

Chapter 4. Cumulative Effects

This EA also considers the cumulative effects (40 CFR 1508.7) and concurrent actions (40 CFR 1508.25[1]) that may be implemented at the same time or in the same vicinity as the proposed action. A cumulative effect, as defined by the CEQ (40 CFR 1508.7), is the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”

The proposed action consists of upgrades to three existing SSAs and the consolidation of these systems into one system that would be operated by LCSD. Although various local infrastructure, transportation, and resource management actions have been completed or may be planned in the future for the Lewiston area, such projects are subject to regulatory approvals and must adhere to guidance that would or would result in the need for any reasonably foreseeable future projects within the community of Lewiston. Effects associated with the project would be limited primarily to the construction phase, with no significant operational effects on the environment. All effects resulting from project implementation can be fully mitigated for at the project level. As a result, cumulative effects resulting from implementation of the proposed action would be minimal. Table 3 provides a qualitative description of cumulative effects of past (i.e., projects assumed to have been subject to regulatory oversight), present, and reasonably foreseeable conditions associated with the resource issues considered in this EA.

Table 3. Summary of Cumulative Effects by Resource Issue

RESOURCE	PAST ACTIONS	PRESENT ACTIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	FUTURE ACTIONS	CUMULATIVE EFFECT
Land Use	Encroachments or changes in existing land uses; beneficial effects on land uses by enhancing infrastructure.	Failing wastewater treatment system may adversely affect residential land use in the sewer service areas.	Temporary encroachment in existing road right of way and at existing facilities; some temporary encroachment onto private and public lands.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	Beneficial effect by enhancing infrastructure
Floodplains	Enhanced floodplain function through restoration.	Failing wastewater treatment system could adversely affect the floodplain as a result of effluent spills.	No direct impact; indirectly decreases the potential for effluent spills.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	No effect.
Wetlands	Direct and indirect impacts on wetlands through fill or disturbance.	Failing wastewater treatment system could adversely affect wetlands.	Temporary impact on wetlands; no permanent impacts; decreases the potential for effluent spills; would be mitigated at the project level; may effect, but would not adversely affect.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	May affect, but would not adversely affect.
Cultural Resources	Possible impacts on prehistoric and historic resources.	No effect.	No effect.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	No effect.
Biological Resources	Possible direct and indirect impacts on fish, wildlife, and plants through loss of habitat or take.	Failing wastewater treatment system could result in effluent spills that could contaminate habitats, including the Trinity River fisheries.	No effect.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	May effect, but would not adversely affect.

Table 3. Summary of Cumulative Effects by Resource Issue

RESOURCE	PAST ACTIONS	PRESENT ACTIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	FUTURE ACTIONS	CUMULATIVE EFFECT
Water Resources	Direct and indirect impacts on water quality as a result of erosion or release of pollutants (e.g., petroleum products).	Failing wastewater treatment system could result in effluent spills that could contaminate ground and surface water; water quality would be adversely affected; no effect on total water availability, but could affect availability for consumers.	Beneficial effect on water quality; no effect on water quantity since operation of the wastewater treatment plant would be consistent with existing conditions.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	Beneficial effect by enhancing infrastructure.
Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice	No effect.	Some of the residences affected by the failing wastewater treatment system are low income or minority households.	Beneficial effect by improving wastewater treatment system integrity and reliability.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified.	Beneficial effect by continuing to improve the community's infrastructure service system.
Air Quality	Impacts dissipated	Trinity County is in attainment or has not yet been evaluated for all federal and state air quality standards	Particulate matter (e.g., dust, emissions) would be mitigated at the project level; may effect, but would not adversely affect	No reasonably foreseeable future actions identified	Thresholds may be exceeded if projects do not adhere to regulatory standards
Noise	Possible increase in ambient noise levels.	Ambient noise sources are predominantly from traffic and residences.	May effect, but would not adversely affect as a result of temporary construction noise and permanent operation of the new wastewater treatment plant would be mitigated at the project level.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions.	Thresholds may be exceeded if projects do not adhere to regulatory standards.

