

**Environmental Assessment
Lewiston Community Services District
Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Project**

Prepared for:

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Contents

Acronyms iv

Chapter 1.	Project Overview	1-1
1.1	Introduction	1-1
1.1.1	Project Location	1-1
1.1.1	Project Background.....	1-9
1.2	Project Purpose and Need.....	1-10
Chapter 2.	Proposed Action and Alternatives	2-1
2.1	Proposed Action	2-1
2.1.1	System Flow Description.....	2-2
2.1.2	Sewage Collection System.....	2-2
2.1.3	Lift Station 1	2-4
2.1.4	Lift Station 2	2-4
2.1.5	Oxidation Ponds and Percolation Beds.....	2-4
2.1.6	Electrical Improvements	2-5
2.1.7	Site Improvements	2-5
2.1.8	Construction Criteria and Methods.....	2-5
2.2	Other Alternatives Evaluated	2-9
2.2.1	Action Alternative 2.....	2-9
2.2.2	Old School House Lift Station Alternative.....	2-10
2.3	No Action Alternative	2-10
Chapter 3.	Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	3-1
3.1	Land Use/Land Ownership.....	3-1
3.1.1	General Land Use	3-1
3.1.2	Important Farmland	3-3
3.1.3	Formally Classified Lands	3-4
3.2	Floodplains	3-5
3.3	Wetlands.....	3-6
3.4	Cultural Resources	3-19
3.5	Biological Resources.....	3-21
3.5.1	General Fish, Wildlife, and Vegetation	3-21
3.5.2	Listed, Threatened, and Endangered Species	3-25
3.5.3	Migratory Bird Treaty Act.....	3-29
3.5.4	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	3-30
3.5.5	Invasive Species.....	3-31
3.6	Water Resources.....	3-32
3.6.1	Water Quantity.....	3-32
3.6.2	Water Quality.....	3-33
3.7	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	3-35
3.8	Air Quality.....	3-36
3.9	Noise.....	3-38
3.10	Transportation	3-39
3.11	Aesthetics and Visual Resources.....	3-40
3.12	Human Health and Safety.....	3-42

Chapter 4.	Cumulative Effects.....	4-1
Chapter 5.	Summary of Mitigation	5-1
5.1	Conservation Measures	5-1
5.1.1	Conservation Measure #1—Water Pollution Prevention	5-1
5.1.2	Conservation Measure #2—Protection of Riparian Habitat.....	5-2
5.1.3	Conservation Measure #3—Prevention of Spread of Invasive Species Controls	5-3
5.1.4	Conservation Measure #4—Air Quality/Fugitive Dust and Emission Controls	5-3
5.1.5	Conservation Measure #5—Wildfire Potential	5-3
5.2	Mitigation Measures	5-4
5.2.1	Mitigation Measure #1—Waters of the United States and Waters of the State.....	5-4
5.2.2	Mitigation Measure #2—Cultural Resources	5-5
5.2.3	Mitigation Measure #3—Human Remains.....	5-5
5.2.4	Mitigation Measure #4—Anadromous Fish.....	5-5
5.2.5	Mitigation Measure #5—Migratory Birds and Raptors	5-6
Chapter 6.	Coordination, Consultation, and Correspondence	6-1
6.1	Outreach Contact Record.....	6-1
6.1.1	Pre-Scoping Meetings	6-1
6.1.2	Representative Comments Received	6-3
6.1.3	Individual Landowners Contacted for Right of Entry or Right-of-Way Acquisition	6-4
6.1.4	Additional Agency Contacts (Specific to Environmental Resource Issues).....	6-4
6.1.5	Native American Tribal Contacts.....	6-6
Chapter 7.	References.....	7-1
Chapter 8.	List of Preparers	8-1
8.1	U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development	8-1
8.2	North State Resources, Inc., now Stantec – Environmental Compliance	8-1
8.3	PACE Engineering – Planning Grant Project Report	8-1

Tables

Table 1.	Proposed Action Pump Design Parameters	2-2
Table 2.	Land Use Zoning in the Proposed Action Study Area	3-2
Table 3.	Summary of Cumulative Effects by Resource Issue	4-2
Table 4.	Representative Comments Received	6-3

Figures

Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity Map.....	1-2
Figure 2. Land Ownership.....	1-3
Figure 3A. Project Layout.....	1-4
Figure 3B. Project Layout Index Map	1-5
Figure 3C. Project Layout Mapbook	1-6
Figure 4. Floodplain Map.....	3-7
Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States and Waters of the State Mapbook.....	3-11
Figure 6. Habitat Communities	3-23

Appendices

Appendix A. Correspondence
Appendix B. Native American Outreach
Appendix C. Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report - removed due to USDA's confidential information concerns
Appendix D. Biological Resources Assessment
Appendix E. Rural Development Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Impact Analysis Certification (Form RD 2006-38)
Appendix F. Air Quality Assessment

Acronyms

ADWF	average dry weather flow
Agency	U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
APE	Area of Potential effect
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	best management practices
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
FM	force main
GPD	gallons per day
LCS	Lewiston Community Services District
LPMWC	Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company
LS	Lift Station
LS1	Lift Station 1
LS2	Lift Station 2
LVWC	Lewiston Valley Water Company
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MMF	maximum monthly flow
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCRWQCB	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
NCUAQMD	North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries /National Marine Fisheries Service
Nomsus	Upper Trinity Wintu, a linguistic triblet of the Wintu tribe
NSO	Northern Spotted Owl
NSR	North State Resources, Inc.
PM ₁₀	particulate matter that is 10 microns or less
project	Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Project

