



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE Availability of Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

Date: June 24, 2015
Case No.: 2015-000644ENV
Project Title: **Biosolids Digester Facilities Project**
Location: 750 Phelps Street, 1700 Jerrold Avenue, 1800 Jerrold Avenue,
1801 Jerrold Avenue, San Francisco
Zoning: P (Public Facilities); M-1 (Light Industrial); and M-2 (Industrial)
65-J Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 5262/009; 5281/001
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Karen Frye (415) 554-1652
Staff Contact: *Steven Smith – (415) 558-6373*
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A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the San Francisco Planning Department in connection with this project. The NOP is available for public review and comment on the Planning Department's SFPUC Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>). CDs and paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco. Referenced materials are available for review by appointment (call 415-558-6378) at the Planning Department's office on the fourth floor of 1650 Mission Street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed Biosolids¹ Digester Facilities Project (the "project" or BDFP) would construct new solids treatment, odor control, energy recovery, and associated facilities at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC's) Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant (SEP) located in the Bayview District of San Francisco. The SEP is the City's largest wastewater treatment facility, treating 80 percent of San Francisco's wastewater and stormwater. The existing solids treatment facilities at the SEP are operating beyond their design life (some facilities are over 60 years old), rely on outdated technologies, are prone to disrepair, and negatively affect the community with respect to odors, noise, and visual quality. In addition, the existing digesters and other solids handling facilities are not designed to withstand the maximum credible earthquake on local faults. The SFPUC is proposing new facilities to provide a modern and efficient solids treatment system to ensure treatment reliability, maintain regulatory compliance, protect public health and safety, meet current seismic standards, and provide advanced odor control. As part of the

¹ Biosolids are the recyclable organic product from the bacterial digestion of solids removed from wastewater.

project, the SFPUC also proposes beneficial reuse of all of the biosolids and biogas² produced from the proposed solids treatment process.

The project facilities would be located on portions of the SEP located at 750 Phelps Street and 1700 Jerrold Street, and two adjacent parcels at 1800 Jerrold Avenue and 1801 Jerrold Avenue. The key components of the project include the following:

- Replacement and relocation of the solids processing treatment facilities with new processes
- Odor control facilities to collect and treat odors from solids handling and energy recovery facilities
- Energy recovery facilities to reuse 100 percent of the biogas generated by the proposed facilities to provide heat and power
- Support facilities such as buildings for operations and maintenance staff, and ancillary piping and electrical facilities
- Changes to vehicular circulation and access, landscaping, and architectural improvements

The project is identified in the SFPUC's Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), a 20-year, \$6.9 billion dollar citywide program to upgrade the aging sewer infrastructure to ensure a reliable and seismically safe system. Endorsed by the SFPUC's Commission in 2012, the SSIP established goals and levels of service to facilitate technical analysis, planning, design, and environmental review for all SSIP projects, including the BDFP.

The Planning Department has determined that an EIR must be prepared for the proposed project prior to any final decision regarding whether to approve the project. The purpose of the EIR is to provide information about potential significant physical environmental effects of the proposed project, to identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and to describe and analyze possible alternatives to the proposed project. Preparation of an NOP or EIR does not indicate a decision by the City to approve or to disapprove the project. However, prior to making any such decision, the decision makers must review and consider the information contained in the EIR.

The Planning Department will hold a **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING** on **Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the Alex Pitcher Room at the **Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco**. The SFPUC will provide an informational open house prior to the meeting from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** prior to the formal scoping meeting. Meeting location access and restrooms are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a language interpreter or to accommodate persons with disabilities at the scoping meeting, please email or call the staff contact, Steve Smith, listed above at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to receive oral comments to assist the Planning Department in reviewing the scope and content of the environmental impact analysis and information to be contained in the EIR for the project. Written comments will also be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on **Monday July 27, 2015**. Written comments should be sent to Sarah B. Jones, San Francisco

² Biogas is a byproduct of the bacterial digestion process and comprised mostly of methane and carbon dioxide.

Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103; by fax to (415) 558-6409 (Attn: Sarah Jones); or by e-mail to Sarah.B.Jones@sfgov.org.

If you work for an agency that is a Responsible or a Trustee Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering a permit or other approval for this project. We will also need the name of the contact person for your agency. If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, please contact **Steven Smith** at (415) 558-6373.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Planning Commission or Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.