



City of Ridgecrest  
100 W. California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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This notice is being issued by the City of Ridgecrest and meets Lead Agency noticing requirements for a Notice of Preparation/Intent.

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF EIR

**Date Issued:** June 30, 2015

**Action:** NOP/NOI to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City of Ridgecrest New Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Summary:** The City of Ridgecrest is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City of Ridgecrest's New Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan was prepared in 2014 to evaluate two project alternatives that could accommodate existing and future growth within the City and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. The EIR will fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with Phase 1 of the two Project Alternatives, as well as the No Project Alternative.

Phase 1 of the New Wastewater Treatment Plant Project would involve the construction and operation of a new 3.6-million-gallon-per-day (MGD) wastewater treatment plant. Phase 2 of the New Wastewater Treatment Plant Project will require upgrades to treat up to 5.4 MGD. Because, there is no timeframe available for the construction of Phase 2, potential environmental impacts resulting from Phase 2 will be evaluated under subsequent environmental documentation.

**Dates:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by July 30, 2015. The Draft EIR is expected in October 2015 and the Final EIR in January 2016.

**Addresses:** Please send your written comments to:

**City of Ridgecrest**  
**Attn: John Bracken, Wastewater Supervisor**  
**100 W. California Avenue**  
**Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

or

**Email: [jbracken@ridgecrest-ca.gov](mailto:jbracken@ridgecrest-ca.gov)**

If applicable, responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency or organization.

## **For Further Information:**

### **Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group**

Attn: Dawn E. Marple, Senior Planner  
1800 30th Street, Suite 280  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 616-5900

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **Project Background:**

The existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located on the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) has been in service for many years and is in need of significant repair to maintain its functionality. Fundamental portions of the plant process components are deteriorated, and certain conditions may be considered hazardous. The WWTP is adequate for water recycling. Considering the condition of the existing WWTP, the existing facility will not continue to adequately serve the City and NAWS without substantial improvements or replacements. Additionally, the existing WWTP has approached its permitted capacity of 3.6 million gallons per day (MGD). In 1993, flows reached 3.3 MGD, before population began to decline in the mid 1990s. Current flows through the WWTP average approximately 2.2 MGD; however, growth will cause flows to approach the permitted capacity again.

### **Proposed Project Alternatives:**

The EIR will fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with Phase 1 of the two Project Alternatives, as well as a No Project Alternative, in compliance with CEQA.

#### Phase 1

- Alternative 1 would involve the construction and operation of a 3.6-MGD wastewater treatment plant adjacent to the existing WWTP at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) site which is located northeast of the intersection of Pole Line Road and Knox Road. This alternative also requires the operation of existing wastewater disposal ponds at the NAWS site and City site, and the construction of additional ponds at the City and San Bernardino County sites which are located south of Church Avenue and west and east San Bernardino Boulevard.
- Alternative 2 would involve the construction and operation of a 3.6-MGD wastewater treatment plant adjacent to the existing WWTP ponds at the City site which is located approximately 1,000 feet south of Church Avenue and 1,000 feet west of San Bernardino Boulevard. This alternative also requires the operation of existing wastewater disposal ponds at the NAWS site and City site, and the construction of additional ponds at the City and San Bernardino County sites which are located south of Church Avenue and west and east San Bernardino Boulevard.
- The No Project Alternative involves the continued operation of the existing wastewater treatment plant and wastewater disposal ponds which are located at the NAWS and City sites.

The construction and operation of a 3.6-MGD wastewater treatment plant would generally involve the following facilities:

- Influent pumps and headworks and screening facilities
- Aeration basins and clarifiers

- Bio-solids handling facilities
- Bio-solids digestion
- Solids dewatering facilities
- Wastewater percolation/ evaporation ponds
- Construction of new wastewater treatment ponds for storage and percolation/evaporation
- Emergency power
- Operations buildings, maintenance building, and electrical/boiler building
- Various site improvements (including paved access roads, parking areas, security fencing, storm drains, gravel surfacing, and related improvements)

Disposal of treated effluent would potentially involve the following methods:

- Evaporation and percolation using existing and new ponds at the NAWS and City sites.
- Alfalfa irrigation with secondary effluent at the City site.
- Golf course and other landscaping irrigation using recycled water meeting Title 22 standards for unrestricted use.

Phase 2 of the New Wastewater Treatment Plant Project will require upgrades to treat up to 5.4 mgd. As there is currently no timeline for the construction of Phase 2, potential environmental impacts resulting from Phase 2 will be evaluated under subsequent environmental documentation.