Project Report PWWF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Planning Grant Project Report peak wet weather flow
Reclamation ROW	U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation right of way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SSA	sewer service area
SSW1	seep-spring wetland
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TDBLS	Trinity Dam Boulevard Lift Station
TDMHP	Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park
USFWS	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
WWTPLS	Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station

Chapter 1. Project Overview

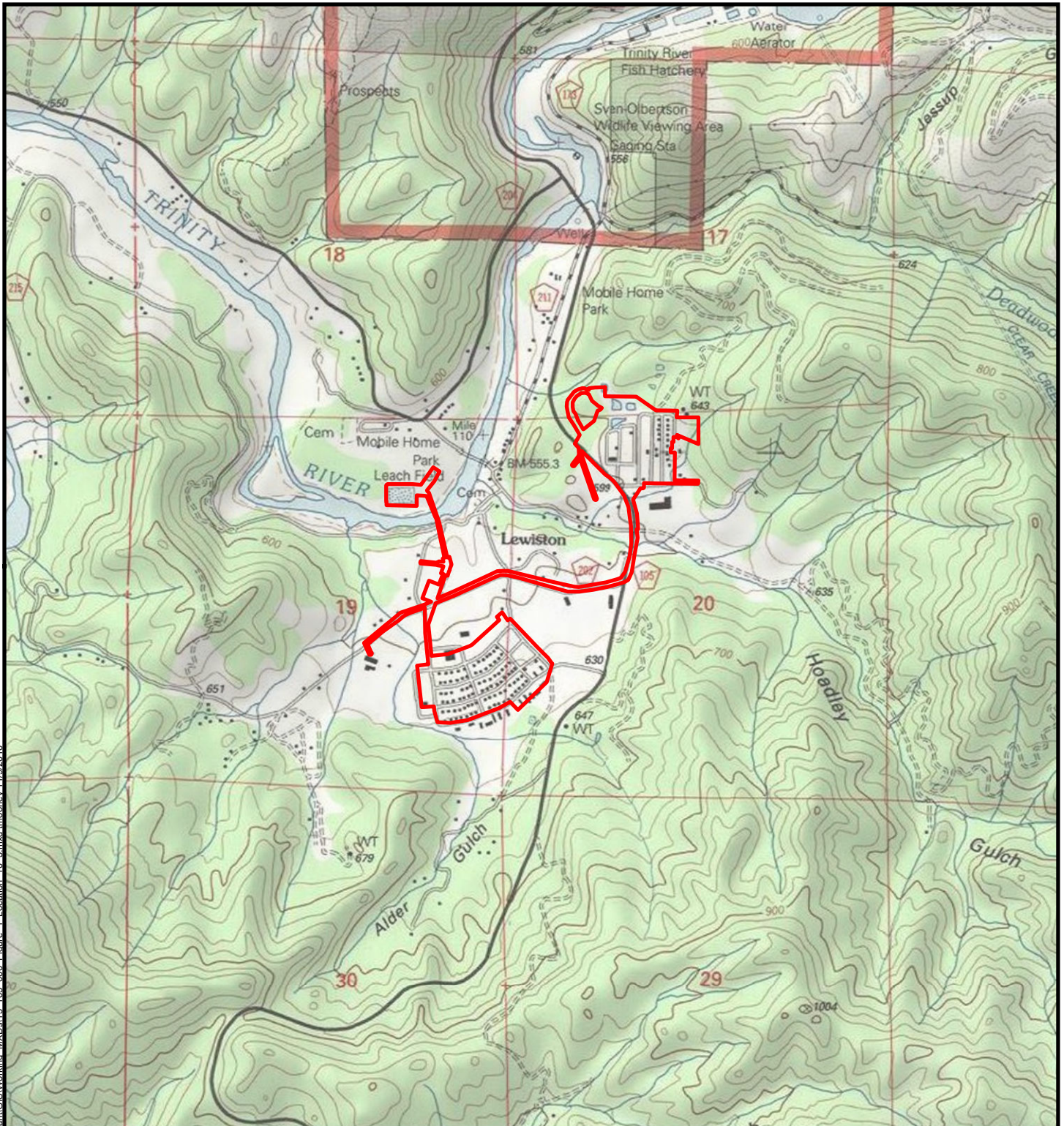
1.1 Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (Agency) with assistance from North State Resources Inc., on behalf of the Lewiston Community Services District (LCSD), has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental effects of consolidating, and replacing or upgrading three existing sewer collection, treatment and disposal facilities—Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (LPMWC), Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park (TDMHP), and LCSD (formerly Lewiston Valley Water Company [LVWC]) in Lewiston, Trinity County, California(project). The EA was prepared for used by the Agency, as the federal lead agency and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), which is a federal cooperating agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (1969), 42 United States Code §4321 et seq., and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500–1508. The Agency federal action pursuant to NEPA is to provide funding for the project design and construction. Reclamation’s federal action is limited to issuing a license agreement to LCSD for the continued use of one affected parcel of property, owned by the United States and under Reclamation’s jurisdiction. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the river management agency in the Lewiston area.

The Agency is divided into three agencies, each with a unique mission: the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. These three agencies have in excess of 50 programs that provide financial assistance and a variety of technical and educational assistance to eligible rural and tribal populations; and eligible communities, individuals, cooperatives, and other entities with a goal of improving the quality of life, sustainability, infrastructure, economic opportunity, development, and security in rural America. Financial assistance can include direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants in order to accomplish program objectives. Federal financial assistance for the project would in part be under the Rural Utilities Service funding authority.

