State of Utah

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August 30, 2023

PAYSON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PUBLIC NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND ANTIDEGRADATION REVIEW

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

The Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, herewith publishes a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Payson Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Payson, Utah County, Utah. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was developed to examine potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

As required by guidelines for preparing environmental impact statements, an environmental review was performed on the proposed State of Utah, Division of Water Quality (DWQ) action below:

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Payson Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

MAILING ADDRESS: 1062 North Main, Payson, Utah 84651

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located at the site of the existing plant at 1062 North Main, Payson, Utah 84651

WATERCOURSES: Beer Creek to Utah Lake

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: $72,000,000

PROJECT NUMBER: SRF 266

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL SHARE FUNDING: $14,500,000 from Utah Water Quality Board (UWQB), $6,065,355 from Utah Lake Preservation ARPA Grant Fund, and $51,434,645 in local contribution.

PERMIT INFORMATION

FACILITY NAME: Payson Wastewater Treatment Plant
PERMITTEE NAME: Payson Wastewater Treatment Plant
MAILING ADDRESS: 1062 North Main, Payson, Utah 84651
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 801-465-5277
PERMIT NO.: UT0020427

BACKGROUND

The City of Payson first installed the Payson Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the 1930's. Since then, there have been several upgrades to the facility. The facility's current design capacity is an average daily flow of 3.0 mgd, with a peak hydraulic capacity of 5.75 mgd. The WWTP effluent discharges through a 24-inch pipe to an irrigation ditch which flows into Beer Creek. Beer Creek is a class 2B, class 3C, and class 4 water. Beer Creek then flows into Benjamin Slough and Utah Lake. Payson City effluent is also utilized by an effluent reuse system as cooling water in a neighboring power plant.

The proposed nutrient removal upgrade project will modify the existing facility for biological phosphorus removal and expand the daily average flow design capacity from 3.0 mgd to 4.0 mgd. Payson proposes to upgrade its existing WWTP to an Oxidation Ditch process with anaerobic basins. The upgrade is necessary to comply with current nutrient and potential future regulations.

The Utah Water Quality Board approved funding for this project and authorized a $13,500,000 loan at 0.5% over 30 years plus $1,000,000 in additional funding as principal forgiveness. Payson was also allocated $6,065,355 in ARPA grant funds through the Utah Lake Preservation Fund. The rest of the balance of the project will be made up using cash reserves, and additional municipal bonds.

The proposed project will be completed primarily within the fence line of the existing treatment facility. The project will occur primarily on paved roads or previously developed areas. No wetland impacts are anticipated for the project. The proposed project would not modify or eliminate any recreational open space and would be unlikely to impact any agricultural lands. The project should not cause any increased impacts to air quality once operational and fugitive dust control measures are planned during construction. The additional discharge should not significantly alter stream flow conditions or result in stream bank modifications. The increased capacity will allow the plant to meet the requirements of the DWQ permit. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by Forsgren Engineering as part of Payson WWTP's Capital Facilities Plan. The EA evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed upgrades.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This notice announces the availability of the EA which is included in the 2019 Capital Facilities Plan and the 2023 Amendment, along with the anti-degradation review (ADR) included as Appendix B of the 2023 Amendment, and the 2023 Updated Wasteload Analysis (WLA) for public review and comment. Utah Administrative Code requires an ADR for any project that will increase the level of pollutants in waters of the state. A Level II ADR was conducted for the proposed project, as required for increased design discharges. This notice also announces the availability of the ADR, which is included in Appendix B in the Facility Plan.

Based on the information on the EA, as summarized here, The Utah Division of Water Quality determines that the proposed action will not significantly impact water quality. Additionally, the review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, the preliminary decision is to not prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and the DWQ is issuing a FONSI for the proposed action. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the Capital Facilities Plan, environmental information documents, antidegradation review, and other supporting information. These documents are available for public review online on the Division of Water Quality webpages.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by the Utah of Water Quality. After evaluating the comments received, the Division will make a final decision.

No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least **30 calendar days** while advertising the Finding of No Significant Impact, Facility Plan, EA, and the Antidegradation Review.

Questions or comments may be directed to Linsey Shafer via email at lrshafer@utah.gov or if necessary via telephone at (385) 405-4158. (Note: Please Include "Payson WWTP FONSI" in the subject line of any email)

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