TOWN OF PARADISE SEWER PROJECT May 3, 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Town of Paradise Launches Environmental Review for Paradise Sewer Project

Public input solicited on environmental scope and content of EIR

**Paradise, CA –** On Monday, May 3, the <u>Town of Paradise</u> (Town), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, officially launched the environmental review process for the Paradise Sewer Project with a **Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Virtual Public Scoping Meetings.** The Town is soliciting public input regarding the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the EIR.

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Since its incorporation in 1979, the Town has sought a formal wastewater treatment solution for the community, with service for commercial and densely populated residential areas being a priority. Failed and failing septic systems create the potential for public health and environmental concerns and have limited economic growth. Prior to the Camp Fire, which almost completely destroyed the town in 2018, Paradise was the largest unsewered community in California. Numerous studies have supported the need for a centralized wastewater treatment solution, and in its most recent study, the Town identified a proposed sewer service area. The proposed sewer service area includes the Town's commercial corridors, and as described in the 2017 study, it represented the area that had the most septic systems that had failed or were projected to fail by 2022. A map of the proposed sewer service area can be found on the project website here.

The Proposed Project consists of three constructed components—a wastewater collection system in Paradise, an 18-mile export pipeline to convey wastewater to the Chico Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), and connection to the WPCP — and operation of the new sewer system. The export pipeline would begin at the southwest edge of Paradise and run for approximately 8 miles along Skyway until reaching south Chico, at which point the pipeline would leave Skyway and continue west, crossing Butte Creek, Highway 99, and the Union Pacific Railroad, and terminating at the Chico WPCP in Chico. The Proposed Project would not change the service area of the Chico WPCP other than the addition of the Paradise connection and treatment. Moreover, there would be no additional fees for Chico residents and existing Chico WPCP rate payers as a result of the Proposed Project. This long-term wastewater solution will allow for sustainable housing and business activity in Town, supporting the community's economic recovery and vitality.

### LEARN MORE AT UPCOMING VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

As an initial step within the CEQA process, project scoping allows the Town to seek public and stakeholder input on the environmental scope of the project. To provide convenient participation in a safe environment while social distancing, the Town is hosting two virtual public scoping meetings during the project's 30-day public comment period to allow attendees to learn about the project, interact with project team members, ask questions and submit formal comments.

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021   6 P.M.	TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021   12 P.M.
ONLINE:	ONLINE:
• Webex: <u>bit.ly/Paradise_Sewer_Mtg1</u>	Webex: <u>bit.ly/Paradise Sewer Mtg2</u>
Webex Password: Paradise	Webex Password: Paradise
BY PHONE:	BY PHONE:
• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388	• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388
• Code: 123 202 6837	• Code: 123 877 2748

For additional accessibility preferences, please submit a message on the project website at <u>paradisesewer.com/contact</u> (from subject dropdown menu, select "Submit a comment on Environmental Impact Report"). Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service TTY and/or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2929, or 711.

#### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Suggestions and comments on the scope and content of the EIR are invited from all interested parties for a period of 30 days (May 3 through June 3, 2021 by 5 p.m. PDT). Written or verbal comments concerning the Proposed Project's environmental scope should be submitted via the following options.

Website:	paradisesewer.com/contact	
	(from subject dropdown menu,	
	select "Submit a comment on	
	Environmental Impact Report")	

Mail: Colette Curtis Public Information Officer Town of Paradise 5555 Skyway Paradise, CA 95969

Telephone: 530-872-6291, ext. 112

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARADISE SEWER PROJECT:

To learn more about the proposed project or to stay updated, visit paradisesewer.com.