1.1.1 Project Location

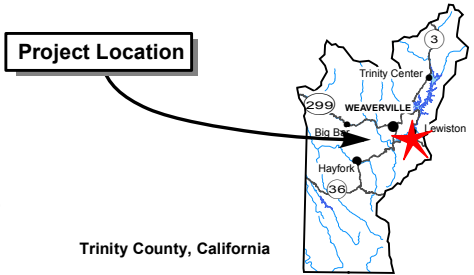
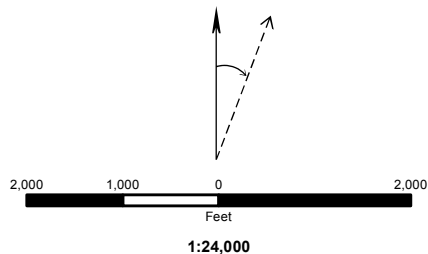
The project is located in the community of Lewiston, Trinity County, California. Lewiston is located approximately 16-road miles southeast of Weaverville, Trinity County, California and approximately 35-road miles west of Redding, Shasta County, California. The project is shown on the *Lewiston, California* 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle, Township 33N, Range 8W, Sections 17, 19, and 20 (Figure 1). The project occurs on private properties, as well as local, state, and federally owned parcels. Figure 2 shows land ownerships in and adjacent to the project study area. The BLM is the river management agency in the Lewiston area. Figure 3 includes a series of figures that show the project layout and the affected sewer service areas (SSAs) for each of the three existing sewer collection and treatment facility providers within the project study area. The SSA boundary includes those residences that currently receive wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal from existing service providers.



 Study Area (96.06 acres)

