

Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Draft Environmental Information Document

Prepared for:
FEI Engineers and
Village of Taos Ski Valley

August 2017

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

APE	Area of Potential Effects
AQB	Air Quality Bureau
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BA	Biological Assessment
BBER	Bureau of Business And Economic Research
BE	Biological Evaluation
BMP	Best Management Practice
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGP	Construction General Permit
EID	Environmental Information Document
FEI	FEI Engineers, Inc.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GWQB	Ground Water Quality Bureau
HWB	Hazardous Waste Bureau
IFAS	Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge
Ipac	Information, Planning, And Conservation System
LRE	Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc.
MBR	Membrane Bioreactor
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
MIS	Management Indicator Species
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historical Preservation Act
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NMCRIS	New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System
NMDGF	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMHPD	New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
PER	Preliminary Engineering Report
PSTB	Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
RME	Rocky Mountain Ecological LLC

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SBR	Sequencing Batch Reactor
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SSA	Sole Source Aquifer
SWB	Solid Waste Bureau
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWQB	Surface Water Quality Bureau
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOJ	United States Department of Interior
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UV	Ultraviolet
Village	Village of Taos Ski Valley
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility

1.0 Purpose and Need for Project

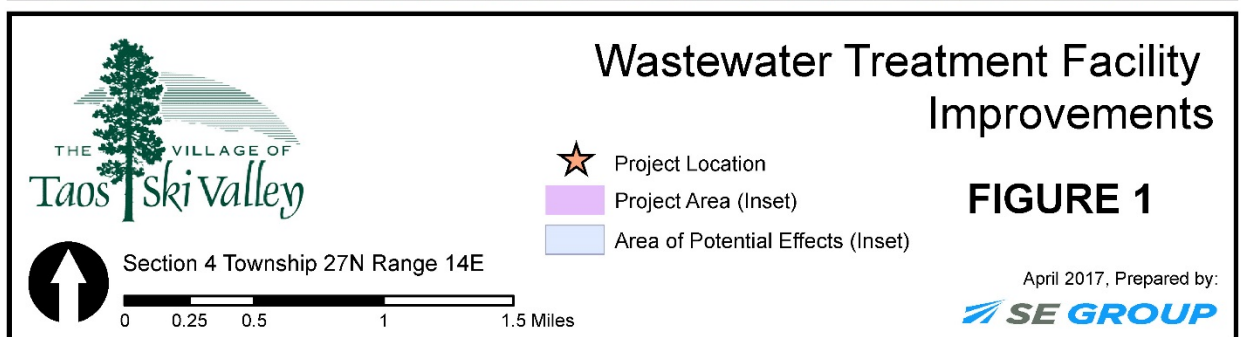
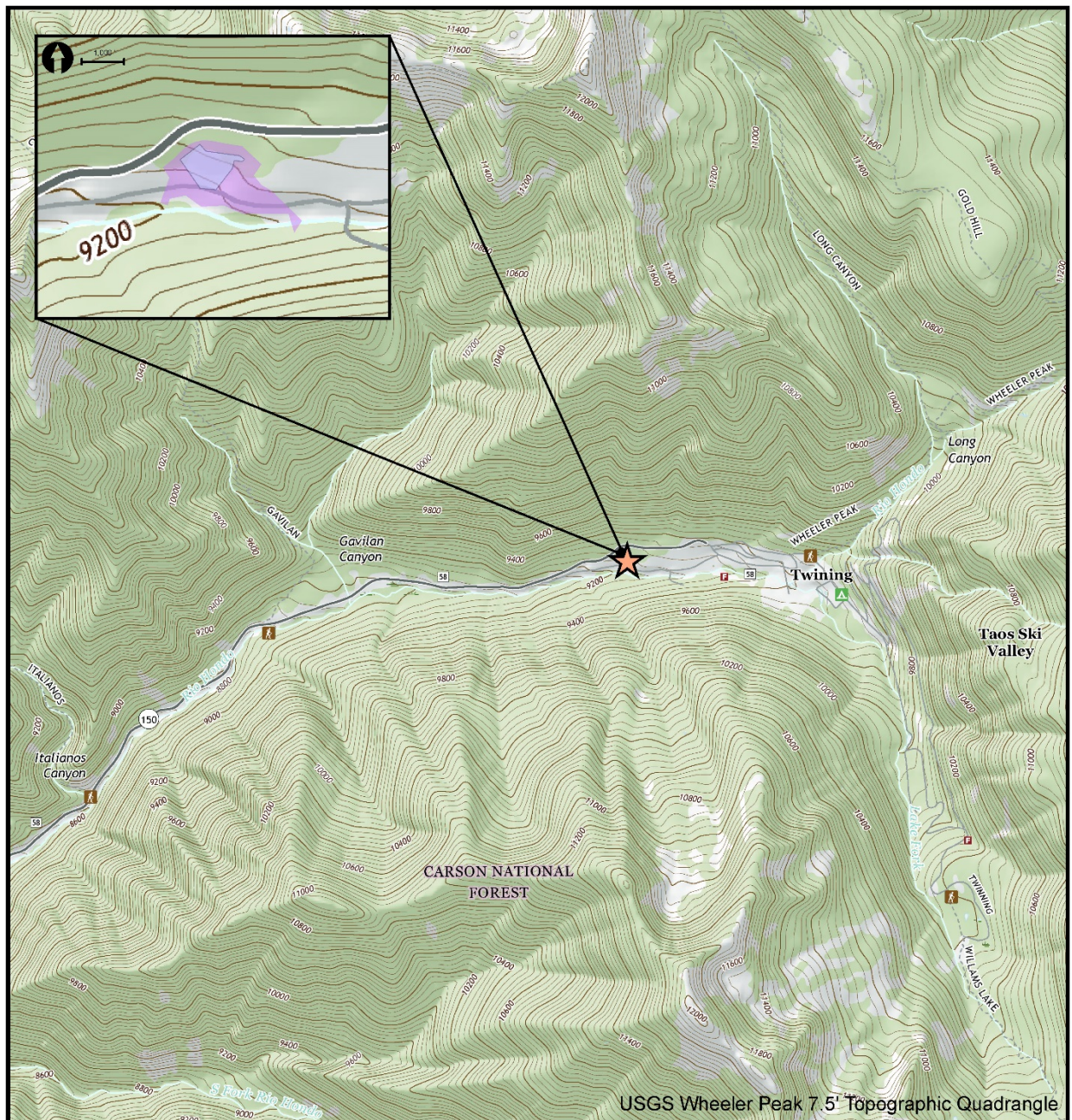
1.1 Project Description