Table 3. Summary of Cumulative Effects by Resource Issue

RESOURCE	PAST ACTIONS	PRESENT ACTIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	FUTURE ACTIONS	CUMULATIVE EFFECT
Transportation	Improved circulation as a result of road improvements.	No effect.	May affect, but would not adversely affect traffic as a result of temporary construction in road ROWs; no effect as a result of proposed action operation.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions.	No effect.
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	Possible impacts on aesthetics and visual resources as a result of tree removal or construction.	No effect.	Tree removal and construction near the Trinity River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, would be less than adverse since the area has been historically subjected to disturbance; the new wastewater treatment plant would be aesthetically similar to existing conditions; may effect, but would not adversely affect..	No reasonably foreseeable future actions.	May effect, but would not adversely affect.
Human Health and Safety	Possible increase in fire hazard potential as a result of increased housing and business densities.	Very high fire hazard in the Lewiston area; however, wastewater treatment plant operation has no effect; potential spills of pollutants are a potential significant adverse impact.	Fire hazard and other hazards would be mitigated at the project level; may effect, but would not adversely affect.	No reasonably foreseeable future actions.	May effect, but would not adversely affect.

Chapter 5. Summary of Mitigation

5.1 Conservation Measures

Lewiston Community Services District is committed to implementing the following conservation measures during construction of the proposed action:

5.1.1 Conservation Measure #1—Water Pollution Prevention

The following water pollution prevention and erosion control measures were incorporated into the proposed action to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse direct and indirect effects to water quality:

- Type D erosion control measures (i.e., hydroseeding) or hand seeding and mulching methods shall be implemented during construction of the project in non-riparian upland areas. Erosion control work shall consist of one application of erosion control materials to embankment slopes, excavation slopes, and other areas with non-riparian uplands designated by the project engineer. These materials shall consist of fiber, seed, mulch, commercial fertilizer, stabilizing emulsion, and water.
- Activities that increase the erosion potential within the project area shall be restricted to the relatively dry summer and early fall period (approximately May 15 to October 15) to the maximum extent practicable to minimize the potential for rainfall events to transport sediment to the Trinity River and other surface water features. If construction activities must take place during the late fall, winter, or spring, then temporary erosion and sediment control structures must be in place and operational at the end of each construction day and maintained until permanent erosion control measures are in place (e.g., successful revegetation).
- Areas where vegetation needs to be removed shall be identified in advance of ground disturbance and limited to only those areas that have been approved by LCSD and the respective land owner. The limits of ground disturbance will be staked and flagged or fenced in the field.
- Within 10 days of completion of construction, weed-free mulch shall be applied to disturbed areas in order to reduce the potential for short-term erosion. Prior to a rain event or when there is greater than 50 percent possibility of rain forecasted by the National Weather Service during the next 24 hours, weed-free mulch, tarps, or geotextile fabrics shall be applied to all exposed areas upon completion of the day's activities. Soils shall not be left exposed during the rainy season.
- Suitable BMPs, such as silt fences, straw wattles, or catch basins, shall be placed below all construction activities at the edge of surface water features to intercept sediment before it reaches the waterway. These structures shall be installed prior to any clearing or grading activities.

- If spoil sites are used, they shall be located such that they do not drain directly into a surface water feature, if possible. If a spoil site drains into a surface water feature, catch basins shall be constructed to intercept sediment before it reaches the feature. Spoil sites shall be graded and vegetated to reduce the potential for erosion.
- Sediment control measures shall be in place prior to the onset of the rainy season (or no later than October 15) and will be monitored and maintained in good working condition until vegetation becomes established within the disturbed areas.
- Fueling construction equipment shall be done at a fixed fueling station to reduce the area exposed to the potential for fuel spills.
- Secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, shall be used to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
- Spill containment materials shall be kept onsite at all times to contain any accidental spill.
- Absorbent materials shall be used on small spills rather than hosing down or burying the spill. The absorbent material shall be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
- Onsite vehicles and equipment shall be regularly inspected for leaks and repaired immediately.
- If vehicle and equipment maintenance must occur onsite, it shall be done in designated areas, located away from drainage courses, to prevent the run-on of storm water and the run-off of spills.
- Equipment and materials shall be stored at least 50 feet away from surface water features, including the Trinity River.
- LCSD is responsible for compliance with applicable federal, state, or local laws or ordinances and shall obtain authorization from all applicable regulatory agencies.

