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PHIL SCOTT  
District Manager

In reply, please refer to our  
File No. 1762.0

***NOTICE OF PREPARATION/  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING***

***Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility  
Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project***

<b>To:</b>	California State Clearinghouse, state Responsible and Trustee Agencies, federal agencies, local jurisdictions, and Interested Parties
<b>Date:</b>	May 18, 2020
<b>From:</b>	West Bay Sanitary District
<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project

The West Bay Sanitary District (WBSD), is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project (or “proposed project”) described below.

We need to know the view of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information the EIR should provide which is germane to your agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering your permit or other approval for the project. The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 515082 (b), you have 30 days from the date of receipt of this NOP to respond. Please send your written response by the earliest possible date, but no later than 5 PM on June 22, 2020 to the address listed below.

Pursuant to the public participation goals of CEQA, WBSD, will host a Public Scoping Meeting to gather additional input on the content and focus of the environmental analysis to be conducted and presented in the EIR. Interested parties, including agencies, are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the proposed project and the environmental review process, to express any concerns about the proposed project, and offer suggestions regarding the environmental impacts, including any mitigation measures and alternatives. The date, time of the online scoping meeting are listed below.

**Date:** June 3, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Online ZOOM Meeting

Topic: WBSD Notice of Preparation Mtg/Levee Improvement & Recycled Water Facility

<https://zoom.us/j/92647342375?pwd=NVIrb3c4ZjQ3SVJDRTQ5MG5wZ3J4dz09>

Meeting ID: 926 4734 2375  
Password: 202575

Or Dial In:+1 669 900 6833  
Meeting ID: 926 4734 2375  
Password: 202575

Please send all comments via mail to:

West Bay Sanitary District  
Attn: District Manager  
500 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025


or via email to:

[Info@westbaysanitary.org](mailto:Info@westbaysanitary.org)

(enter "NOP Scoping Comments" in the 'Subject' line).

Agency responses should include the name of a contact person at the agency.

The WBSD encourages all interested agency representatives, organizations, and individuals to attend the public scoping meeting for the Project's Draft EIR.

Signature: , Date: 5-18-20, and Title: District Manager

## **West Bay Sanitary District's Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project Description**

The West Bay Sanitary District (WBSD or District) proposes to construct levee improvements and a new recycled water facility at its Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility (FERRF). The project provides Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year and anticipated sea level rise flood protection and allows the District to provide recycled water to customers.

### **Project Location and Site Description**

The project site is located at 1700 Marsh Road (Assessor's Parcel Number 055-400-010) in the northern part of Menlo Park, adjacent to San Francisco Bay and northwest of Bedwell Bayfront Park (see Figure 1). Access to the site is provided via Highway 101 and Marsh Road. San Francisco Bay and Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge surround the site to the north, and Flood Slough and salt evaporation ponds to the west, and Bedwell Bayfront Park abuts the site's southern and eastern boundaries.

The project site is approximately 20 acres in size (see Figure 2). The FERRF currently provides temporary storage for sanitary sewer flows during peak flow events or conveyance system maintenance in three open storage basins. The basins are lined and surrounded by earthen levees and a perimeter access road. Because of the bayside location, the site contains northern coastal salt marsh, tidal slough, and California annual grassland habitats. The site also contains the remnants of a decommissioned wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which operated from 1952-1980 and a small nursery for growing wetland vegetation.

### **Proposed Project**

The WBSD owns and operates a flow equalization and resource recovery facility at the site of a former wastewater treatment plant along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay and adjacent to Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park, California. Project features are described below. Project construction is anticipated to begin in 2021.

#### Flood Control and Ecotone Levee:

The District is proposing to improve the site and bring it out of the FEMA flood zone and plan for 50-year sea level rise projections (the facility is in a FEMA 100-year flood zone). The existing facility is surrounded by earthen levees originally constructed in the late 1960s that are not FEMA certified, and therefore require improvement/repairs to ensure the facility remains separated from adjacent San Francisco Bay/tidal waters. In order to receive FEMA certification, the project proposes to protect the site from flooding and sea level rise by installing sheet pile walls around the northern and western perimeters of the facility, raising the grades of the perimeter access road within the property, and construction of an ecotone levee (Figure 3).