Public Land Survey:
 Township 33N
 Range 08W
 Sections 17, 19, 20

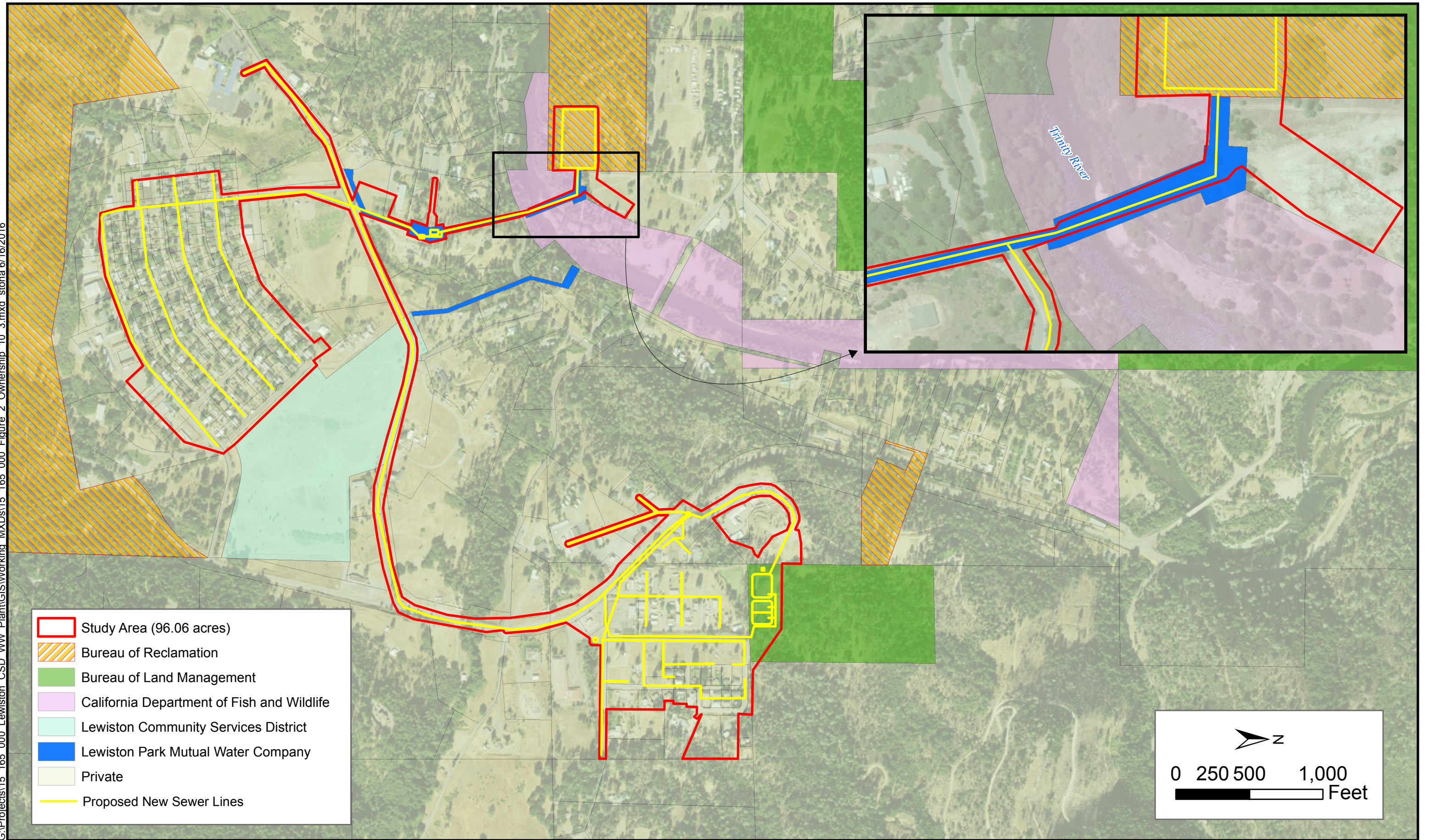
USGS 7.5 Quad:
 Lewiston, 1982



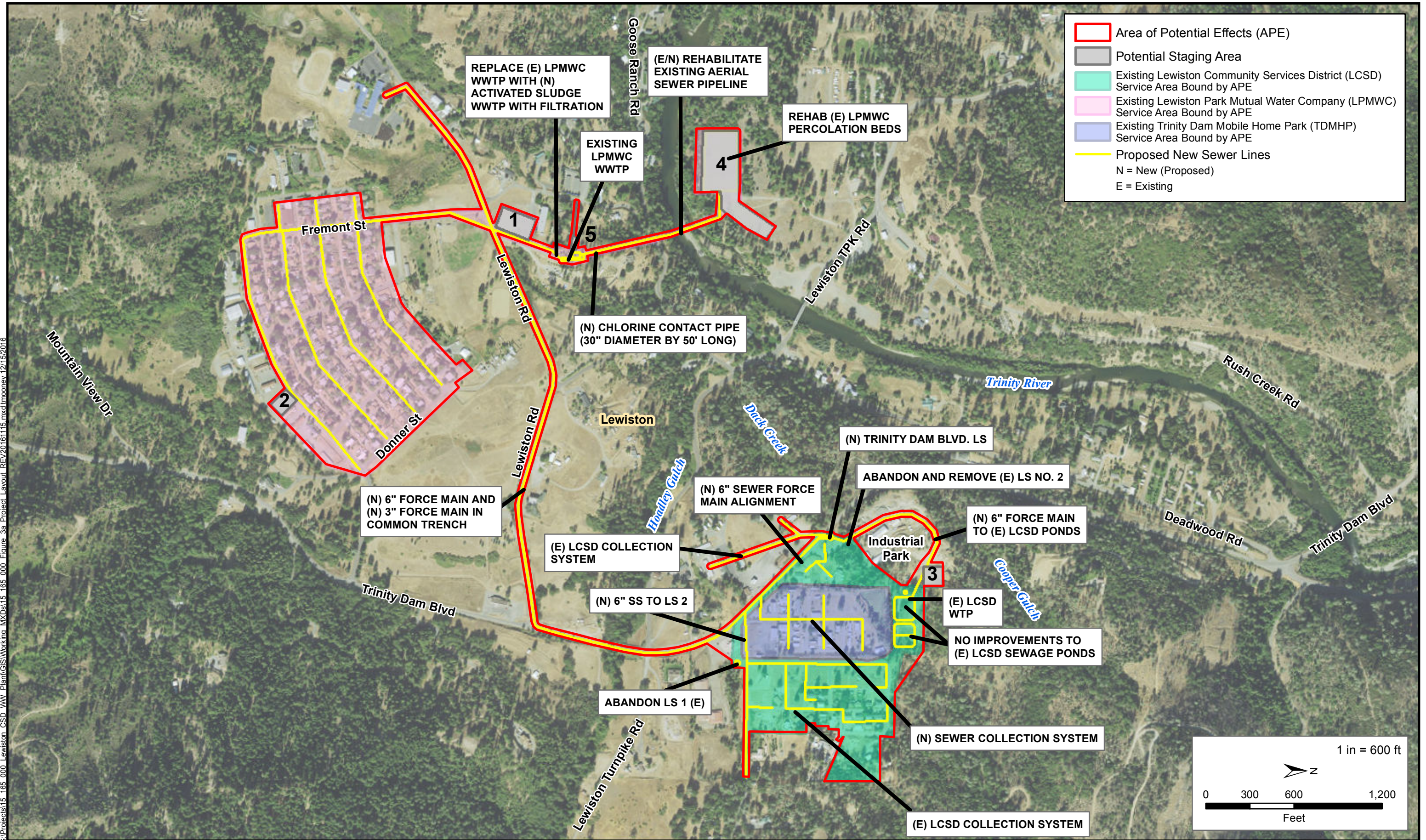
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Figure 1
Project Location and Vicinity Map