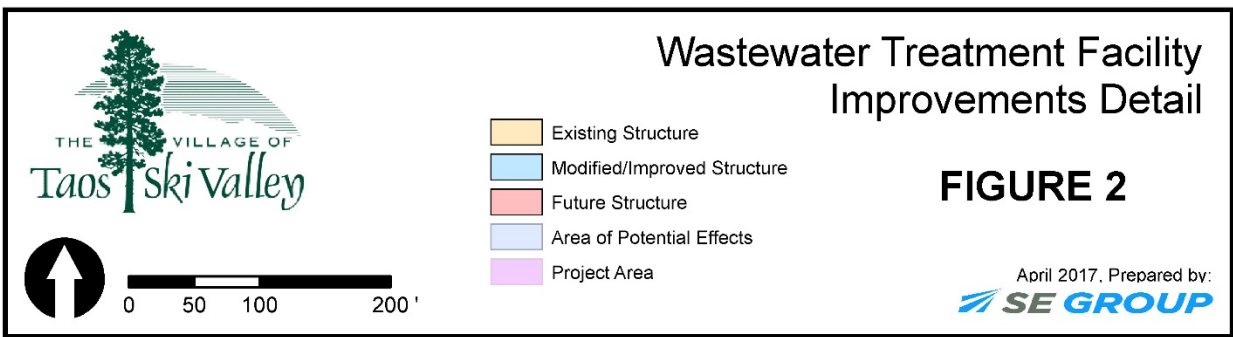
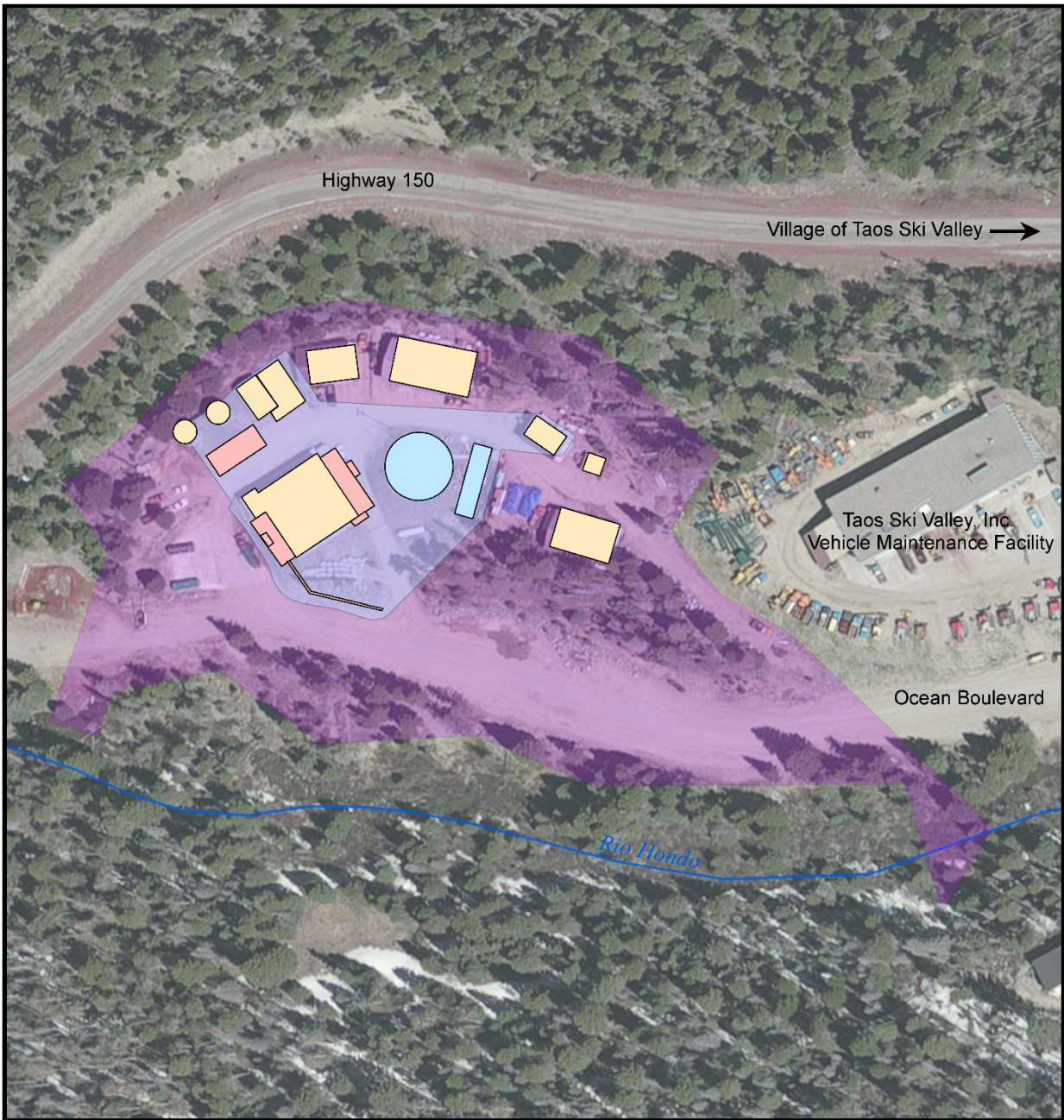
The Village of Taos Ski Valley (Village) is proposing to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.31 MGD (Project). It is anticipated that the Project would include the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans; as such, the Project requires compliance with the United States (U.S.) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 6, 25, 35, and 1500) and State of New Mexico regulations (New Mexico Administrative Code [NMAC] 20.7.7). The Village is completing this Environmental Information Document (EID) to assist the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Construction Programs Bureau with completing an environmental assessment analyzing the environmental effects of the Proposed Project.

The Village owns and has operated the existing WWTF since acquiring the facility in 2001 (FEI Engineers, Inc. [FEI] 2016). The existing WWTF was last updated in 2005 as an integrated fixed film activated sludge (IFAS) process with secondary treatment capacity and biologic nutrient removal capacity. The WWTF is permitted to discharge 0.167 MGD of treated effluent to the Rio Hondo, under National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number NM0022101. To address the current WWTF operational constraints described in detail in **Section 1.2**, the Village is proposing to improve the WWTF by converting the existing IFAS process to a membrane bioreactor (MBR) system.

Construction of the proposed MBR treatment process system would include retrofitting and repurposing the existing concrete treatment tanks, as well as constructing additional new treatment tanks and replacing the existing building or constructing a new building to encompass the new tanks. A total of approximately 3,600 square feet of new structures are proposed, with an additional approximately 16,000 square feet of modified or removed structures (refer to **Figure 1**). The Proposed Project would be contained within the existing WWTF site and would disturb approximately 1 acre (the Area of Potential Effects [APE]), all of which has been disturbed for facility development in the past (FEI 2016).

The proposed 1-acre APE is located on a 4.89-acre parcel of U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land that is currently under review for a transfer in ownership to the Village (Village 2017a). The 4.89-acre parcel was selected as the Project Area boundary for this EID. This land has been developed as a WWTF since prior to 1982. The APE is located approximately 140 feet north of the Rio Hondo within Section 4 of Township 27 North, Range 14 East (refer to **Figure 1**). The APE is bordered to the north and west by State Highway 150 (paved); to the east by a Taos Ski Valley, Inc. vehicle maintenance facility; and to the south by Ocean Boulevard (gravel) and the Rio Hondo (refer to **Figure 2**).