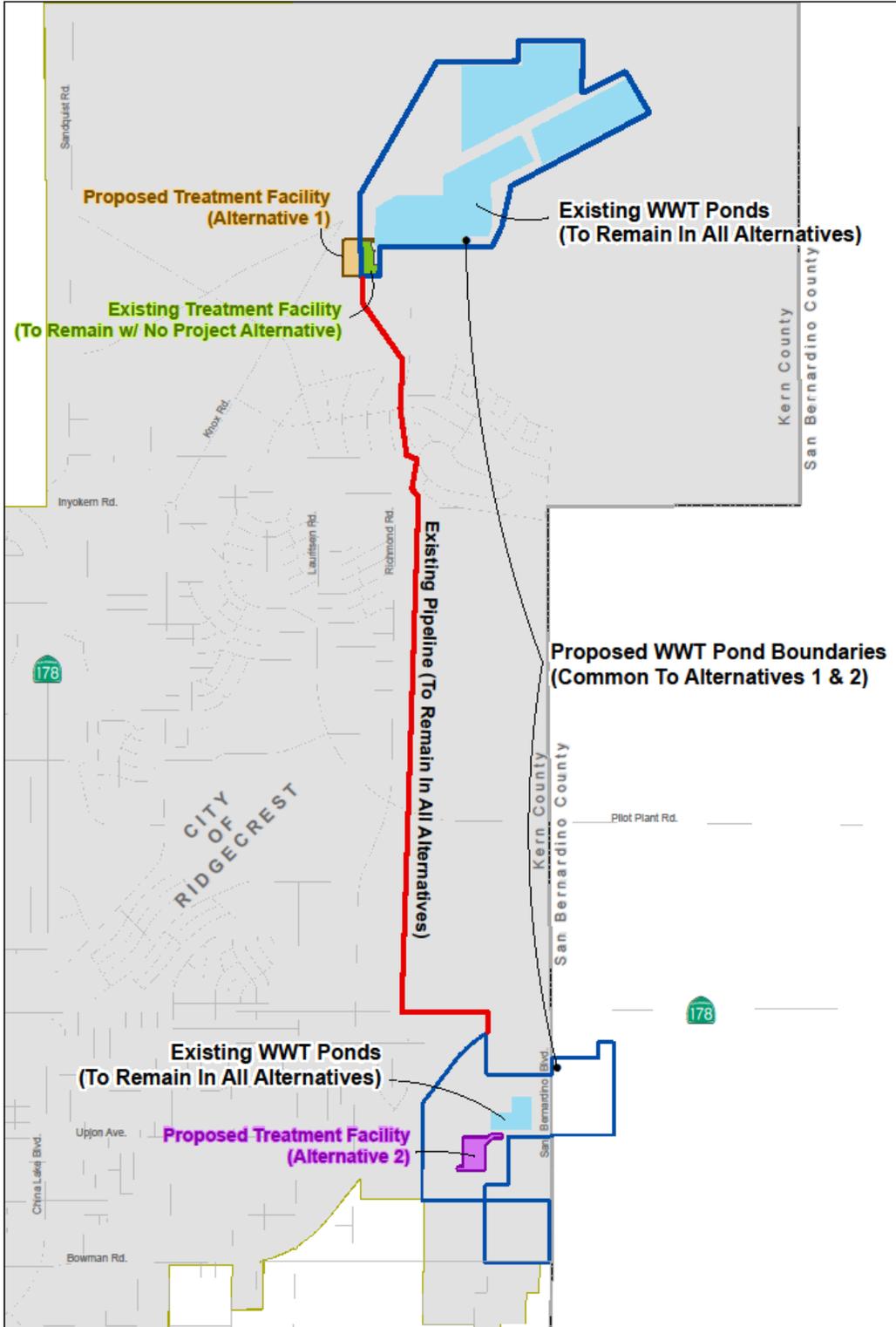
### **Potential Environmental Impacts:**

The EIR will fully analyze potential environmental impacts associated with Phase 1 of the Proposed Project Alternatives. Specific areas of analysis will include all resource categories included in Appendix G to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, as follows: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, greenhouse gases and global climate change, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards, hydrology and water quality, land use, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems.

If you believe that any of the Proposed Project Alternatives could result in specific significant impacts, we invite you to describe the nature of those impacts, as well as offer feasible and reasonable mitigation for such impacts that should be considered in the EIR.

### **Scoping Process:**

This NOP initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIR. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful in the lead agency's preparation of this EIR. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and comments regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Proposed Project. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this Proposed Project. Comments submitted anonymously will also be accepted and considered.



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**PROVOST & PRITCHARD**  
 286 W. Cromwell Ave.  
 Fresno, CA 93711-8162  
 (559) 449-2700

- Proposed WWT Pond Boundaries (Alts. 1 & 2)
- Existing Treatment Facility (No Project Alt.)
- Proposed Treatment Facility (Alt. 1)
- Proposed Treatment Facility (Alt. 2)
- Ridgecrest City Limits

**Proposed Alternatives**

WWTP Project Sites  
 City of Ridgecrest  
 June 2015

**Recommended Distribution List for This Notice:**

- State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- City of Ridgecrest
  - Planning
  - Public Works
  - City Manager
  - City Attorney
  - Planning Commission
  - City Council
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station – United States Department of Defense (Navy)
- Kern County Planning Department
- Kern County Airport Land Use Commission
- Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission
- Kern County Council of Governments
- San Bernardino County
- San Bernardino Local Agency Formation Commission
- Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 6, Lahontan
- State Water Resources Control Board
- East Kern Air Pollution Control District
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Kerncrest Chapter of the Audubon Society