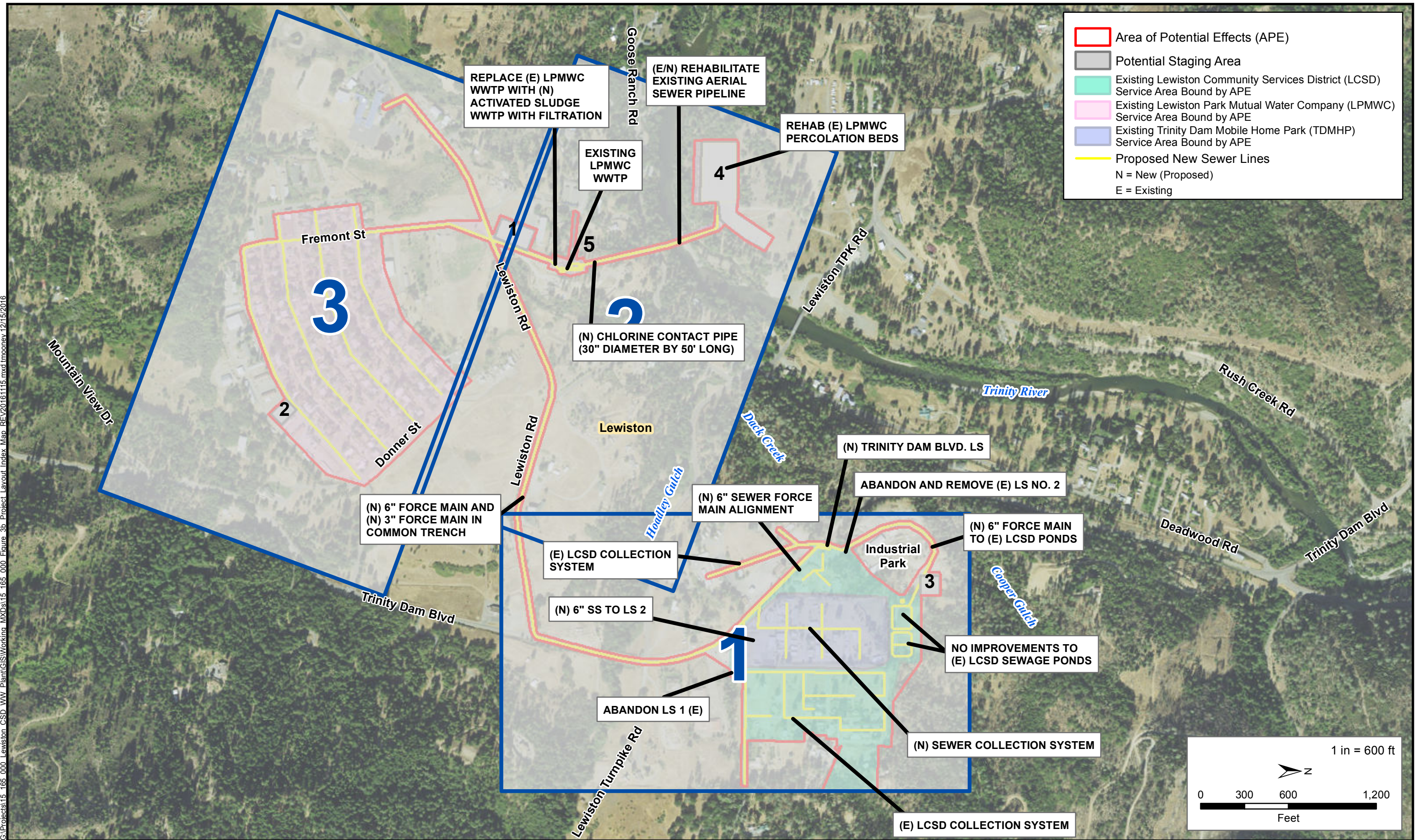
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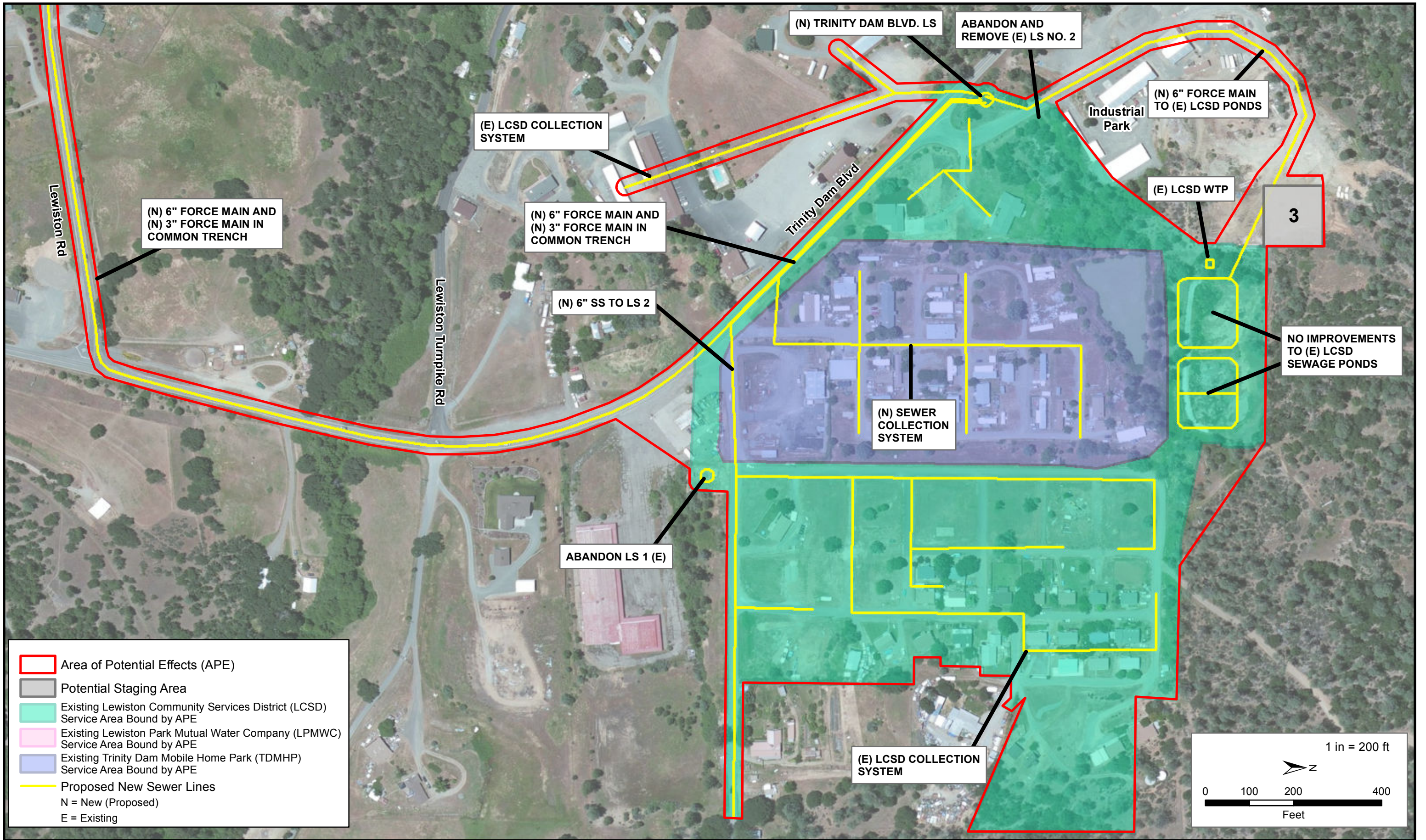
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