1.2 Purpose and Need for Project

The purpose and need for the proposed Project is to address current operational constraints identified at the existing WWTF. Plant operations data indicate that the current WWTF's capability becomes challenged at peak flows of approximately 0.120 MGD. These challenges are evident by periodic solids carry-over caused by the high clarifier solids loading at high flow rates and biomass concentrations; the need for round-the-clock WWTF operator oversight during peak flows; and permit violations (a very limited number) for ammonia exceedances (FEI 2016). In addition, the WWTF is also constrained by the following:

- Extreme variation in flows;
- Cold temperatures and inadequately sized processes;
- Peak period loading of the clarifiers that can translate into solids carryover and total phosphorus exceedances;
- Lack of load equalization for peak period ammonia spikes;
- Lack of facility instrumentation and automation;
- Inadequate space for necessary laboratory facilities including inadequate office and operations meeting room space;
- Questionable back-up power supply, which is currently provided by an emergency generator); and
- Aging infrastructure nearing end of useful life (FEI 2016).

The Village is expecting that future development originally identified in the 2010 Village Master Plan within its wastewater service area will further challenge the performance of the current WWTF.

2.0 Alternatives

The treatment technologies considered for the Village WWTF were analyzed in a 2016 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) compiled by FEI Engineers (FEI 2016). Refer to the PER for a detailed description of each technology. The No Action Alternative, Proposed Action Alternative, and Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Detailed Analysis have been summarized below.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Village's proposal to upgrade the current WWTF would not occur. The current WWTF would continue operations as an IFAS system (refer to **Section 1.1**), and the constraints identified in **Section 1.2** would continue to exist. The No Action Alternative forms the baseline against which the potential impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative are compared.

2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the current IFAS system would be upgraded to a MBR system. A MBR is a modification of a standard activated sludge process that incorporates an engineered membrane barrier to separate solids and liquids during the activated sludge process, rendering the existing clarifier unnecessary (FEI 2016). Flat sheet membrane filters would be assembled into a cassette, incorporated into an existing aeration tank to increase capacity of the treatment process, or incorporated into a single tank.

The Proposed Action Alternative would include retrofitting and repurposing existing influent equalization and sludge holding tanks, reuse of the existing centrifuge, upgrading the ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, and upgrading the existing headworks with the addition of a 3-millimeter fine screen. Additional upgrades would include new partially buried, covered MBR process tanks; a new effluent equalization tank; new electrical and controls; new aeration blowers; and site work. Due to the MBR using a membrane filtration system, tertiary filtration is not required. As discussed in **Section 1.1**, a total of approximately 3,600 square feet of new structures are proposed, with an additional approximately 16,000 square feet of proposed modified or removed structures (refer to **Figure 2**). The Project would be contained within the existing WWTF site and would disturb approximately 1 acre (APE), all of which has been disturbed for facility development in the past.

As a MBR system relies on membrane process for solids separation, there is no requirement for any process adjustments to obtain sufficient sludge settling properties, as is required for operating any other activated sludge process. The MBR system is capable of reliably producing a very high-quality effluent that meets the Project's permitted effluent requirements over a wide range of influent loading and process operating conditions (FEI 2016).

During construction, it is anticipated that a mobile, skid mounted treatment plant would be rented and placed onsite for the period required. The mobile, temporary treatment plant would include secondary process tanks, MBRs, and UV disinfection, allowing for a complete treatment process capable of continuously meeting the effluent limits. The construction schedule is not finalized;

however, it is anticipated that the total construction timeframe will be between 18 and 24 months; with rental of the mobile MBR treatment system expected to be for a period of between 9 and 18 months.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Detailed Analysis

Several alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis for not meeting the purpose and need for the Project, or for being technically impractical or infeasible.

2.3.1 Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge with Tertiary Treatment

The Village considered continuing with the current IFAS system with the addition of new tertiary treatment for phosphorous removal (FEI 2016). In addition to new tertiary filtration units, this alternative would require upgrades to UV disinfection, a new operations building housing the new process equipment, reuse of the existing influent equalization tank, reuse of the existing sludge holding tank, reuse of the existing centrifuge, new electrical controls, new aeration blowers, and site work. Overall, the treatment technology and process equipment would be similar in nature to the existing WWTF process.

While the IFAS with tertiary treatment alternative would meet the Village's purpose and need for the Project, this alternative would not address those limitations associated with the Village's very cold wastewater temperatures that result in slow nitrifier growth rates and long required solids retention times. In addition, this alternative would result in an overall higher cost with slightly lower operational margin of safety as compared with the Proposed Action Alternative, primarily due to the clarification step, which requires constant fine control of factors that influence sludge settleability.

2.3.2 Sequencing Batch Reactor with Tertiary Treatment

The Village considered an alternative that would convert the current WWTF to a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) system with tertiary treatment for phosphorous removal (FEI 2016). In addition to new tertiary filtration units, this alternative would require new partially-buried, covered SBR process tanks; a new effluent equalization tank; upgrades to the UV disinfection; a new operations building housing the new process equipment; reuse of existing influent equalization tank; reuse of existing sludge holding tank; reuse of existing centrifuge; new electrical and controls; new aeration blowers; and site work.

While SBR systems are flexible and adaptable to treat the seasonally variable flows by adjusting cycles times, large basins and a long solids retention times are required in order to fully nitrify at the Village's very cold wastewater temperatures. Additionally, the ability of the SBR process to reliably attain the stringent total nitrogen and total phosphorous limits is questionable, requiring a tertiary treatment process for the removal of both nitrate and phosphorous.

2.3.3 Optimizing the Current Facilities without Upgrade

Optimization and interim measures of the WWTF took place in 2015. Additional optimization without significant infrastructure and/or process upgrades would not be able to meet the future demand from planned development originally identified in the 2010 Village Master Plan and

effluent quality requirements, thereby not meeting the purpose and need for the Project (FEI 2016).

2.3.4 Interconnecting with Another Existing System

Due to the remote location of the Village, it was determined that it would be impractical to connect with other existing wastewater treatment facilities (FEI 2016).

2.3.5 Small Cluster or Individual Facilities

The Village is located in a small, narrow valley surrounded by steep terrain. Currently, the sewer collection system conveys the majority of the Village wastewater to the existing WWTF. As the Village land position is limited to small, clustered parcels of land, it is most practical to maintain one central treatment facility in the existing treatment location and not develop small cluster or individual facilities (FEI 2016).

