

Appendix A
Notice of Preparation

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County of Humboldt

California Environmental Quality Act

Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting
for a Draft Environmental Impact Report

for the

Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project

April 2018

California Environmental Quality Act
**Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting for a
Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project**




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April 2018

GHD Project Ref#: 11146487

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Table of contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
1.1	CEQA Requirements	1
1.2	Scoping Period and Public Scoping Meeting.....	1
2.	Project Location and Setting	2
3.	Project Description	3
3.1	Proposed Project	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.	Probable Environmental Effects.....	5
5.	Permits and Approvals	5
6.	Initial Study.....	6
6.1	Aesthetics	6
6.2	Agricultural and Forestry Resources	6
6.3	Air Quality	7
6.4	Biological Resources	7
6.5	Cultural Resources	8
6.6	Geology & Soils	8
6.7	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	9
6.8	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	9
6.9	Hydrology & Water Quality	10
6.10	Land Use & Planning	11
6.11	Mineral Resources	12
6.12	Noise	12
6.13	Population & Housing	13
6.14	Public Services	13
6.15	Recreation.....	14
6.16	Transportation & Traffic	15
6.17	Tribal Cultural Resources	15
6.18	Utilities & Service Systems	16
7.	References	16

Appendices

Appendix A - Figures

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1. Introduction

The County of Humboldt is the project sponsor for the Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project (project). The County has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the appropriate level of environmental review for the project.

1.1 CEQA Requirements

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Humboldt will be the Lead Agency for the preparation of the EIR for the proposed project (described in more detail below). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to solicit guidance from responsible and trustee agencies and comments from the general public as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. This may include identification of potential impacts that should be studied or mitigation measures that should be investigated.

1.2 Scoping Period and Public Scoping Meeting

Protect Title: Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project

Lead Agency: County of Humboldt, Lead Agency

Availability of Project Documents/Files: Project documents/files are available for review at the County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, located at 3015 H Street in Eureka, California, and on the County's website at <https://humboldt.gov/2364/Long-Range-Planning-Projects>. Document files will also be made available upon request at GHD at 718 Third Street in Eureka, California.

Scoping Period: The comment period for the NOP is from April 30 to May 30, 2018. The deadline for submitting written comments is Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. During the scoping period, written comments on the scope of the EIR can be mailed, delivered, or emailed to:

John Miller, Senior Planner
Planning and Building Department
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Email: jpmiller@co.humboldt.ca.

Comments can also be sent via fax to 707-268-3792 with "Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project, Comments on NOP" in the title.

Public Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting to accept oral and written comments on the environmental issues germane to the project will be held on Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at:

Fairhaven Fire Station
1982 Gass Street,
Fairhaven, CA 95564

2. Project Location and Setting

2.1.1 Project Location

The proposed project planning area includes areas within the proposed Peninsula Community Services District (PCSD) boundary, bound by Humboldt Bay to the east, Pacific Ocean to the west, extending north to the Manila Community Services District (MCSD) boundary and south to the federal property line that includes the Coast Guard Station and Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. Figure 1 shows the regional location and Figure 2 shows the project's service area. Figure 3 shows the project's construction activity boundary, including construction staging areas.

2.1.2 Land Use and Zoning

Current land use within the PCSD service area includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, coastal dependent industrial, public facilities, parks, and a school. Residential areas include the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven, and Finntown. Industrial areas include two former pulp mill sites (which have been re-purposed for various commercial and industrial uses), a chip export facility with a marine terminal, a biomass power plant, and vacant industrial properties. Commercial uses include aquaculture, boat repair, potting soil manufacturing, and a recycling transfer station.

General Plan land use designations for the PCSD service area is Natural Resources (NR), Public Facility (PF), Industrial General (MG), Industrial Coastal Dependent (MC), Commercial Recreation (CR), Commercial General (CG), Residential Medium Density (RM), Residential Low Density (RL), Business Park (MB), Public Recreation (PR). Zoning classifications generally match the land use designations and include: Industrial Coastal Dependent (MC), Industrial General (MG), Residential (RS), Natural Resources (NR), Public Facility Urban (PF1), Public Recreation (PR). Archeological Resource Area (A), Design (D), Planned Unit Development (P), and Coastal Wetlands (W), combining zones are applied to specific areas within the Town of Samoa, and Archeological Resource Area (A) and Coastal Wetlands (W), combining zones are applied to certain developable areas outside the Town of Samoa.