5.1.2 Conservation Measure #2—Protection of Riparian Habitat

The following measures shall be implemented to reduce potential impacts on riparian habitat in the project area:

- The width of the construction disturbance zone within the riparian habitat shall be minimized through careful pre-construction planning.
- Exclusionary fencing shall be installed along the boundaries of the work area in riparian habitat to ensure that impacts on riparian vegetation outside the construction area are minimized.

5.1.3 Conservation Measure #3—Prevention of Spread of Invasive Species Controls

The following measures shall be implemented to prevent the spread of invasive species in the project area:

- All equipment used for off-road construction activities will be weed-free prior to entering the project site. At the end of each working day, equipment shall be inspected to ensure it is free of plant parts as well as soil, mud, or other debris that may carry weed seeds.
- If project implementation calls for mulches or fill, they will be weed free.
- Any seed mixes or other vegetative material used for re-vegetation of disturbed sites will consist of locally adapted native plant materials to the extent practicable.

5.1.4 Conservation Measure #4—Air Quality/Fugitive Dust and Emission Controls

Air pollution control would conform to all applicable air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Dust would be controlled during construction activities and subsequent operation of the project. Dust controls may include, but would not be limited to the following elements, as appropriate:

- Pursuant to California Vehicle Code (Section 23114) (California Legislative Information 2016), all trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or shall maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e., minimum vertical distance between top of load and the trailer).
- Any soils that are removed during construction shall be stored onsite in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height. These spoil piles shall be clearly marked and flagged. Spoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.
- Equipment and manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.
- LCSD or its contractor shall designate a person to monitor dust control and to order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite. This person shall also respond to any citizen complaints.

5.1.5 Conservation Measure #5—Wildfire Potential

LCSD shall include the following measure in the construction bid documents to minimize project-related potential for wildfire ignition:

- Per the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4442, LCSD shall include a note on all construction plans that internal combustion engines shall be equipped with an operational spark arrester, or the engine must be equipped for the prevention of fire.

5.2 Mitigation Measures

Lewiston Community Services District is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures during construction of the proposed action:

5.2.1 Mitigation Measure #1—Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

In addition to implementation of Conservation Measures #1 and #2 (described in Section 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, respectively), the following mitigation measures are recommended to avoid or minimize the potential for project-related impacts on waters subject to federal jurisdiction:

- The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters subject to federal or state jurisdiction, including wetlands, shall be avoided.
- Prior to initiating work involving the disturbance or placement of dredge or fill materials into waters of the State, the LCSD shall obtain all regulatory permits and authorizations required by regulatory agencies including, but not necessarily limited to, the Corps, NCRWQCB, and CDFW.
- To the maximum extent practicable, activities that increase the erosion potential in the project area shall be restricted to the relatively dry summer and early fall period to minimize the potential for rainfall events to transport sediment to surface water features. If these activities must take place during the late fall, winter, or spring, then temporary erosion and sediment control structures shall be in place and operational at the end of each construction day and maintained until permanent erosion control structures are in place.
- Any monitoring, maintenance, and reporting required by regulatory agencies (i.e., Corps, NCRWQCB, and CDFW) shall be implemented and completed. All measures contained in the permits or associated with agency approvals shall be implemented.
- Stockpiles that are to remain on site through the wet season shall be protected to prevent erosion (e.g., silt fence, straw bales).
- All waters that are temporarily affected by project construction shall be restored as close as practicable to original contours and conditions within 10 days of completion of construction activities.
- Removal of existing pipelines associated with abandonment and removal of LS2 shall be conducted manually (i.e., by hand). No heavy equipment will be allowed in adjacent wetlands. Vegetation removal will be limited only to what is needed to remove piping. The existing 2-inch surface piping shall be pumped to remove any sewage before being cut into

50-foot sections and yarded to uplands. Shovels shall be used to remove the 8-inch pipe and soil will be returned by hand and compacted to reduce the potential for erosion.