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area is located in Taos County, northern New Mexico, in the Taos Range of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. The Carson National Forest surrounds the Project Area, which is bordered to the north by the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Study Area and to the south by the Wheeler Peaks Wilderness (USFS 1986, USGS 2013). The Taos Pueblo Reservation, both a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site and National Historic Landmark, is located approximately 2 miles to the south of the Village (Village 2017a). The Project Area is approximately 19 miles northeast of the Town of Taos and is accessed via State Highway 150 (Village 2017a). At just under 2.85 square miles, the Village was incorporated as a municipality in 1996 and contains a total population of 69 permanent residents at the last official census count (Village 2017a, BBER 2017).

The Taos Range of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains was formed by an underlying fault block, which in turn created the north-south facing slopes characteristic to the area. The Project Area lies within the Rio Hondo watershed, which drains to the Rio Hondo River. The elevation of the Project Area is roughly 9,200 feet above sea level, with slopes adjacent to the Project Area boundary ranging from 0 to 15 percent. The aspect for the site is predominantly southern facing (USFS 1986).

As discussed in **Section 1.1**, the proposed APE is a 1-acre area located on Forest Service land that is currently undergoing review for a transfer in ownership to the Village (Village 2017a). These lands have been developed as a WWTF since prior to 1982. The APE is located approximately 140 feet north of the Rio Hondo River, within Section 4 of Township 27 North, Range 14 East. The APE is bordered on the west and north by State Highway 150, to the east by a Taos Ski Valley Inc. vehicle maintenance facility, and to the south by Ocean Boulevard and the Rio Hondo River.

The forest type within the Project Area is predominantly upper montane coniferous forest and montane-riparian species (RME 2015a). Due to past disturbance within the Project Area boundary, the majority of the soil is mixed. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and a field wetland survey, no surface water, seeps, or springs are present within the APE; however, the Rio Hondo and associated wetlands have been mapped within the Project Area boundary at the far southeast and southwest corners (USFWS 2017, RME 2015a).

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 General Land Use

The Village is divided into five land use areas: Amizette, the Village Core, Kachina Basin, Neighborhood District, and Farming/Recreation (Village 2017a). Zoning in the Village includes Adult Entertainment (Zone AE); Recreation and Agriculture (Zone A); Commercial/Business

(Zone CB); Commercial/Business Core (Zone CBC); Residential (Zone R); Special Use (Zone S-U); and Unzoned (Zone UZ). The APE is currently located in unzoned Forest Service land within the Village Tract D, east of the Amizette Subdivision (Village 2007). The Project Area would be zoned for industrial use if the transfer to Village ownership is completed (Village 2017b).

The current WWTF currently services the majority of the Village except for the Amizette Subdivision (FEI 2016). Residents of the Amizette Subdivision are limited to utilizing holding tanks or individual septic systems but as the Village continues to expand its service area, it is anticipated these residents would be added to the WWTF service area (FEI 2016). There are approximately 40 buildings with private septic tanks in the Village (Village 2017a).

Future development of the Village is limited by steep slopes, snow, severe summer and winter storms, unstable soils, and access to the Village's water and sewer system (Village 2017a). No impacts to general land use are expected under either the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. No changes in zoning or impacts to homes or businesses would occur as a result of the Project. A discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects as well as Project-related cumulative effects is presented in **Section 3.12**.

3.2.2 Growth and Population Trends

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico found that from years 2000 to 2010, the population of Taos County experienced a 9.9 percent increase from 29,979 to 32,937 individuals (BBER 2017). The current population of Taos County is roughly 33,000, with expected growth to take place at a diminishing rate over the next few decades. These projections are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Taos County Population Growth Projections

Years	2010–2015	2015–2020	2020–2025	2025–2030	2030–2035
Estimated Population (Individuals)	35,960	38,013	39,743	41,145	42,367
Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	1.19	1.11	0.89	0.69	0.59

Source: BBER 2008

In 2010, the date of the last U.S. Census, the year-round (i.e., permanent) population of the Village was 69 (BBER 2017). During the winter season, however, the population has been observed to increase to approximately 2,000 during peak skier visitation times (FEI 2016). The Village is currently experiencing growth due to improvements to the ski area, including new lifts, a luxury hotel, pedestrian walkways and improved parking, and a proposed new retail/housing area in the Village Core (Village 2017a).

No impacts to population growth or trends are anticipated to occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. A discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects as well as Project-related cumulative effects is presented in **Section 3.12**.

3.2.3 Important Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) was created to minimize the effects of federally funded programs on the irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural purposes and of

hydric soils to non-hydric uses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist reviewed the Project and determined that the Proposed Action Alternative will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands or hydric soils to be converted to non-agricultural or non-hydric uses; therefore, the Project is not subject to the FPPA (USDA-NRCS 2016). Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with NRCS. A copy of the NRCS State Conservationist's response is provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.2.4 Soils

One soil map unit has been identified by the NRCS Web Soil Survey within the Project Area boundary: map unit CSC, Cryoborolls, 0 to 8 percent slopes. (USDA-NRCS 2017). According to NRCS, this soil is well drained and exhibits moderately rapid permeability and a slight erosion hazard. Soils within the Project Area have been previously altered through removal of native forest vegetation, grading, compaction, and mixing of surface and sub-surface soil layers. These areas that were previously disturbed by road and commercial development projects have been revegetated successfully, resulting in minimal soil erosion and sedimentation (RME 2015a). It is anticipated that areas of soil exposed by the proposed Project would require occasional maintenance and simple erosion measures; therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative is not anticipated to result in significant erosion or impacts to previously undisturbed soils.

Taos Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) reviewed the proposed Project and does not have any concerns (Taos SWCD 2016). Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the Taos SWCD. A copy of the Taos SWCD response is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Projects with greater than or equal to 1 acre of soil disturbance require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with recommended Best Management Practices (BMPS) to limit erosion and sediment transport. The Project is expected to disturb approximately 1 acre; therefore, it is anticipated that a SWPPP would be developed to identify drainage management during construction, appropriate communication plans, storm event protocol, and rehabilitation after construction.

The NPDES requires a Construction General Permit (CGP) for any areas 1 acre or larger in size and that will produce storm water discharges, so as to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation of waterways from construction activities associated with the Project. As the Project is expected to disturb approximately 1 acre of soils, a CGP would likely be required.

3.2.5 Formally Classified Lands

Formally Classified Lands include national forests, national parks, landmarks, historic sites, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, grasslands, state parks, and Native American lands. The Project Area is considered located within Formally Classified Lands because it is situated on Forest Service land within the Carson National Forest. In addition, the Project Area is bordered to the north by the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Study Area and to the south by the Wheeler Peaks Wilderness (USDOI 2017, USFS 1986, USGS 2013). The Taos Pueblo Reservation is located approximately 2 miles to the south. Requests for comments were distributed to the Carson National Forest and Taos Pueblo on September 16, 2016 and September 13, 2016, respectively. Carson National Forest responded to verify that the project would occur on National Forest System land. Forest Service coordination is ongoing. No response was received from Taos Pueblo. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of

communication with the Forest Service and Taos Pueblo. Copies of all correspondence are provided in **Appendix 1**.