The Humboldt Bay Area Plan (HBAP) is the certified Local Coastal Plan (LCP) for this area, and does not allow the construction of a wastewater treatment facility for residential service to Fairhaven or Finntown; however, Humboldt County is currently working with the California Coastal Commission to update the HBAP to allow for service as well as to update planning for MC uses, sea level rise planning, and tsunami safety. It is anticipated that the LCP will be updated to allow for the permitting and construction of the proposed project.

The PCSD service area is located entirely within the "Appeal" portion of the Coastal Zone. Therefore, the project would require a coastal development permit (CDP) from the County of Humboldt which would be appealable to the California Coastal Commission (CCC). Alternatively, if the project includes areas within the CDP jurisdiction of both the County and the State (CCC), then the CDP process would be consolidated to the CCC resulting in a single CDP.

2.1.3 Environmental Setting

The climate is Mediterranean with precipitation most abundant in the winter months, and the average annual rainfall is approximately 48 inches. Approximately two thirds of the year, the site is influenced by coastal fog. There are no prominent water features aside from the Pacific Ocean to the west and Humboldt Bay to the east. The PCSD service area varies in elevation from sea level to approximately 40 feet above mean sea level (North American Vertical Datum of 1988; NAVD88),

and is approximately four miles long. There are no parcels in the PCSD service area that are in agricultural production or under Williamson Act contract.

3. Project Description

The proposed project would result in construction and operation of a consolidated wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system for residential, commercial/industrial, recreational, and institutional facilities located within the boundaries of the PCSD. The project would provide wastewater service to the unincorporated communities of Fairhaven and Finntown; however, the project would not provide service to the Samoa Townsite as described in the approved Samoa Townsite Master Plan. The project would be implemented in the following phases:

Phase 1

Phase 1 includes construction and operation of a collection system, upgrades to a previously approved wastewater treatment plant, and a disposal system to serve the existing development within the boundaries of the PCSD.

Phase 2

Phase 2 would allow future infill development, consistent with existing LCP plan and zone, within the PCSD boundary to connect to the project's collection system and be served by the wastewater treatment plant.

Each project phase is discussed in detail below.

3.1 Phase 1 Components

As stated above, Phase 1 of the proposed project would allow sewer service to existing development within the boundaries of the PCSD. Phase 1 of the proposed project includes the following components:

- Collection System: wastewater pipelines installed in-road
- Upgrades to the previously approved Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): secondary treatment plant in the Town of Samoa with a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) system followed by ultraviolet (UV) disinfection.
- Treated Water Disposal: ocean outfall pipe at the Redwood Marine Terminal II (RMT-II) site
- Solids Treatment and Disposal: onsite dewatering using a polymer injection system and a roll-off style dewatering container.

3.1.1 Collection System

The proposed collection system consists of gravity flow pipes in the communities of Fairhaven and Finntown, connected by a single pressure pipe running north to a centralized WWTP near the Town of Samoa. Gravity pipes would be a minimum diameter of 8 inches to allow for easy access of cleaning and inspection equipment. Manholes would be placed a maximum of every 500 feet, at each change in vertical or horizontal alignment, within existing right of ways and streets, and at the end of every pipe run. Gravity mains and laterals would be constructed to prevent floatation during seismic events or due to high groundwater. The proposed pipeline alignments are shown in Figure 3.

Each community would have at least one centralized pump station to pump raw wastewater to the WWTP through the central pressure main. The pressure main would include air relief valves at each rise in the pipe with air scrubbers to remove noxious gasses and odors. These filters and lines to the air relief valves shall be regularly maintained and cleaned. The pressure main would also include cleanout stations at each change in horizontal or vertical alignment, intersection of main lines, and at the end of every pipe run, for launching of a pipeline inspection gauge to clean the pipe when necessary. The wastewater in the system would be conveyed to the proposed Town of Samoa WWTP location.

3.1.2 Town of Samoa Wastewater Treatment Plant

The project would result in the construction of upgrades to the previously approved WWTP in the Town of Samoa. The WWTP has not been constructed, but was analyzed in the certified Samoa Townsite Master Plan EIR, State Clearinghouse Number 2003052054. Location of the WWTP is shown in Figure 3. The WWTP upgrades would include a primary treatment system for raw wastewater, involving screening and grit removal, followed by secondary treatment system of a Sequencing Batch Reactor. Effluent would be disinfected with a UV system. For solids handling the proposed project would dewater the solids using a batch process onsite.