Approximately 3,400 linear feet of sheet pile walls are anticipated. The piles would be either steel or fiberglass and driven or vibrated approximately 30 feet deep (3/8-inch thick with 12-inch width) and installed to a height of 15 feet (NAVD88) with up to 5 feet of the sheet pile remaining visible above ground.

The ecotone levee proposed on the northern perimeter of the site would recontour the levee with 10:1 to 20:1 slopes to the water line, providing a gradual transition between tidal and upland habitats. The ecotone levee would provide additional habitat for special status species and is included in the project for sea level rise and climate change adaptations.

Recycled Water Facility: The project also includes the construction and operation of a new satellite recycled water facility (RWF), associated pipelines and infrastructure installed at the site, including a potential bayside outfall for brine disposal. The facility would be sized to treat a maximum flow of up to 1 million gallons per day (MGD) to provide 220 acre-feet of water per year (AFY). An influent pump station would be installed near the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road, to divert wastewater from the WBSD collection system, to an influent pipeline along Marsh Road and the RWF. The RWF would occupy a footprint of approximately 10,000 sf along the west side of the old WWTP and consist of a concrete masonry unit (CMU) headworks building (approximately 25 ft by 50 feet, by 18 feet tall), below grade concrete basins (50 feet by 90 feet by 15 feet deep), reverse osmosis (RO) facility (25 feet by 20 feet by 18 feet tall), an operations and laboratory building 25 x 20 feet by 13 feet tall, below grade recycled water holding tank (15 feet by 15 feet by 10 feet deep), a pad for odor control system, and an electrical service pad. The District is considering several alternatives for brine disposal including installation of a brine outfall into San Francisco Bay, applying the brine on the ecotone levee slopes, or discharging into the saltwater ponds to the south of the site, among others.

Other than the RWF itself, the system would require new influent and effluent piping to connect the facility with customers (end users) for the recycled water (see Figure 4). Preliminary pipeline alignments would primarily be installed in existing street rights-of-way. The recycled water distribution pipeline is shown from the proposed RWF, continuing along Marsh Road to Constitution Drive where it would connect to an existing distribution pipeline along Chilco Street. On Chilco Street, the distribution pipeline would be installed under a railroad line to Hamilton Avenue, crossing a PG&E high pressure gas line, and ultimately connecting to a 0.5 MG storage tank (not part of this project). Remnant structures of the decommissioned water treatment plant would remain unaffected by the proposed project facilities, except for the drainage as noted below.

Other site improvements include:

- Raising the grades of the perimeter access road within the property with imported fill.
- Improving the existing ditch that serves as storm drainage along the eastern portion of the parcel. Captured storm flows will be routed within the improved

ditch and allow storm water to drain to the slough while not allowing bay water to infiltrate the property.

- Capping the existing drainage system for the retired treatment plant at the discharge point. Existing storm water drainage facilities will be rerouted to a new onsite drainage system. The new onsite drainage system will be constructed to outfall into one of the existing storage ponds.

## **Alternatives**

The EIR will examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The alternatives will be defined based on the EIR analysis, public scoping, and comments received on the NOP. A detailed description of the impacts of the proposed project and each alternative will be included in the EIR. Several alternatives will be considered and analyzed, representing varying levels of program operations and impacts. A No Project Alternative will be included in the analysis of the alternatives considered.

## **Probable Environmental Effects**

The site is located adjacent to San Francisco Bay. As such, the EIR is expected to address potential environmental effects in the following resource areas: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gases, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use, noise and vibration, recreation, transportation, and utilities and services.

Several areas of potential concern are likely to be found less than significant given the type of project or the absence of a resource or the nature of the project site (e.g., agriculture/forestry, mineral resources, population/housing, public services, and wildfire). The final scope of impact analyses conducted for the EIR will be dependent upon the outcomes of the NOP public review process.

**Aesthetics:** The project site is located along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay at the site of a flow equalization facility that stores sanitary sewer flows from the WBSD's collection system during periods of high flow to prevent over-flows down-stream and at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). Public views of the site are limited to pedestrians utilizing Bedwell Bayfront Park from Marsh Road and from certain Bedwell Bayfront Park trails. Current views of the site include open, earthen basins surrounded by earthen levees, and the old, dilapidated remnant structures of the former Menlo Park WWTP including administration building, concrete settling tanks, piping, etc. The proposed project would add new visual elements to the site including a 5-foot high sheet pile wall, ecotone (vegetated) levee, and new RWF.

**Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases:** Air quality and greenhouse gases impacts are generally limited to emissions during construction (dust and construction vehicle/equipment emissions). No sensitive receptors are located in the area except for recreational users of Bedwell Bayfront Park. The analysis would include potential odor impacts of the proposed RWF. Standby generators are a stationary source of emissions proposed as part of this project.

**Biological Resources:** The site is adjacent to San Francisco Bay and the outer levee slopes and adjacent waters provide habitat for several special status species including, but not limited to, salt marsh harvest mouse, Ridgeway's rail, Western burrowing owl, California black rail, and salt marsh wandering shrew. The ecotone levee proposed as part of the project is included in part to compensate for the temporary and permanent impacts to habitats as a result of construction of the project. The ecotone levee proposed at this location is included as a recommended adaptation feature in San Francisco Estuary Institute's SF Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas (April 2019) to plan for sea level rise using operational landscape units. The project is anticipated to require permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and State Lands Commission.

**Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources:** A cultural resources evaluation was performed for the existing WWTP building as it is over 50 years old and is eligible for consideration on the national and California Registers of Historic Places. However, the building was evaluated and was not found eligible for inclusion on either register. No demolition of the existing decommissioned WWTP is proposed as part of the project except to cap and reroute the stormwater drainage to the existing detention basins. The new RWF would be located next to the WWTP.

**Energy:** Operation of the RWF would require energy in the form of electricity. Necessary equipment will be installed at the site to connect the RWF with PG&E infrastructure. Potential RWF operations including brine disposal methods can vary greatly in terms of energy use and will be discussed.

**Geology and Soils:** The project site is adjacent to the bay and within an area subject to seismic activity. The EIR will consider the site's conditions and the proposed facilities.

**Hazards/Hazardous Materials:** A search of the Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor website revealed the project site was previously subject to a site screening evaluation by the Department of Toxic Substances Control in which was completed in 1987. The ponds were excavated and the materials were disposed to a landfill. Potential contaminants of concern were noted as metals and uncategorized. The current status is "no further action" as of September 1985. The ponds were then lined and have since continued operation. It is anticipated that a Soil Management Plan will be required if contaminated soils are encountered on site. Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the safe use, handling, and storage of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the project are anticipated.

**Hydrology and Water Quality:** Potential hydrologic impacts generally seem to be few, though the placement of sheet pile along the entire perimeter portion of the FERRF may impact the movement of water around the bayside/outboard side of the wall when sea level rise and/or tidal conditions elevate the high tide line to reach the elevation of the sheet pile wall. The analysis will include this potential impact as well as other project elements including the construction operation of the new RWF and drainage improvements. The project would be subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

System (NPDES) requirements and permitting through the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Land Use:** The project site is an existing flow equalization and resource recovery facility owned and operated by the District and the location of a WWTP that previously operated at the site. While the RWF would be a new proposed use at the site, it aligns with previous and current use of the site as a wastewater related use. The site is adjacent to San Francisco Bay and no residential receptors are located nearby. Potential impacts to nearby recreational users at Bedwell Bayfront Park will be explored through other resource areas (recreation, aesthetics, etc.).

**Noise and Vibration:** The project mainly involves noise and vibration during construction activities to construct the RWF, construction vehicles to transport soil and equipment to the site and install the sheet pile. The sheet piling will be installed with vibratory or pounding methods. No nearby sensitive receptors (residents) are present, however, consideration will be given to nearby underground structures such as the FERRF basin liners and species and habitat impacts.

**Recreation:** The project requires the installation of pipelines along Marsh Road between the project site and Bayfront Expressway. Construction may cause temporary disruption of access to Bedwell Bayfront Park; however, no permanent impacts are anticipated.

**Transportation:** Transportation impacts are largely construction related to transport fill and construction materials to the site. The RWF is an unmanned facility and monitored remotely with operational trips associated with maintenance personnel and materials deliveries. It is anticipated that the project will require a Construction Transportation Management Plan to control the movement of equipment and materials to the site and protect the safety of recreational users of Bedwell Bayfront Park.