While the Proposed Action Alternative would involve project-related activities on Formally Classified Lands, impacts to these lands would not exceed existing conditions because the APE is located in previously disturbed and unvegetated land and the effluent limits will remain unchanged. Therefore, no impacts to Formally Classified Lands under the Proposed Action Alternative are anticipated.

3.3 Floodplains

To comply with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* any potential impact to floodplains must be identified and evaluated so as to reduce the risk of loss to flooding, to mitigate safety concerns in regard to human health and welfare, and to maintain important ecological functions of floodplains to the surrounding ecosystem. Each project must plan for and abide by these management parameters so as to ensure compliance with federal standards.

The Project Area is located within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 35055CO675E (FEMA 2010). The site lies within “Zone X,” which is defined as areas located outside the 0.2% annual chance (i.e., 500-year) floodplain. FEMA was provided an opportunity to review the Project, and responded with a recommendation to contact the County of Taos Floodplain Administrator (FEMA 2016). The County of Taos Floodplain Administrator reviewed the Project and determined that the APE is outside of the 100-year floodplain as mapped by the FEMA (County of Taos 2016). Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with FEMA and the County of Taos Floodplain Administrator. Copies of all correspondence are provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Wetlands

A wetland field survey was completed for the Project Area on September 29, 2015 (RME 2015a). A total of 0.027 acre of wetlands associated with the Rio Hondo were delineated in the southeastern and southwestern corners of the Project Area; however, these areas are located outside of the APE, on the opposite side of Ocean Boulevard. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was provided with details of the Proposed Action Alternative and invited to comment on the Project; no response was received. As no wetlands are present within the APE and the APE is separated from the wetlands by an existing road, impacts to wetlands by the Proposed Action Alternative are not anticipated. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with USACE.

3.5 Water Resources

3.5.1 Surface Water

The Village WWTF discharges to the Rio Hondo, specifically Segment NM-2120.A_602, which is located in the Rio Hondo sub-basin of the Upper Rio Grande watershed (LRE 2017). The Rio Hondo is a perennial waterbody and is located outside of the APE and on the opposite side of Ocean Boulevard from the Project, but does cross the Project Area in the far southwest and southeast corners. No other surface water, including seeps or springs, is present within the Project Area (RME 2015a). No ground-disturbing activities are proposed within the Rio Hondo.

The Rio Hondo Segment NM-2120.A_602 begins at its convergence with the South Fork of the Rio Hondo, approximately 3 linear miles southwest of the WWTF, and extends upstream to its convergence with Lake Fork Creek, at Sutton Place. The designated uses for Segment NM-2120.A_602 are domestic water supply, high quality coldwater aquatic life, irrigation, livestock watering, primary contact, and wildlife habitat. All assessed designated uses are currently fully supported and in attainment (LRE 2017). The Village WWTF is required to discharge effluent in accordance with NPDES permit number NM0022101 to ensure that Rio Hondo Segment NM-2120.A_602 water quality standards are met. The proposed Project is not requesting increases in currently permitted total nitrogen or total phosphorous effluent limits; therefore, no impacts to water quality are anticipated under the Proposed Action Alternative (LRE 2017). As discussed in **Section 2.2**, the proposed MBR system would produce higher-quality effluent than the existing WWTF system.

The water consumed by customers within the Village WWTF service area originates from Phoenix Spring, a surface diversion southeast and upstream of the Project Area. Phoenix Spring contributes to the streamflow within the Rio Hondo. It is estimated that 95 percent of water originating from Phoenix Spring for indoor use is discharged as wastewater, and 5 percent is not returned to the Village WWTF (LRE 2017).

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the capacity of the WWTF would be increased from 0.167 MGD to 0.31 MGD. An analysis completed by Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. estimated the potential streamflow depletion (based on indoor water consumption), and resulting decreases to streamflow volumes, that could occur in the Rio Hondo below the WWTF if the facility is operating at 0.31 MGD. The analysis assumes that ninety-five percent (95%) of the water supplied to the Village WWTF customers is returned to the river as effluent discharge. The impacts of the streamflow depletion is relative to streamflow volume conditions in the Rio Hondo. Therefore, it's expected that the smallest impact to streamflows in the river would occur when streamflow volumes are highest (e.g., during spring runoff), and the largest impact would occur when streamflow volumes are lowest (e.g., during winter months).

LRE's analysis shows that potential estimated decreases in streamflow volume related to the WWTF improvement project at the USGS Rio Hondo Gage (located approximately 7.2 miles below the WWTF) and directly below the WWTF are negligible for the streamflow period of record used in the analysis (2000–2015). During the representative dry year (2000), which typifies dry year flow conditions for the Rio Hondo, the estimated decreases in minimum streamflow volumes that occurred at the USGS Rio Hondo streamflow gage range from 0.2 to 0.3 percent, with an annual average estimated decrease of 0.2 percent. Impacts to streamflow volumes directly below the WWTF discharge location were also estimated. During minimum streamflows that occurred in the representative dry year, the decrease in streamflow volumes range from 0.4 to 1 percent with an annual average estimated decrease of 0.6 percent. These volume depletions are based on worst case scenario conditions that consider the maximum streamflow depletion that could occur as a result of the WWTF expansion and minimum monthly streamflows that occur in the representative dry year for the 2000–2015 period of record (LRE 2017). The analysis shows that impacts to streamflow volume are negligible under the Proposed Action Alternative.

The New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) reviewed the Project and stated the State of New Mexico may require supplemental information as part of an Antidegradation Review in accordance with the State of New Mexico Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters 20.6.4.8, NMAC. The SWQB also stated that should the Project APE expand beyond 1 acre, a Notice of Intent to discharge under the NPDES CGP may be required. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with NMED SWQB. A copy of the NMED SWQB letter is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Water Rights

The Village has two water rights that allow up to 416 acre-feet to be diverted annually. The first water right, obtained from the O.E. Pattison Trust, permits for a diversion of 216 acre-feet per year when needed and allows a total of 10.9 acre-feet per year of consumptive use. This decree requires a 95 percent return flow and there are no time limitations. Therefore, the Village can divert up to 216 acre-feet per year, as needed. The second water right is the San Juan Chama, which provides 200 acre-feet per year. This water right provides 15.0 acre-feet of augmentation water and assumes 7.5 percent consumptive use. This water right can only be diverted during winter months (GGI 2015).

The Village has three developed diversion points: Phoenix Spring, Gun Site Spring, and Beaver Pond. All of these diversions are approved for the beneficial uses of residential, commercial, municipal, snowmaking, and construction. No changes to the Village's water rights are proposed as part of the Project (GGI 2015).