3.1.3 Treated Water Disposal

Effluent from the WWTP would be transported to Manhole 5 for ocean disposal. The proposed ocean discharge location is through the ocean outfall located at RMT-II. A pressurized effluent pipeline with one pump station would be constructed from the wastewater treatment plant to Manhole 5 for connection to the ocean outfall. The effluent pipeline would be installed beneath existing roadways to minimize environmental impacts. To easily handle all future flows a 6-inch PVC pipeline should be installed. The effluent pipeline would be approximately 4,000 feet long.

3.1.4 Solids Dewatering and Disposal

Dried solids, or “cake” would be hauled to either a landfill or composting operation. Currently, the landfill in Anderson, California is the nearest landfill that would accept these solids. There are also composting facilities in the Humboldt Bay area that could potentially accept these solids (note: a WDR permit is required in order to accept Class B biosolids).

3.2 Phase 2 Components

Phase 2 of the proposed project would allow future infill development, consistent with existing LCP plan and zone, within the PCSD boundary to connect to the project’s collection system and be served by the wastewater treatment plant. The increase in effluent resulting from Phase 2 implementation would be conveyed, processed, and disposed of using the facilities constructed under Phase 1. No additional construction along the collection system or at the WWTP would be required.

3.3 Project Implementation

Construction of Phase 1 components is anticipated to begin in 2020, and be complete within 12 months. Phase 2 would be implemented at an unknown future date. For the purposes of analysis, it is assumed that Phase 2 would be implemented by 2030.

4. Probable Environmental Effects

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 (a)(1)(c), the following environmental factors have been identified as potential environmental effects of the Project and will therefore be evaluated in the EIR. These effects are discussed in greater detail in Section 6 of this document.

Aesthetics	Land Use and Planning
Air Quality	Noise
Biological Resources	Population and Housing
Cultural Resources	Public Services
Geology and Soils	Recreation
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Transportation/Traffic
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Tribal Cultural Resources
Hydrology and Water Quality	Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR will not include an evaluation of agricultural or forest resources because the project site does not include any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or land covered by a Williamson Act contract. There are no parcels in the PCSD service area that are in agricultural production or under a Williamson Act contract. The project area does not include any forest land, timberland, or land zoned for these uses.

The EIR will not include an evaluation of Mineral Resources. Humboldt County has not yet been included in the California Mineral Land Classification System by the State Mining and Geology Board to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance, and there are no mining operations in the project area. Construction of the project would not result in the loss of a known mineral resource or availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site as delineated on a land use plan, such as a local general plan or specific plan. Neither the County of Humboldt General Plan or HBAP designate the project site as having a known mineral resource of value (Humboldt 2017, Humboldt 2014).

The EIR will evaluate the potential cumulative environmental effects related to implementation of the project, identify and evaluate alternatives to the project, and identify mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts as a result of the project.

5. Permits and Approvals

Phase 1 Permits and Approvals

Phase 1 of the proposed project would be subject to some or all of the following permits and/or approvals from various regulatory agencies:

- County of Humboldt and Coastal Commission – Local Coastal Plan Amendment
- County of Humboldt – Encroachment Permit
- Caltrans – Encroachment Permit
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Report of Waste Discharge, 401 Water Quality Certification, Construction General Permit
- Humboldt County and California Coastal Commission - Coastal Development Permit
- California State Lands Commission – Lease
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife – Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404 Permit

Phase 2 Permits and Approvals

Phase 2 of the proposed project would be subject to the following permit and/or approval from various regulatory agencies:

- County of Humboldt and Coastal Commission – Amend the Humboldt Bay Area Plan (HBAP) to allow wastewater service to future infill development, consistent with plan and zone, within the boundaries of the PCSD

6. Initial Study

The following discussion was prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, using the project location, environmental setting, and description provided within Section 2 and Section 3 of this document. The discussion evaluates potential adverse effects by resource category based on preliminary review and the preliminary design report prepared for the proposed project. The environmental categories presented below are from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Mitigation measures would be developed in the EIR and presented along with additional and specific site information and analysis. There is the potential for significant impacts to occur as a result of the proposed project, even with the use of mitigation measures; therefore, an EIR would be prepared to evaluate potential environmental effects as a result of the proposed project, and would also evaluate alternatives and other CEQA requirements.