**Utilities and Services:** The new RWF will require new utility connections for water and electricity.

Permits are anticipated from the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- State Lands Commission
- City of Menlo Park



Source: ESRI 2019; MIG 2019

★ Project Location



**Figure 1 Vicinity Map**

*West Bay Sanitary District Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility  
Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project*





**Base Map Features**

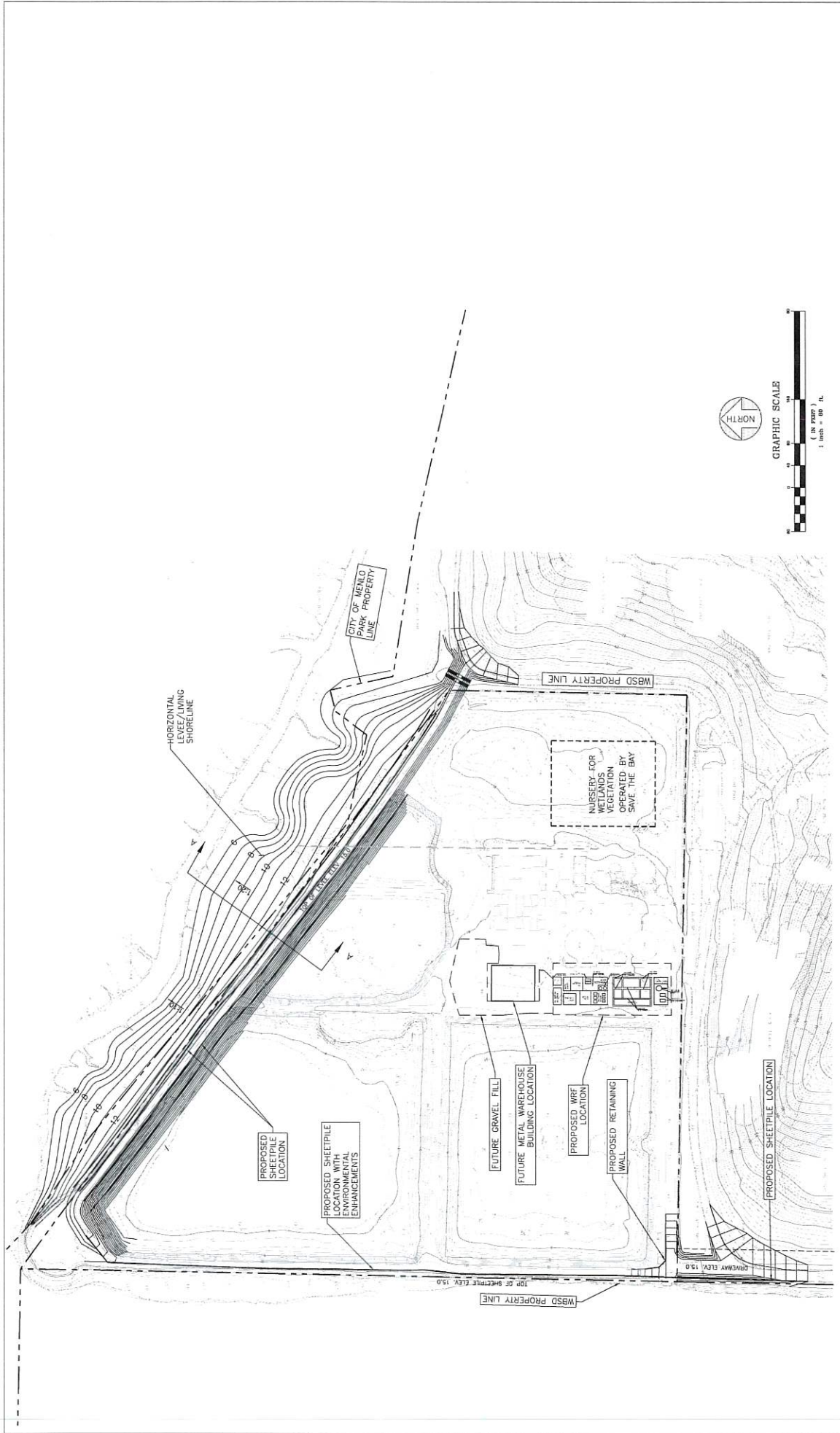
Levee Improvements and Water Recycling Facility Study Area (29.43 acres)



**Figure 2** Levee Improvements and Water Recycling Facility Study Area

*West Bay Sanitary District Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility  
Levee Improvements and Recycled Water Facility Project*





DATE: 11/11/2020	BY: DATE	DESCRIPTION OF REVISIONS	APP'D
SCALE: AS NOTED			
DESIGNED: ---			
DRAWN: ---			
CHECKED: ---			
PROJ. ENGR: ---			