- Decommissioning of LS2 shall be completed during the summer dry season (typically June 15 through October 15). Waddles shall be placed along the edges of the adjacent stream channel during all phases of work to prevent sediment and any incidental sludge from entering the stream.

5.2.2 Mitigation Measure #2—Cultural Resources

LCSD shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize project impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on cultural resources:

- If any unanticipated archaeological finds are made in the APE that are considered to be significant, a number of methods shall be used to mitigate potential adverse effects. Avoidance through project redesign or some method of preservation is the preferred method. If redesign or preservation is not an option, it is recommended that any potential adverse effects on unanticipated finds be mitigated through data recovery, although actual mitigation would be determined through consultation with the SHPO under the NHPA. It is also recommended that local Native American groups be consulted and their input solicited and considered in all aspects of such testing and mitigation.

5.2.3 Mitigation Measure #3—Human Remains

LCSD shall include provisions in the construction bid documents to minimize project impacts on cultural resources. The following measure shall be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on inadvertently discovered human remains:

- If human remains are found, the California Health and Safety Code requires that excavation be halted in the immediate area and that the Trinity County coroner be notified to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by telephone within 24 hours of making that determination (California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[c]).

5.2.4 Mitigation Measure #4—Anadromous Fish

The following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended to avoid the potential for project-related impacts on special-status fish:

- Project activities near the Trinity River shall at all times provide adequate erosion and sediment control devices to prevent potential degradation of water quality.

- The contractor shall prevent the discharge of sediment, and/or muddy, turbid, or silt laden waters, resulting from project activities, into the river.
- Minimization of the width of the construction disturbance zone within riparian habitat through careful pre-construction planning.
- Erecting construction fencing along the outer edges of the construction zone where needed to prevent accidental entry into riparian habitat.
- Mature riparian trees (e.g., cottonwoods, alders) located near construction areas shall be flagged and avoided during construction, where feasible. In the event that a mature tree contributing to shaded riverine aquatic habitat is disturbed during project construction, it shall be replaced. The amount of habitat created/restored shall be at least three times greater than the amount lost due to project implementation (3:1 ratio, new plantings per large woody riparian plant destroyed). These planting ratios will help ensure successful establishment of at least one vigorous plant for each established tree removed to accommodate the project.
- Revegetation monitoring will be initiated immediately following completion of the planting, and extend for a period of at least five years. Monitoring surveys will consist of a general site walkover evaluating the survival and health of riparian plantings, signs of drought stress, weed or herbivory problems, and the presence or trash or other debris. Corrective measures including replacement of revegetation plantings, application of supplemental irrigation, hand removal of non-native weeds, replacement or removal of protective plant covers, and the removal of trash and debris will be implemented as necessary. Greater than 15 percent mortality of planted species will be considered acceptable at the 5 year post-construction mark if adequate numbers of “volunteer” native species become established within the mitigation area to ensure that at least 85 percent or more of the number of riparian trees and shrubs needed to satisfy the 3:1 mitigation ratio for mature woody riparian species (equal to or greater than 6-inches diameter at breast height) removed as a result of the project will be considered a success. If monitoring results indicate that revegetation efforts are not meeting established success criteria, corrective measures would be implemented.
- Equipment and materials shall be staged outside of riparian habitat.
- Impacts on herbaceous cover will be offset by reseeding with a suitable native seed mixture and/or mulching.

5.2.5 Mitigation Measure #5—Migratory Birds and Raptors

The following measures shall be implemented to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse impacts on nesting migratory birds and raptors:

- Project activities shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season to the extent feasible. The typical nesting seasons in northern California extends from February 1 through August 31. Thus, if project activities can be scheduled to occur outside of the nesting season, no impacts would be expected. If the nesting season cannot be completely avoided, the following measures shall be implemented:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of one pre-construction survey for nesting migratory birds and raptors within the project area and a 250-foot buffer around the project area. Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted no more than seven days prior to the start of activities or the re-start of temporarily suspended construction, vegetation removal, or ground disturbance activities in any given area. Preconstruction surveys shall be used to ensure that no active bird nests occurring within or immediately adjacent to the project will be disturbed during project implementation. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist shall determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest. If it is anticipated that project activities will encroach on the buffer, a biological monitor will be present to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed by the activities.