Acequia

Acequia are community-operated watercourses used primarily for irrigation and livestock watering. No acequia are located within the Project Area or APE. The nearest acequia downstream of the WWTF discharge point that receives water from the Rio Hondo is approximately 7.2 river miles downstream (RME 2016). The following acequia associations were invited to comment on the Project:

- Acequia Arroyo Hondo Ditch Association
- Acequia de Atalaya Ditch Association
- Acequia des Montes Cuchilla Ditch Association
- Acequia des Montes Ditch Association
- Acequia Lower des Montes Neighborhood Association
- Acequia Mat Ditch Association
- Acequia Plaza Ditch Association
- Acequia de San Antonio
- Acequia Revasle Ditch Association
- Acequia Trujillo Association

Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with acequia associations.

The Project was analyzed to identify potential impacts to acequia, including water quantity impacts and water quality impacts, as well as impacts to acequia-related water uses such as

irrigation. No direct or indirect impacts to acequia or related water uses are anticipated under the No Action Alternative or Proposed Action Alternative. As discussed above, the impacts to water levels within the Rio Hondo are anticipated to be negligible (LRE 2017). While the Proposed Action Alternative would result in an increase in the volume of water discharged from the WWTF, no increases in the effluent loading limits are proposed, consistent with the 2005 Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL) for the Rio Hondo; therefore, impacts to the water quality of acequia are not anticipated (RME 2016). In addition, the distance between the WWTF outfall and the nearest acequia would alleviate any localized temperature increases caused by the increased outfall. Further, with the increase in treatment capacity, current exceedances are expected to be eliminated resulting in improved, consistent compliance with the water quality requirements of the NPDES permit (FEI 2017).

3.5.2 Ground Water

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has mapped principal aquifers, which are defined as regionally extensive aquifers or aquifer systems that have the potential to be used a source of potable water. The Project is located east and outside of the USGS-defined Rio Grande principal aquifer. Groundwater in Taos County is typically found in valley alluvial sediments of perennial and intermittent streams. In the valleys of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, water is withdrawn from wells that penetrate the alluvium of stream channels. Alluvial wells are typically shallow and recharged through precipitation, runoff, and return flow from surface irrigation (LRE 2017).

No groundwater wells are located within 2 miles of the Project (LRE 2017). The nearest groundwater wells are approximately 7.5 miles downstream of the Project and within the community of Valdez. The water consumed by customers within the Village WWTF service area originates from Phoenix Spring.

Currently, there is a potential for impacts to groundwater from septic tank leaks. The Proposed Action Alternative would support additional wastewater collection and treatment for existing and future residents, which would in turn support the reduction of individual on-site septic tanks, thereby reducing potential groundwater contamination from septic leaks in the Village and surrounding area (LRE 2017). Construction associated with the expansion project may require a temporary dewatering permit for areas of excavation and would be addressed through NPDES permits and SWPPPs.

The New Mexico Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) reviewed the Project and determined that the project is not expected to have any adverse impacts to groundwater quality in the area of potential effect (NMED 2016). There is the potential for the release of wastewater to the ground surface during the retrofitting and repurposing of existing concrete treatment tanks, as well as the release of contaminants from heavy equipment during construction. Should an unanticipated release occur, the Village would follow the notification requirements for accidental discharges contained in 20.6.2.1203, NMAC. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with NMED GWQB. A copy of the NMED GWQB letter is provided in **Appendix 1**.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) defines sole or principal source aquifers as those aquifers that supply at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. The USEPA sole source aquifer (SSA) program reviewed the proposed Project and concluded that the Project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and thus is not eligible for review under the SSA program (USEPA 2016). Please see **Section 5.1**

for a summary of communication with USEPA SSA program. A copy of the USEPA SSA program letter is provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.6 Coastal Resources

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 provides for the management and protection of U.S. coastal resources, including the Great Lakes. This act does not apply to the Project as there are no coastal resources within the APE (USGS 2013).

3.7 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act, as amended, outlines regulations to provide air quality standards at a federal level. This act utilizes National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to provide a foundation for state and local agencies to implement State Implementation Plans to comply with federal regulations. To meet these standards, the administrator of the USEPA has designated Air Quality Control Regions (AQCRs) as a measure to monitor air quality and emissions. The Project Area is located within the Upper Rio Grande Valley AQCR 157 (NMED AQB 2017). At this time, Taos County is in compliance with all New Mexico and NAAQ standards (NMED 2016).

The NMED Air Quality Bureau (AQB) reviewed the proposed Project and identified the potential for increases in pollutant emissions due to combustion-related construct equipment usage, as well as earth excavation and movement. It is anticipated that the Proposed Action Alternative would result in an increase in local emissions and temporary impacts to air quality from during construction; however, negative impacts would be minimized by adhering to regulations and guidelines specified by the NMED AQB (NMED 2016). The USEPA Air Planning Section was provided with details of the proposed Project; no response was received. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the USEPA and NMED AQB. A copy of the NMED AQB letter is provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.8 Biological Resources

A Biological Assessment (BA)/Biological Evaluation (BE) was completed by Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC (RME) for the proposed Project, and is provided in **Appendix 2** (RME 2016). In addition, RME completed a field survey in September 2015 to evaluate existing biological conditions (RME 2015b). The BA addressed state and federally threatened, endangered, and proposed species within the Project Area and determines the effects of the Proposed Action Alternative on these species. The BE addressed Forest Service Region 3 Forest Sensitive species known to occur on the Questa Ranger District as required by Forest Service Manual 2672.4 and determines whether the implementation activities would lead toward listing by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Also considered were Forest Service Management Indicator Species and migratory birds. The findings of the BA/BE and field survey are summarized below.

3.8.1 Vegetation

The APE has been completely disturbed and developed by the construction of access roads and building infrastructure associated with the existing WWTF. Habitat within the Project Area immediately surrounding the APE includes predominately species of the Upper Montane Coniferous Forest and Montane-Riparian vegetation types (RME 2015b). Plants observed in the Project Area are noted below in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Plants Observed within the Project Area

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	
Arizona fescue (<i>Festuca arizonica</i>)	Orchard grass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)
Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>)	Planeleaf willow (<i>Salix planifolia</i>)
Bottlebrush squirreltail (<i>Elymus elymoides</i>)	Rocky Mountain maple (<i>Acer glabrum</i>)
California corn lily (<i>Veratrum californicum</i>)	Rocky Mountain strawberry (<i>Fragaria vesca</i> var. <i>americana</i>)
Common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>)	Shrubby cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)
Common juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	Slender wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaullus</i>)
Cow parsnip (<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>)	Smooth brome (<i>Bromus inermis</i>)
Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i> var. <i>utahensis</i>)
Engelmann spruce (<i>Picea engelmannii</i>)	Solomon's seal (<i>Polygonatum</i> spp.)
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>microbotrys</i>)	Subalpine fir (<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>)
Foxtail barley (<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>)	Thinleaf alder (<i>Alnus incana</i> var. <i>tenuifolia</i>)
Fringed brome (<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>)	Timothy grass (<i>Phleum pratense</i>)
Horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>)	White fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>)
Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>)	Whortleberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>)
Mountain ash (<i>Sorbus scopulina</i>)	Wood's rose (<i>Rosa woodsia</i>)
Mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i> var. <i>alpicola</i>)
Nodding brome (<i>Bromus anomalus</i>)	Yellow sweet clover (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)

Source: RME 2015b

The Proposed Action Alternative would temporarily disturb approximately 1 acre of soils; however, as the APE is currently not vegetated, short- and long-term impacts to vegetation from the proposed Project are not expected. Upon completion of the Project, disturbed areas would be stabilized or reseeded to reduce soil erosion and surface water quality impacts as well as improve habitat. Stabilization and reseeded would be in compliance with other applicable regulations.