6.1 Aesthetics

Would the project:
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

A scenic vista is generally considered a view of an area that has remarkable scenery or a natural or cultural resource that is indigenous to the area. The project area has a mapped coastal scenic view from New Navy Base Road within the project area shown on the HBAP Coastal Resource Map, and scenic views of the Bay and dunes in some locations. Project activities are not anticipated to substantially degrade scenic resources in the project area; however, the EIR would analyze the potential impacts to aesthetic resources, and if appropriate, include feasible mitigation measures.

6.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Would the project:
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The project area does not contain any farmland or agricultural land, including Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There are no parcels in the PCSD service area that are in agricultural production or under a Williamson Act contract (CDC 2015). The project area does not include any forest land, timberland, or land zoned for these uses. The project will not conflict with such zoning, result in the loss of forest land, or convert forest land or farm land to non-forest or non-agricultural use. No impact is anticipated to occur.

6.3 Air Quality

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

The project area is located within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). The NCAB is currently in attainment (or is unclassified) for all state and federal ambient air quality standards, with the exception of the state standard for particulate matter less than ten micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀). The EIR would discuss the temporary impacts from construction activities and identify potential mitigation measures if needed. The EIR would discuss the proposed project's conformity with applicable air quality plans and exposure of sensitive receptors to criteria air pollutants and odors, and mitigation measures would be included where applicable.

6.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with

established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

A wide variety of plants and animals, including special-status species, inhabit the project area, utilize the site, and may be affected by implementation of the proposed project. The project area also includes environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) including wetlands, riparian areas, coastal dunes, and uplands that support a diverse array of aquatic and terrestrial biological resources. Wetlands and other ESHA within the project's boundary will be identified and mapped, and potential effects on listed or proposed special-status species and habitats will be evaluated. Biological study will include queries of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) databases, and Coastal Resource maps from the Humboldt Bay Area Plan will also be consulted in identifying ESHA and biological resources. A field survey will be conducted of the proposed project area by qualified field biologists. Based on the results of the database queries, special-status species considered most likely to occur in the vicinity of the project area will be seasonally surveyed. The EIR will analyze potential impacts to special-status species, wetlands, riparian habitat, coastal dunes, and other ESHA, and include feasible mitigation measures for any potentially significant impacts. The EIR would also discuss the proposed project's conformity with local policies or plans protecting biological resources.

6.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

A Cultural Resources Investigation will be prepared for the proposed project to inventory cultural resources and assess potential impacts on these resources from proposed project activities. Potential impacts may include the destruction of known or unknown cultural resources during construction. The EIR would include the results from this investigation and include mitigation measures for the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, paleontological resources (if applicable), and the inadvertent discovery of human remains.

6.6 Geology & Soils

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic related ground failure, including liquefaction?
iv) Landslides?
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on, or off, site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The Humboldt coast, including the project area, is located within the area known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ). The CSZ is capable of generating mega-earthquakes of 9.0 magnitude or greater. A geotechnical and geologic hazard investigation will be conducted to characterize site conditions and to provide the necessary data to inform the design team relative to site limitations. The EIR will describe the site's existing geologic conditions and soils based on existing information and the geotechnical and geologic hazard investigation prepared for the proposed project. Geologic and soils issues include potential erosion and sedimentation during and after construction due to proposed grading, trenching, construction, staging, and other proposed ground disturbing activities, as well as potential exposure of people or structures to adverse effects related to seismic activity. The EIR will include an analysis of the geology of the site as it relates to slope stability, earthquake hazards, liquefaction, landslides, subsidence, rise of sea level, and any other potential geologic hazards, and recommend appropriate mitigation measures if applicable.

6.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Construction of the proposed project would cause release of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as a result of combustion of fossil fuels used in construction equipment and vehicles from workers commuting to and from the project area. The proposed project construction would require the use of several pieces of heavy earthmoving equipment, and construction commute and utility vehicles. The NCUAQMD has not adopted a threshold for construction-related GHG emissions against which to evaluate significance and has not established construction-generated criteria air pollutant screening levels above which quantitative air quality emissions would be required; however, this potential impact would be further discussed in the EIR and appropriate mitigation measures would be included if applicable. The EIR would also discuss climate change projections and the potential effects of climate change on the proposed project.

6.8 Hazards & Hazardous Materials

Would the project:
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of

hazardous materials?

- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Construction of the proposed project would involve the use of materials that are generally regarded as hazardous, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, paint, and other similar materials. Operation of the proposed WWTP would include the use of diesel fuel, motor oils and other similar materials to periodically test and operate the emergency generator. The Samoa Peninsula has a long history of industrial activity. The project will be evaluated to determine if it creates a significant hazard to the public or environment, and if the project site is included on a list of hazardous materials sites per Government Code Section 65962.5. Existing documents, including Phase I and II environmental site assessments (ESA), reports, deed restrictions, and soil management contingency plans (SMCP) will be reviewed in an effort to identify potential sources of soil and groundwater contamination resulting from historical land uses. In addition, the CEQA lead agency may require a Phase I ESA, based on the proposed location of the collection, treatment, and disposal systems. The EIR will evaluate potential hazards associated with proximity to an airport or airstrip, impacts to an emergency response or evacuation plan, and/or exposure of people or structures to risk from wildland fires. Potential impacts could include the discovery of unknown hazardous materials during construction or the release of hazardous materials associated with transport, use, and disposal. The EIR will discuss the existing conditions with regard to potential hazards in the project area, identify appropriate spill prevention measures, identify potential impacts to project workers and the public due to potential soil contamination and other potential hazards at the site, and describe necessary mitigation measures if applicable.

6.9 Hydrology & Water Quality

Would the project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?
- b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off- site?

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off- site?
- e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?
- g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?
- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?
- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

There is little surface water on the Samoa Peninsula due to coarse sandy soils and high infiltration rates. Surface water impoundments are limited to the Town of Samoa wastewater oxidation pond and percolation pond, and seasonal marshes found near Fairhaven. Seasonal marshes near Fairhaven appear due to high groundwater and low ground surface elevations in the vicinity. Groundwater investigations on the Samoa Peninsula typically have been limited to industrial soil and groundwater contamination cleanup projects and wastewater infiltration studies. There are no drinking water wells on the peninsula; all drinking water is supplied by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD). One of the primary drivers for implementation of this project is based upon the current adverse impacts of the existing onsite wastewater disposal activities on groundwater and the water quality of Humboldt Bay, which the proposed project would improve. The proposed project could adversely affect water quality through release of contaminants and sediment from construction activities. The proposed project and water quality could be impacted by subsidence and sea level rise, and the peninsula is subject to tsunami inundation hazards. The EIR will discuss these issues and potential effects and incorporate mitigation measures if applicable to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

6.10 Land Use & Planning

Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?
- b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?
- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

Current land use within the PCSD service area includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, coastal dependent industrial, public facilities, parks, and a school. Residential areas include the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven, and Finntown. Industrial areas include two former pulp mill sites (which have been re-purposed for various commercial and industrial uses), a chip export facility with a marine terminal, a biomass power plant, and vacant industrial properties. Commercial interests include aquaculture, boat repair, potting soil manufacturing, and a recycling transfer station. Proposed land uses in the PCSD service area vary widely because there is a substantial amount of vacant industrial property and infrastructure that can be re-commissioned or re-purposed. However,

most of these parcels are zoned coastal dependent industrial, restricting use to industries dependent on coastal marine access, such as, shipping or aquaculture. Existing industrial facilities may change over time; however, large industrial users meeting current zoning requirements are working with the California Coastal Commission on updating the Humboldt Bay Area Plan (HBAP) of the Humboldt County Local Coastal Plan (LCP) to allow for a treatment plant development and collection system connection to residential areas. The LCP amendment is among the approvals necessary for this proposed project to proceed. Other anticipated permits and approvals are listed in Section 4. There is limited residential growth potential outside of the Town of Samoa due to coastal and industrial zoning, environmental habitat sensitivity, and tsunami and earthquake hazards. The EIR will evaluate the impact of the project's construction and operation on the surrounding communities as well as the project's consistency with existing land use plans and regulations, including the County's General Plan, the HBAP, and the County zoning ordinance. The likelihood of physically dividing any of the surrounding communities will also be considered in this section. There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans in the area. The EIR will discuss these issues and potential effects and incorporate mitigation measures if applicable.

6.11 Mineral Resources

Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

Humboldt County has not yet been included in the California Mineral Land Classification System by the State Mining and Geology Board to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance, and there are no mining operations in the project area. The County of Humboldt General Plan does not designate the Project site as having a known mineral resource of value (Humboldt 2017). Construction of the project would require the use of fuels (primarily gas, diesel, and motor oil) for a variety of construction activities, including excavation, grading, and vehicle travel. During these activities, fuel for construction worker commute trips would be minor in comparison to the fuel used by construction equipment. The proposed project would not require the use of a substantial amount of any mineral resource, and would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources of value to the state, region or locally. No impact is anticipated to occur.