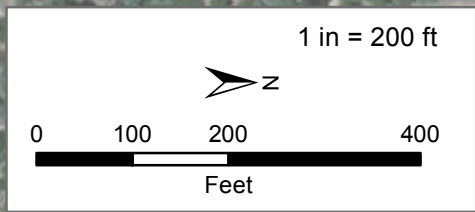
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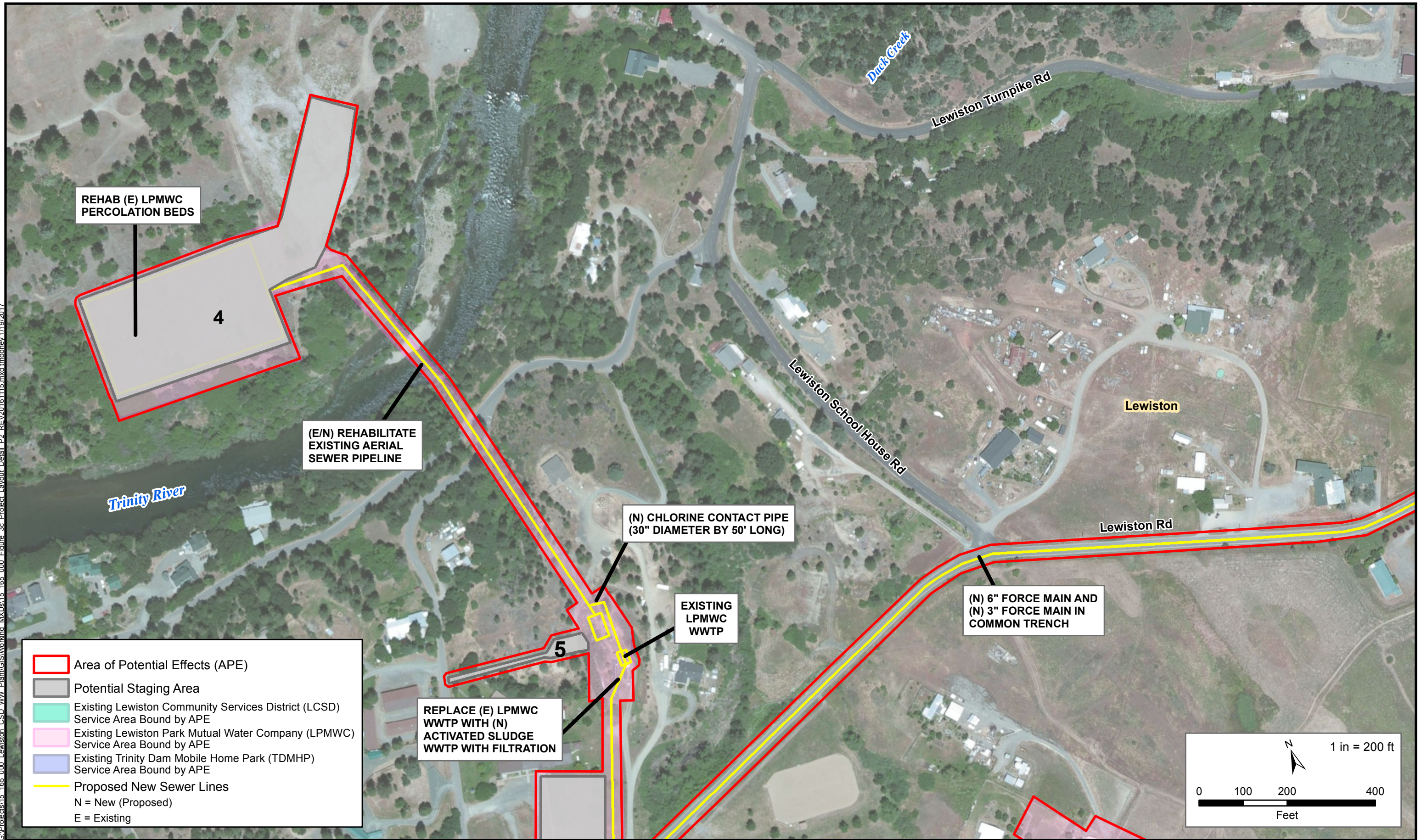
Area of Potential Effects (APE)

- Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Potential Staging Area
- Existing Lewiston Community Services District (LCSD) Service Area Bound by APE
- Existing Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (LPMWC) Service Area Bound by APE
- Existing Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park (TDMHP) Service Area Bound by APE
- Proposed New Sewer Lines

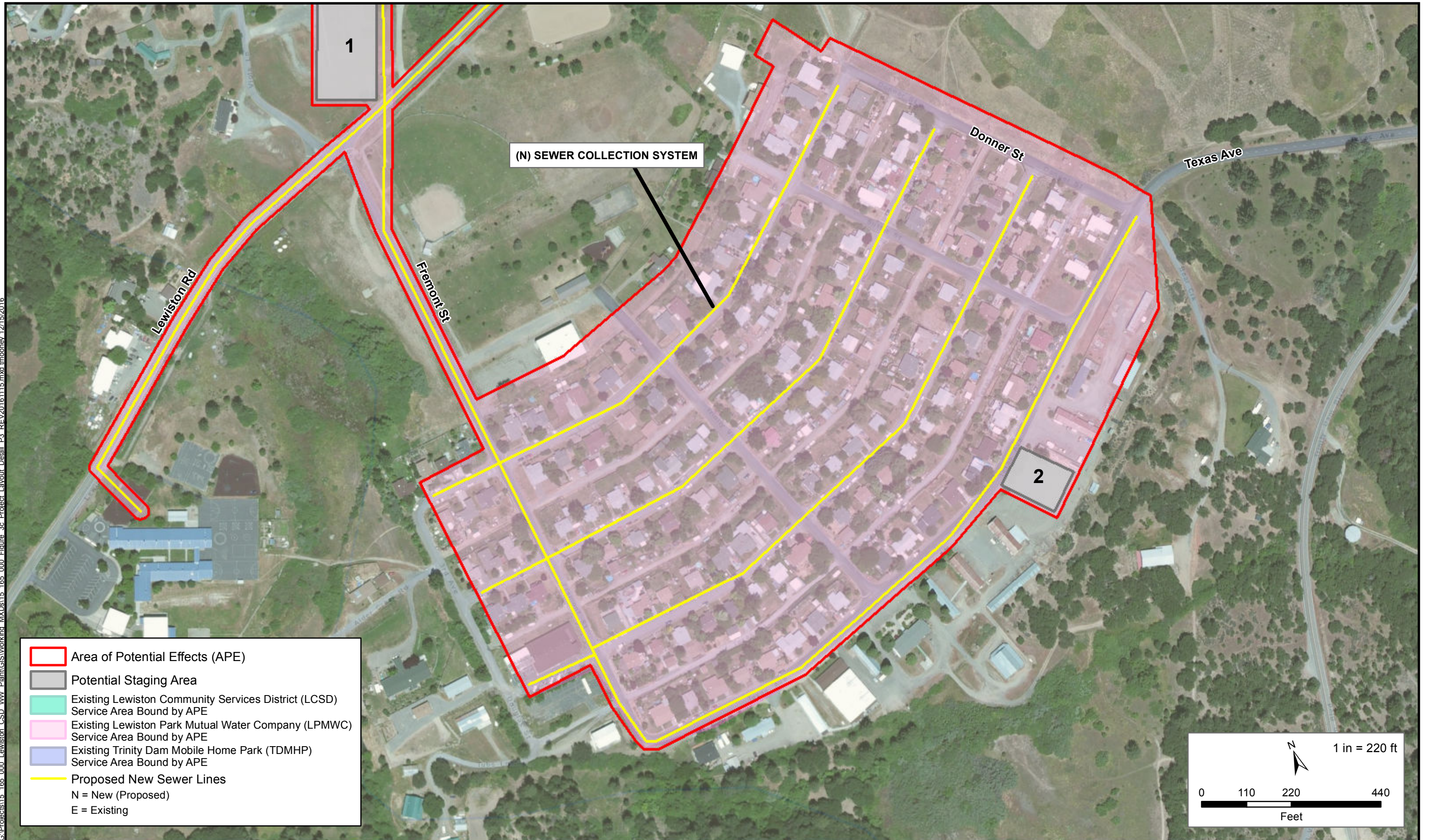
N = New (Proposed)
E = Existing



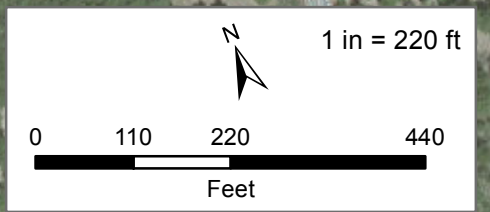
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- Area of Potential Effects (APE)
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- Existing Lewiston Community Services District (LCSD) Service Area Bound by APE
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- Proposed New Sewer Lines
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The 90.41-acre project study area is mainly comprised of residential neighborhoods and linear alignments along paved roads. It also contains existing wastewater treatment infrastructure including a small wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), percolation beds, and oxidation ponds. The percolation beds occur on Reclamation land while the oxidation ponds are located on BLM land.

1.1.1 Project Background

Public Health Hazards

In 1998 and again in 2015, field reviews of the LPMWC, LCSD, and TDMHP wastewater systems were conducted that found that the circa 58-year-old collection, treatment, and disposal systems have serious inflow and infiltration problems that overload the downstream treatment and disposal processes resulting in multiple failures to meet discharge requirements and/or offsite discharge of untreated sewage. These marginal to failed wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems have in large part met their useful service lives and present potential serious health and safety threats to groundwater and surface water supplies. In addition, stricter effluent discharge limits are now in place to protect the environment, which makes the existing treatment technology out of date when treating for removal of contaminants, such as nitrate.