3.8.2 Wildlife

General Wildlife

The Project Area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Wildlife habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area has potential to provide nest sites for birds, some forage for grazing, as well as cover for a variety of smaller animals (RME 2015b). Most of the birds in the area are migratory and could potentially be present in the area during migration and nesting seasons. Migratory birds are discussed in greater detail in **Section 3.8.3**. The Proposed Action Alternative would disturb approximately 1 acre of previously disturbed wildlife habitat; therefore, the proposed Project is expected to have little effect on wildlife (RME 2015b). The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) reviewed the Project and determined that the Proposed Action Alternative is not expected to result in adverse effects to wildlife or habitats (NMDGF

2016). General wildlife species or signs observed within the Project Area are listed below in **Table 3**. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the NMDGF. Copies of correspondence with NMDGF are provided in **Appendix 2**.

Table 3. General Wildlife Species Observed or Potentially Present within the Project Area

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	
Black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	Least chipmunk (<i>Tamias minimus</i>)*
Common raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)*	Mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)*
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	Red squirrel (<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>)
Coyote (<i>Canis latrans</i>)	Skunk (<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>)
Dark-eyed junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)*	Steller's jay (<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>)*
Elk (<i>Cervus canadensis nelsoni</i>)*	White-breasted nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)*
Gopher snake (<i>Pituophis catenifer catenifer</i>)	Williamson's sapsuckers (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)

Source: RME 2015b

Notes: * Species or sign observed

The Project Area crosses the Rio Hondo in two very small segments in the southwest and southeast corners. While the stream segments were not sampled for fish during the field survey, in-stream habitat was observed to be marginal. It is possible that rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) could use the stream segments for foraging (RME 2015b).

3.8.3 Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species

Federal Threatened, Endangered and Proposed Species

To identify potentially occurring threatened, endangered, sensitive, or special-status species in the Project Area, a list of federal species was obtained from the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System. According to IPaC, the Project Area does not contain proposed or designated critical habitat for any federally listed species. Following further analysis, it was determined that habitat for these species does not occur within the Project Area; therefore, it is anticipated that the Proposed Action Alternative will have no effect on federally endangered, threatened, or candidate species (RME 2016). The USFWS was provided with details of the proposed Project; no response was received. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the USFWS. The complete list of species analyzed and specific impact determinations may be viewed in the BA/BE provided in **Appendix 2**.

State of New Mexico Threatened and Endangered Species

A total of eight state listed species were identified with the potential to occur or to have habitat in the Project Area; however, further analysis identified habitat was not present. No direct or indirect impacts to State of New Mexico threatened and endangered species are anticipated (RME 2016). NMDGF reviewed the Project and determined that the Proposed Action Alternative is not expected to result in adverse effects to wildlife or habitats (NMDGF 2016). The complete list of State of New Mexico threatened and endangered species analyzed and specific impact determinations may be viewed in the BA/BE provided in **Appendix 2**. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the NMDGF. Copies of correspondence with NMDGF are provided in **Appendix 1**.

Migratory Birds

RME compiled a comprehensive list of high-priority migratory bird species from resources such as the Partners in Flight for New Mexico and the USFWS list of Birds of Conservation Concern. These lists were compared with the habitat type found within the Project Area to determine the potential for a species to utilize the Project Area. A list of migratory birds with the potential to utilize the Project Area is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4. High Priority Migratory Bird Species Associated with Project Area

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	Black swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)
Mexican spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>)	Rad-naped sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>)
Williamson's sapsucker (<i>sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>)
Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	Veery (<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>)
Dusky flycatcher (<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>)	Hammond's flycatcher (<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>)
Blue grouse (<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>)	MacGillivray's warbler (<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>)
Boreal owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	

Source: RME 2016

Construction and operation of the WWTF is not expected to impact migratory bird habitat; if any incidental tree removal is required it would occur outside the migratory bird nesting season. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in unintentional take for migratory birds (RME 2016).

Forest Service Species

Region 3 Sensitive Species

Of the 35 Forest Service sensitive species on the Carson National Forest, 25 have suitable habitat or are known to occur on the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest (RME 2016). Of these 25 species, 14 species were identified as not having habitat present in the Project Area, 8 species were identified as having habitat present but not affected by the proposed Project, and 3 species were identified as present and potentially affected by the proposed Project. These three species are the Rio Grande sucker (*Castostomus plebius*), the Rio Grande chub (*Gila pandora*), and the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*). The complete list of species analyzed and specific impact determinations may be viewed in the BA/BE provided in **Appendix 2**.

The Proposed Action Alternative may affect individuals of these species through fish relocation and displacement associated with the potential localized increased water temperatures and discharge volume from the WWTF outfall; however, the proposed Project is not likely to result in a trend toward listing or a loss of viability. This determination was made based on the following: less than one percent of Carson National Forest's habitat for these species would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative; no increased levels of pollutants would occur as a result of the increased outfall rate; disturbance would be localized and displaced individuals could relocate to adjacent undisturbed habitat (RME 2016).

Management Indicator Species

The Carson National Forest Plan identified 11 Management Indicator Species (MIS) to be analyzed to monitor population trends in relationship to potential habitat changes (RME 2016). For nine of these species, RME determined that habitat was not present within the Project Area or APE, and the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect forest-wide habitat and population trends (RME 2016). The complete list of MIS analyzed and specific impact determinations may be viewed in the BA/BE provided in **Appendix 2**.

Habitat for two species types in the MIS analysis, resident trout and aquatic macroinvertebrates, was identified in the Project Area and further analysis was conducted. The analysis determined the Proposed Action Alternative may impact individuals of each species, but would not impact forest-wide habitat and population trends. The reasoning for this determination is as follows: less than one percent of the Carson National Forest's habitat for these species would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative; since disturbance to species habitat is localized, displaced individuals can relocate to adjacent undisturbed habitat and; there is the potential benefit of localized increased stream temperatures to the prey base for resident trout (RME 2016).

Similar findings were reported for aquatic macroinvertebrates in that while the Proposed Action Alternative may impact individuals of the species, the overall forest-wide habitat and populations trends would not be impacted. Less than 1 percent of the Carson National Forest's habitat for these species would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative and disturbance to habitat is localized; therefore, displaced individuals could relocate to adjacent undisturbed habitat (RME 2016).