6.12 Noise

Would the project:

- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?
- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Noise levels would increase temporarily during construction activities in the project area. The EIR would describe the existing noise levels in the project area and identify any noise sensitive receptors. The EIR would evaluate the potential for temporary noise impacts from construction, including any construction noise impacts to noise-sensitive biotic species. Future operational-related noise levels would also be compared to existing noise levels to determine if the proposed project would cause a significant permanent increase in ambient noise levels and mitigation measures would be included if applicable.

6.13 Population & Housing

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project would not add new homes or businesses in the project area. The project would also not displace any housing or people. The project would not directly induce growth in the area because the project would not facilitate the construction of new housing or create new employment opportunities other than temporary construction jobs. However, the project may indirectly induce growth through providing new sewerage capacity. The EIR will evaluate the project's potential to indirectly induce growth in the project area.

6.14 Public Services

Would the project:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire Protection?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

Law Enforcement Services

The project would not directly increase population, therefore, it is not anticipated that the project would increase the need for additional law enforcement personnel or services. The project would not include new or physically altered government facilities. The project is not anticipated to affect service ratios or response times for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office or California Highway Patrol. As stated in Section 5.13, the project may indirectly induce growth through providing new sewerage capacity. The EIR will evaluate the project's potential to indirectly induce growth in the project area, and any associated demands for law enforcement services associated with potential increased growth.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The project would not directly increase population, therefore, it is not anticipated that the project would increase the need for fire protection or emergency medical services, or affect service ratios or response times of these public services. The EIR will evaluate the project's potential to indirectly induce growth in the project area, and any associated demands for fire protection and emergency medical services associated with potential increased growth.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) maps areas of fire hazard severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) and State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within California. The community of Samoa is designated LRA Unzoned, with the area to the north designated LRA High, and south designated LRA Moderate (CAL FIRE 2007); however, the project would not increase the fire hazard and would not negatively affect the ability of fire or medical personnel from attending to an emergency in the project area. No roads would be blocked during project construction. The impact would be less than significant.

Schools, Parks, and/or Other Public Facilities

The project would not include construction of housing or other structures that would increase population and associated recreational demands in the project area, nor increase demand for other public facilities. The project would not directly result in an increase in population and therefore would not create a need for new schools or increase any school population. The EIR will evaluate the project's potential to indirectly induce growth in the project area, and any associated demands for public facilities associated with potential increased growth. The project would not affect school funding.

6.15 Recreation

Would the project:

- a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The project would not include construction of housing or other structures that would increase population and associated recreational demands in the project area. Construction and operation of the project would not increase population and would not increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities, nor require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. As stated in Section 5.13, the project may indirectly induce growth through providing new sewerage capacity. The EIR will evaluate the project's potential to indirectly induce growth in the project area, and any associated demands for recreational facilities associated with potential increased growth.

6.16 Transportation & Traffic

Would the project:

- a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?
- b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?
- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?
- e) Result in inadequate emergency access?
- f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

The proposed project would result in increased traffic during construction in combination with work occurring in roadways, which may temporarily decrease the overall performance and safety of local roadways, including the safety of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project may also result in increased operational traffic, potentially affecting levels of service on local streets. The EIR will discuss existing and proposed project traffic volumes and level of service in the project area and recommend mitigation measures (such as the implementation of a traffic control plan) if applicable.

6.17 Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
- b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Tribal cultural resources are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1; or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. The project may potentially encounter known or as-of-yet unknown archaeological materials during project-related construction activities. If such resources were to represent “tribal cultural resources” as defined by CEQA, any substantial change

to or destruction of such resources would be a significant impact. The EIR will analyze tribal cultural resources, including completion of consultation with California Native American Tribes per Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, where applicable, and identification of mitigation measures, if applicable, per Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.2.

6.18 Utilities & Service Systems

Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The proposed project does not include the construction of facilities (residential, commercial, or industrial) that would place additional demands on public water systems, wastewater systems, or landfills. The EIR would include information obtained from the County of Humboldt and applicable utility providers regarding any potential constraints, and if any significant impacts are identified then mitigation measures would be incorporated to reduce any potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

7. References

California Department of Conservation (CDC). 2015. Humboldt County Williamson Act FY 2015/2016 Sheet 2 of 2.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 2007, *Humboldt County, Draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA*, September 19.

County of Humboldt (Humboldt). 2014. Humboldt Bay Area Plan of the Humboldt County Local Coastal Program. December.

