



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 5, 2021

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Sewer Regionalization Project Advisory Committee to hold first public meeting**

The first meeting of the Sewer Regionalization Project Advisory Committee has been scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The purpose of this committee is to monitor the progress of the Town of Paradise Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and efforts being done under the Town of Paradise and City of Chico's Cooperative Work Agreement. Public participation in the EIR process will happen separately but in parallel with the Committee's work. Items included on the agenda for this first meeting are discussion of the project background and role of the committee moving forward concurrent to the Town's EIR. The Mayor and Vice Mayor of the Town of Paradise and the Mayor and Vice Mayor of the City of Chico have been appointed to this committee which will be hosted and facilitated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Paradise Sewer Project is a Tier 1 Town-Led Priority Project in the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan and has been studied at length for over 50 years. The Town of Paradise has been in need of a wastewater solution for many years, because perpetual treatment and dispersal was not sustainable due to high groundwater, limited land available and poor soils – ultimately restricting multi-family housing and commercial operations that rely on water usage like restaurants. Post-Camp Fire, Paradise lost 83% of its population and 90% of its housing stock, and the City of Chico's population has grown by 20%. Despite this spike in population, Chico did not see proportional revenue growth for increased wastewater flows due to more people sharing households. A Sewer Service Area in Paradise would allow for the development of Multi-Family housing along evacuation routes to ease the housing to ease the housing crisis in our region.

"The need for a centralized wastewater treatment for the Town of Paradise has been studied for several decades and, after the Camp Fire, the Chico City Council was eager to hear the results of the Phase I completion," said City of Chico Mayor Andrew Coolidge. "I'm pleased to join the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Paradise with Vice Mayor Reynolds on the Sewer Regionalization Project Advisory Committee, and we

look forward to seeing what develops during this 18-month EIR process and certainly support efforts to improve our regional economy and the wastewater infrastructure in Chico.”

The EIR studying the regional sewer connection has not been fast-tracked and will take approximately 18 months to complete. This report will seek to determine, among a myriad of other questions brought forward by the Project Committee and the public, the desired pipe alignment, capacity impacts to the WPCP and whether a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will be formed in the future.

“We are pleased with the partnership and cooperation we are receiving from the city of Chico in moving our sewer project forward. This project is an absolute win-win for both Paradise and Chico and shows what can be accomplished when you join forces and work together for the betterment of both communities,” said Paradise Mayor Steve Crowder.

The Paradise Sewer Project is one of the largest infrastructure projects of its kind in the State. It is the largest in the Central Valley Region including Roseville and Stockton and the largest in the North State by far. After many decades of study, a universal understanding among Federal and State officials is that a regional approach is our best path forward.

**Meeting Details:**

Monday March 8, 2021, 1:00 PM

Watch and Listen Here: **YOU TUBE LIVE STREAM URL** (<https://youtu.be/-5cvsulrI8>)

*Note: Advisory Committee will not be able to respond to questions or comments entered in the YouTube chat feature.*

Email a comment on an agenda item or make a public comment before or after the meeting by emailing [sewercommittee@townofparadise.com](mailto:sewercommittee@townofparadise.com). Emails received at this address will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee Members by 5:00 PM on the business day prior to the day of the meeting.