- If vegetation is to be removed by the project and all necessary approvals have been obtained, potential nesting substrates (e.g., trees and shrubs) that will be removed by the project shall be removed before the onset of the nesting season, if feasible. This will help preclude nesting and substantially decrease the likelihood of direct impacts.

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Chapter 6. Coordination, Consultation, and Correspondence

This chapter includes documentation and descriptions of coordination, consultation, and correspondence with environmental or natural resource agencies. Correspondence are described below.

6.1 Outreach Contact Record

6.1.1 Pre-Scoping Meetings

Intergovernmental (Federal, State, and Local) and informal interest group/individual coordination was conducted over the development of the proposed action and preparation of this documents. The agencies, groups, and individuals who received scoping documents or participated in a March 29, 2016, onsite Environmental Review Kickoff Meeting are listed as follows:

Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office

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Lewiston Community Services District

Mel Deardorff
Board Member
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P.O. Box 164
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Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company

Mary Nixon
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Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company
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Jennifer Toney
 Small Community Wastewater
 State Water Resources Control Board
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 Loans and Grants Branch
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Trinity County Department of Transportation

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6.1.2 Representative Comments Received

Table 4 contains representative comments received on the proposed action during the scoping process, which to date, has consisted only of the CEQA process and adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Associated correspondence is located in Appendix A.

Table 4. Representative Comments Received

DATE	AGENCY & CONTACT	COMMENTS
April 3, 2017	California Department of Fish and Wildlife Mr. Curt Babcock Habitat Conservation Program Manager	Letter recommending revisions and additional language intended to enhance several mitigation measures included in the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). It also provided guidance for submittal of special-status species encounters to CNDDDB (if applicable), and preconstruction survey results and any CNDDDB forms to CDFW.

Table 4. Representative Comments Received

DATE	AGENCY & CONTACT	COMMENTS
April 4, 2017	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance Mr. Trevor Cleak Environmental Scientist	Letter summarizing the SWRCB's role in the proposed project and its federal regulatory commitments associated with Clean Water State Revolving Fund funding. The letter also included comments that resulted in minor changes to word tense in several mitigation measures and a request to include survey methodology for little willow flycatcher <a State listed as endangered species> and several pieces of supporting documentation (i.e., air quality and 100-year flood zone) as appendices to the IS/MND. Requested clarification of <i>Mitigation Measure #9 – Cultural Resources</i> <in IS/MND; Mitigation Measure #2 in EA> to determine if Native American groups were consulted.
May 16, 2017	Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office Mr. Bill Kuntz Supervisory Recreation Planner for Operations, Maintenance, and Recreation Programs	Email stating that the project, which is a supported Federal action, would not initiate a Section 7 (a) Determination since it does not encroach upon the bed and bank of the Trinity River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River.

6.1.3 Individual Landowners Contacted for Right of Entry or Right-of-Way Acquisition

One individual, private landowner that would be affected by the project met with LCSD to discuss the project and express his support:

Larry Barcellos
Owner
Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park
4720 Trinity Dam Boulevard
Lewiston, CA 96052

6.1.4 Additional Agency Contacts (Specific to Environmental Resource Issues)

Bureau of Land Management

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6.1.5 Native American Tribal Contacts

The following Tribes and interested individuals included on a list of Native American contacts provided by the Native American Heritage Commission to NSR on October 3, 2016, were notified of the proposed action in writing on November 7, 2016. These letters and logs documenting attempts to follow-up with Native American contacts and any responses received are provide in Appendix B.

Nor-Rel-Muk Nation (Wintu)
Marilyn Delgado, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1967
Weaverville, CA 96093

Redding Rancheria (Pit River Wintu Yana)
Jack Potter, Chairperson
2000 Redding Rancheria Road
Redding, CA 96001

Wintu Tribe of Northern California (Wintu)
Kelli Hayward
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Chapter 7. References

- Ambient Air Quality and Noise Consulting. 2016. Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment for Lewiston CSWD Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. August, 2016.
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- Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2014. Flood insurance rate map - Trinity County, California (unincorporated areas). Community panel number 06105C1058F. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C.
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