.
3. In the event that project plans change to include areas not surveyed, additional archaeological reconnaissance may be required. If cultural resources are encountered, the archaeologist shall recommend/implement additional mitigation measures as necessary, which may include subsequent monitoring by an archaeologist or Native American representative.

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