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**WEST BAY**  
 SANITARY DISTRICT  
 SAN MATEO COUNTY  
 PROJECT No. ---

FLOW EQUALIZATION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY LEVEL 3  
 IMPROVEMENTS AND RECYCLED WATER FACILITY PROJECT  
 SITE PLAN  
 MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA  
 SHEET 3  
 OF 3 SHEETS  
 JOB NO. 1079

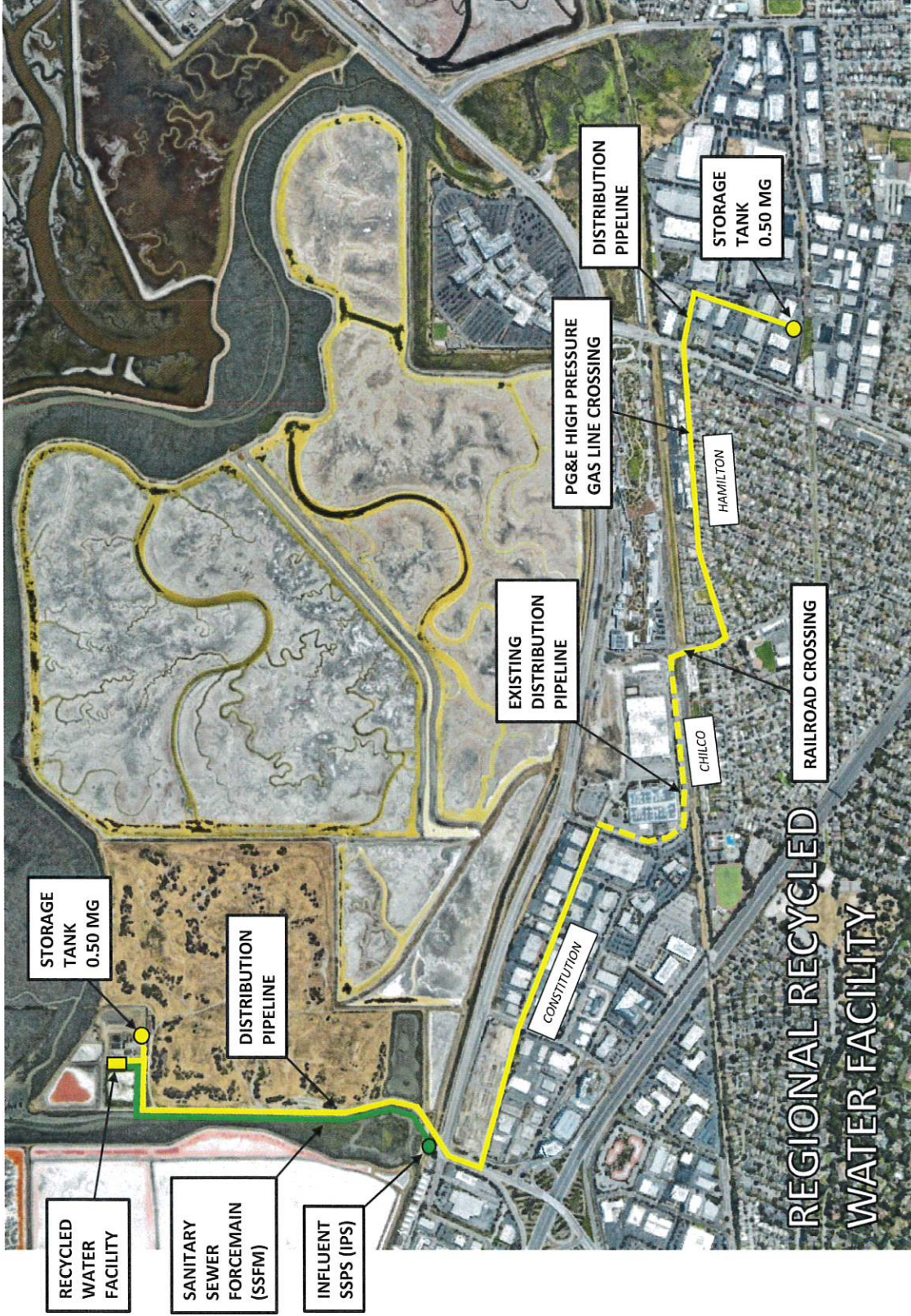


FIGURE 4