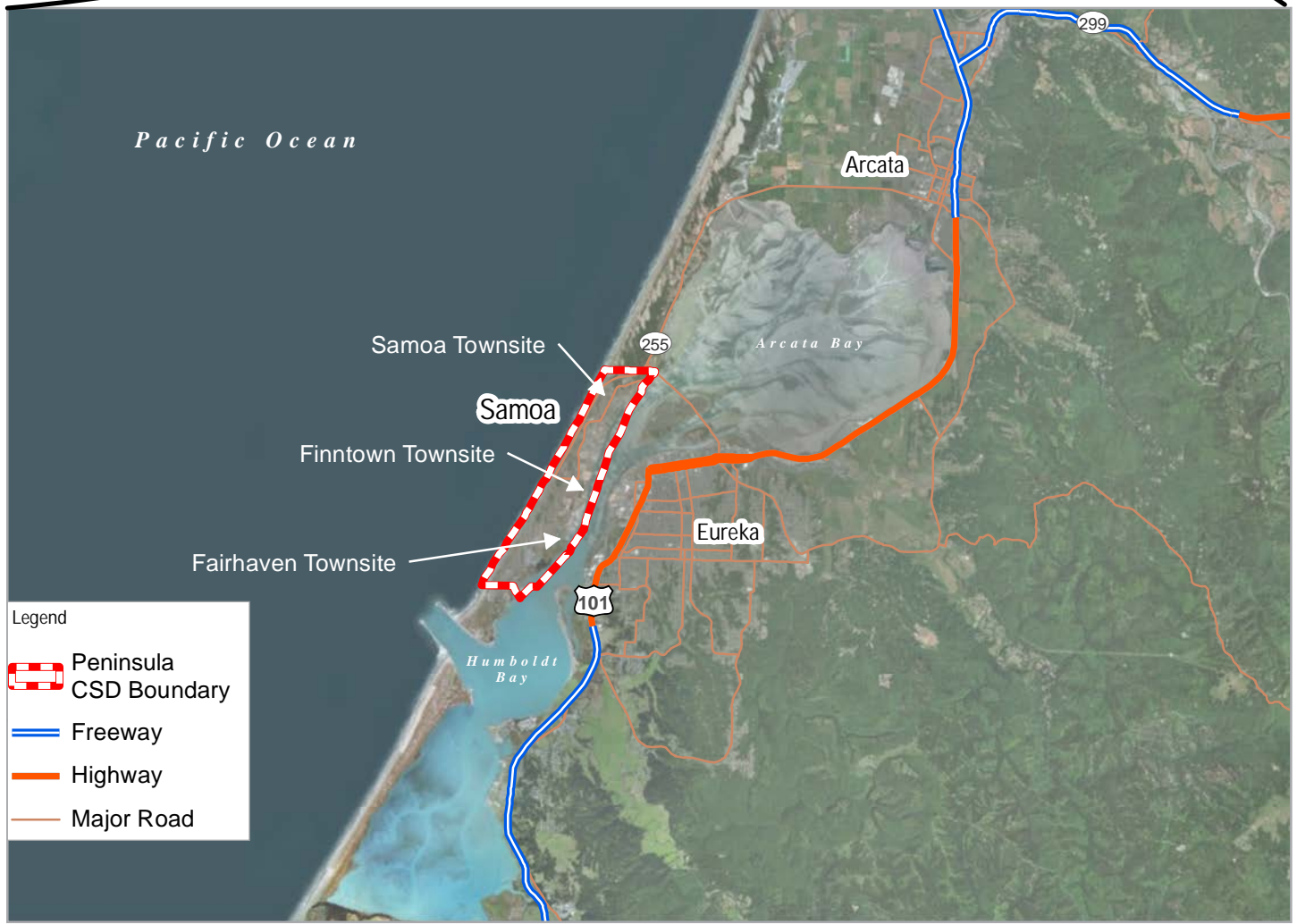
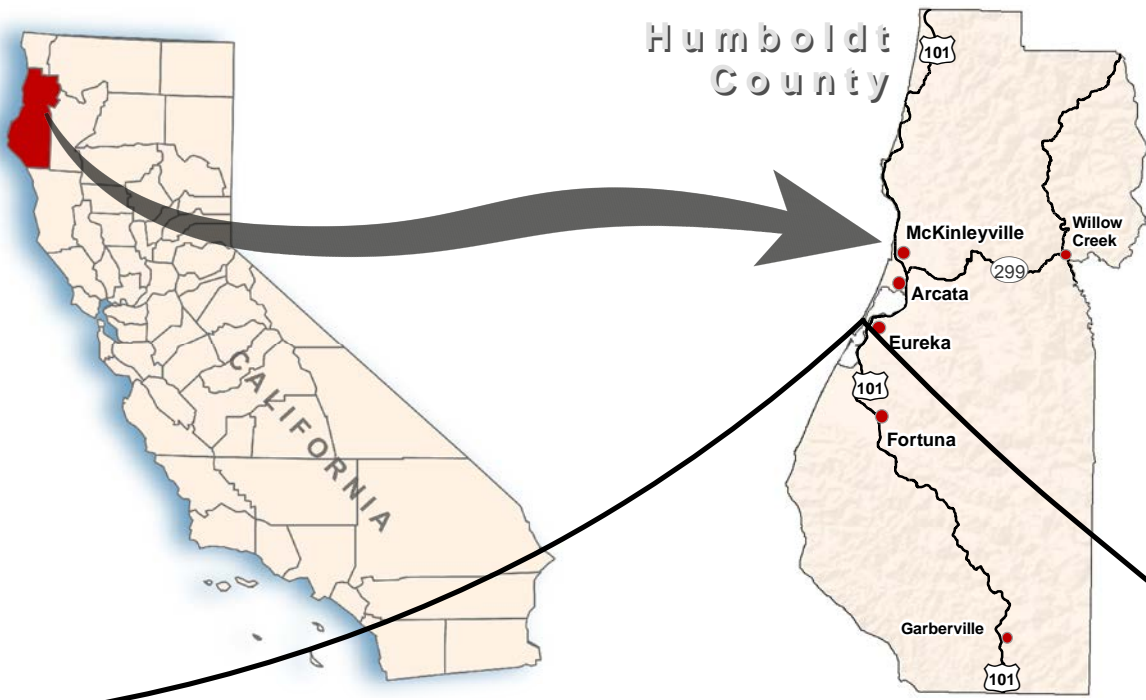
Humboldt. 2017. Humboldt County General Plan for the Areas Outside the Coastal Zone. October 23.