In order to resolve ongoing wastewater treatment and overflow problems, and alleviate public health concerns, LCSD proposes to consolidate, and replace or upgrade three existing sewer collection, treatment and disposal facilities—LPMWC, TDMHP, and LCSD—that currently provide water and/or wastewater service to the majority of residences in Lewiston, Trinity County, California.

The original wastewater collection and treatment systems that compose the project were constructed circa 1957 along with the Lewiston and Trinity dams and have met their useful service lives. In 1998, Trinity County obtained a Planning and Technical Assistance Grant from the California State Department of Housing and Community Development to study consolidation of existing water and wastewater systems in the Lewiston area. A Preliminary Engineering Report (PACE Engineering 1999) documented conditions of the existing water and wastewater systems and recommended a project to consolidate systems and replace aging infrastructure within the Lewiston area. On July 3, 1999, the community of Lewiston voted not to pursue the project at that time.

Notices of Violation and Waste Discharge Requirements

The project is needed to resolve outstanding violations incurred as a result of the existing state of failures associated with each of the three existing service systems. All of these systems continue to operate the facilities for which they were cited. The following notices of violation and appurtenant Waste Discharge Requirements orders are described in detail in appendices A-C in the Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Project Planning Grant Project Report for LCSD (PACE Engineering 2016) (Project Report), which is available for public viewing at the LCSD office:

- LCSD has acquired and now operates the former LVWC, securing funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water for substantial upgrades to the water system. However, the former LVWC wastewater system, which remains in operation under LCSD, is under a SWRCB Cleanup and Abatement Order (No.

R1-2003-0061) issued on May 12, 2003, for system failures, including sewage overflows and spills, and leaky oxidation/percolation ponds. Waste Discharge Requirements for LVWC Order No. 97-11 (ID No. 1A770420TR1) and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (No. 97-11) are provided in Appendix A in the Project Report (PACE Engineering 2016).

- LPMWC WWTP System (CIWQS Place ID 236941) was issued an SWRCB Notice of Violation on November 19, 2014. This Notice of Violation cited LPMWCs noncompliance with its Waste Discharge Requirements Order (No. 83-52). In addition, the Monitoring and Reporting Program (No. 83-52) and Contingency Plan and Notification Requirements for Accidental Spills and Discharges Order (No. 74-151) are provided in Appendix B in the Project Report (PACE Engineering 2016).

The TDMHP is currently under SWRCB Administrative Civil Liability Order (No. R1-2014-0005) issued on January 30, 2014, for an inadequate waste disposal system and the hazard it poses to human health and safety, and the environment. The Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R1-2013-0035 for Violations of Cleanup and Abatement Order (No. R1-2011-0045), as well as the Abatement Order itself, are provided in Appendix C in the Project Report (PACE Engineering 2016).

1.2 Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve the reliability and quality of the three SSAs that would be consolidated under the project. The project is needed to ensure public health and safety in the context of its operation and to meet the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) Basin Plan, Water Quality-Based Assessment Thresholds and federal regulatory requirements.

The project design was based on the consolidation of the three community wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems into one up-to-date system that would meet the NCRWQCB Basin Plan, Water Quality-Based Assessment Thresholds (see Appendix I in the Project Report [PACE Engineering 2016]) and federal regulatory requirements. In particular, the project must meet the EA Resolution No. R1-2015-0018, Section 3, Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast, wherein Water Code §13241 provides that the NCRWQCB is responsible for establishing water quality objectives which, in its judgment, are necessary for the reasonable protection of the beneficial uses¹ of groundwater in the Lewiston area and for the prevention of nuisance water. Project objectives include meeting Basin Plan and California Water Code requirements.

Project objectives considered actions that would be taken to correct the numerous health, safety, and environmental violations associated with the existing LPMWC, LCSD, and TDMHP systems.

¹ Designated beneficial uses for groundwater in the Lewiston area include municipal and domestic, agricultural and industrial. These beneficial uses are explained as follows:

- Municipal and Domestic Supply – Uses of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.
- Agricultural – Uses of water for farming, horticulture, or ranching, including, but not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, or support of vegetation for range grazing.
- Industrial – Uses of water for industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality, including, but not limited to, mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, and oil well repressurization.

Concerns about public health and safety, and the environment would be addressed by achieving the following project objectives:

- address sanitary sewer overflow violations by replacing collection systems greater than 50 years old in LPMWC, LCSD, and TDMHP;
- substantially reduce inflow and infiltration, which would allow the new WWTP to function during wet weather and not have to be oversized;
- achieve new, stricter discharge limits by removing higher levels of organic and inorganic contaminants and reducing disinfection byproducts through better removal of organic precursors and by flow-paced dosing of sodium hypochlorite;
- comply with the goals of California Governmental Code Section 65041.1, which addresses state planning priorities and sustainable water resources management priorities;
- increase energy efficiency of operations by using more efficient pumps and blowers to process wastes;
- equip the new WWTP with supervisory control and data acquisition to properly monitor and control the system and alert operators when parameters, such as dissolved oxygen or chlorine residual, fall out of specified parameters;
- increase process reliability and, thus substantially reduce, if not hopefully eliminate, discharge violations except under unusual circumstances; and
- reduce operation and maintenance costs and increase the use and efficacy of the preventative system maintenance as compared to the constant, often futile repair efforts demanded by the existing system.

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