



TOWN OF PARADISE
Council Agenda Summary
Date: October 14, 2025

Agenda No. 1(g)

ORIGINATED BY: Marc Mattox, Public Works Director / Town Engineer

REVIEWED BY: Mike O'Brien, Interim Town Manager

SUBJECT: Paradise Sewer Project Update

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

1. None, written monthly update only.

Background:

This report is a monthly effort to provide additional opportunity for public engagement on the status and next steps of the Paradise Sewer Project.

Analysis:

Since its incorporation in 1979, the Town of Paradise has sought a centralized wastewater system to address failing septic systems that impact public health, groundwater quality, and economic development. The need for sewer service became even more urgent following the 2018 Camp Fire, when the lack of modern wastewater infrastructure emerged as a major barrier to rebuilding businesses, housing, and community resiliency.

In 2022, the Town secured \$30 million in CDBG-DR funds to begin pre-construction work, including environmental review, design, and permitting. To provide technical expertise, HDR was retained as Owner's Agent, and a progressive design-build team was selected to develop a Basis of Design Report. That effort confirmed that a locally managed, phased sewer project was necessary to achieve both affordability and long-term community needs.

In January 2025, the Town Council formed a Sewer Project Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate local treatment and collection alternatives, with strong emphasis on public engagement and cost feasibility. The Committee, working alongside staff, HDR, and the Paradise Irrigation District, conducted community meetings, stakeholder workshops, site tours of other wastewater systems, and a technical alternatives analysis.

In August 2025, the Town Council unanimously voted to concur with the Paradise Sewer Project Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to direct a revised project description to include hybrid gravity/low pressure collection system, aerated lagoon wastewater treatment, and percolation/evaporation pond effluent discharge.

Main Accomplishments

- Advertised RFQ for procurement of wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) design consultant for design-bid-build project delivery method.
- Issued notice of contract termination to collection system progressive design-build team per direction from Town Council.
- Begin transition of collection system from progressive design-build to design-bid-build project delivery method.

- Prepared Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) draft revised project description.
- Continued support for funding and evaluating all project funding options, including meeting with USACE staff to discuss grant funding.

Key Activities (One Month Look-Ahead)

- Prepare Alternatives Analysis Summary TM to document alternatives evaluated and recommended Project Description adopted by Town Council on August 14.
- Ongoing preparation of Administrative Draft SEIR.
- Finalize SEIR revised project description.