Appendices




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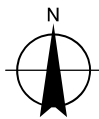
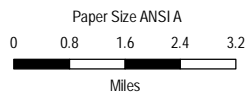
Appendix A - Figures

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Legend

-  Peninsula CSD Boundary
-  Freeway
-  Highway
-  Major Road



County of Humboldt
 Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project
 Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR

Project No. 11146487
 Revision No. -
 Date February 2018

Vicinity Map

FIGURE 1

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Legend

- Samoa Town Master Plan Area
- Samoa Peninsula CSD Boundary

Humboldt Bay Social Club
Samoa Field Motel and Bar
(City of Eureka)

Humboldt Bay Social Club
Oyster Beach Resort
(Private)

Samoa Townsite
(Samoa Pacific Group)

Samoa Peninsula
Union Elementary School
(Humboldt County)

Samoa Boat Launch
and Campground
(Humboldt County)

Fairhaven
Townsite
(SPCSD)

Fairhaven Business Park
(Private)

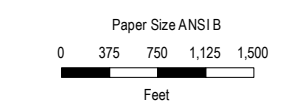
Finntown
Townsite
(SPCSD)

City of Eureka

HUMBOLDT BAY

PACIFIC OCEAN

Data Disclaimer
Proposed Samoa Peninsula Community Services District (SPCSD) boundary dependent upon Humboldt County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) approval.



Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Horizontal Datum: North American 1983
Grid: NAD 1983 StatePlane California I FIPS 0401 Feet



County of Humboldt
Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project
Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR

Proposed Project Service Area

Project No. SHN017203
Revision No. B
Date February 2018

FIGURE 2

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Print date: 21 Dec 2017 - 17:13

Data source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community. Created by SHN: cswanson




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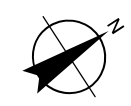
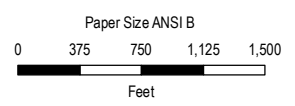
Pacific Ocean

Approximate Location of Proposed WWTF

Humboldt Bay

Proposed Activity

-  Project Boundary
-  Staging
-  Peninsula CSD Boundary



Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Horizontal Datum: North American 1983
Grid: NAD 1983 StatePlane California I FIPS 0401 Feet



County of Humboldt
Samoa Peninsula
Wastewater Project
Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR

Project No. 11146487
Revision No. A
Date March 2018

Project Boundary

FIGURE 3

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Data source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community. Created by: ashows

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