3.9 Archaeological, Cultural, and Historic Resources

Projects on federal lands, or with federal funds, must comply with the provisions of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; Executive Order 11593, *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment*; and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979. Section 106 of the NHPA and Executive Order 11593 require federal agencies to take into account the effects of a project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Carson National Forest uses the agreed upon standards in the Region 3 First Amended Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to comply with federal requirements of the NHPA. Additionally, the ARPA requires archaeological resources to be protected for future generations of Americans.

Records reviewed from the NRHP and the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties revealed no listings of importance in or around the APE. Brian Cribbin, a New Mexico permitted archaeologist, surveyed the APE under New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) No. 134299 and observed no cultural material older than 30 years (Cribbin 2015). The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NMHPD) reviewed the Project and determined that no historic properties would be affected (NMHPD 2016). Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the NMHPD. Copies of correspondence with the NMHPD are provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.10 Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice

3.10.1 Socioeconomics

Of the 69 permanent Village residents, 23 percent are over 62 years of age with a median age of 54 years. Residents are employed in the service, recreation, entertainment, and food service industries. The Village's economy is dominated by the skiing destination resort economy, and many of the businesses are currently only open during the ski season (Village 2017a).

Most housing in the Village are second homes and short-term rentals, with 72 percent of homes used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. There is a need for affordable workforce housing, and this need is anticipated to increase (Village 2017a).

All new development in the Village is charged a System Development Fee to pay for Village water and sewer system improvements. This fee is based on estimated square footage of new construction and cost of providing utilities to the development (Village 2017a). In addition, per Village Ordinance 2015-37, residences are required to abandon their septic systems and connect to the Village sewer system if they are located within 150 feet of an existing sewer line. Commercial buildings are required to connect to the Village sewer system if they are located within 300 feet of an existing Village sewer line. Per Village Ordinance 2010-25, the expense of extensions/connections to the Village's sewer system must be paid for by the developer (Village 2017a).

As the capacity of the proposed WWTF expansion would increase, the Proposed Action Alternative would be anticipated to result in increased System Development Fees from future known and unknown development. Fees for existing users is not anticipated to increase substantially. Additional socioeconomic impacts from the Proposed Action Alternative are not expected.

3.10.2 Environmental Justice

Environmental justice speaks to concerns that federal decisions could disproportionately impact people of a particular ethnic or cultural heritage group, or people with low incomes. Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* relates to environmental justice and requires, in brief, that each federal agency make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The U.S. Council for Environmental Quality provides the following definitions in order to provide guidance for compliance with environmental justice requirements in NEPA:

- “Minority populations should be identified where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.”
- “Low-income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from the Bureau of the Census’ Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty. In identifying low-income populations, agencies may consider as a community either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to

one another, or a set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect.”

A 10-mile-radius area around the Project Area was analyzed for impacts to environmental justice. No existing minority populations were identified where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (USEPA 2017). The low-income population identified in the analysis are above the U.S. average but below the state average (USEPA 2017). No impacts to environmental justice from the Proposed Action Alternative are anticipated.

3.11 Other Resources

3.11.1 Public Health & Safety

Federal and state data sources were reviewed for known hazardous materials site near the Project Area. The USEPA does not identify any National Priority List Superfund sites or Corrective Action sites within 1 mile of the Project Area. The nearest USEPA-listed site is the Chevron Questa Mine, a Superfund site located approximately 6.5 miles northwest of the Project Area (USEPA 2017). No permitted hazardous waste facilities are located within 1 mile of the Project Area (NMED HWB 2017). No active state cleanup sites are located within 1 mile of the Project Area (NMED GWQB 2017a). One closed state cleanup site associated with an above ground storage tank(s) and leaky underground storage tank(s) was documented in Taos Ski Valley prior to 1995; no additional details are available (NMED GWQB 2017b). The NMED Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau has not listed any leaking underground storage tank sites within 1 mile of the Project Area (NMED PSTB 2017).

The NMED Solid Waste Bureau (SWB) reviewed the Proposed Action provided comment that any excavated waste, including any special waste, be properly managed, containerized, transported, and disposed in accordance with New Mexico Solid Waste Rules 20.9.2-20.9.10, NMAC (NMED 2016). In addition, should such waste require excavation of more than 120 cubic yards, excavation would cease and a Waste Excavation Plan be prepared and submitted to NMED SWB for review and approval. Adherence to these regulations would assist in the minimization or elimination of impacts from the Proposed Action Alternative to public health and safety. Please see **Section 5.1** for a summary of communication with the NMED SWB. Copies of correspondence with the NMED SWB are provided in **Appendix 1**.

As no road crossings are proposed and construction activities would occur outside of peak visitation periods, no impacts to public health and safety from construction traffic or activities are anticipated. The Proposed Action Alternative is anticipated to improve the health and human safety of the Village as outlying sewer collection systems continue to be incorporated into the WWTF service area. This would provide greater consistency in regard to wastewater treatment as responsibility of process would be conveyed to the WWTF from individual property owners. As discussed in **Section 2.2**, the proposed MBR system would produce higher-quality effluent than the existing WWTF system, which would benefit human and ecological health within the Rio Hondo. The MBR system would also require less employee oversight, resulting in greater safety for WWTF employees.

Conversely, the No Action Alternative would be expected to result in negative impacts to public health and safety as improvements to the quality of wastewater effluent would not occur. Outlying holding tanks and septic systems would continue to be incorporated into the Village's WWTF but as the facility approaches capacity, some of these individual systems may have to persist, and the WWTF would continue to require intensive employee oversight of operations during peak periods, which may occur with more regularity as planned development occurs.

3.11.2 Energy

Energy resources associated with the proposed Project are mostly associated with materials for construction and fossil fuel and energy resources needed to operate and maintain the WWTF. Short-term energy requirements for the Project will increase during construction, which includes increased use of fuel for construction machinery. As the WWTF is expanded upon, long-term energy use will gradually increase in conjunction with the inherent energy demands of operating a facility that is treating more effluent. Engineers for the Project have made recommendations to the Village to implement various measures and renewable energy resources; the Village will consider implementing these recommendations where feasible. Solar energy potential is limited in the Village due to steep slopes and limited sun exposure (Village 2017a). Long-term impacts to energy resources are anticipated to minor under the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.11.3 Transportation

No road or driveway crossings are proposed as part of the Proposed Action Alternative, and all Project ground disturbance would occur outside of Ocean Boulevard. In addition, the Project is anticipated to be implemented during off-peak visitation periods; therefore, no short- or long-term impacts to transportation are anticipated under the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.11.4 Visual Impacts

The Project Area is located within a narrow valley with views dominated by abutting Taos Ski Valley and its infrastructure, including the base area, ski trails, and lifts. Project activities are proposed within the existing WWTF facility, which is located on a lower grade than nearby Highway 150 and partially obstructed from nearby Highway 150 due to the presence of trees. Project-related vehicles and equipment may be visible from Highway 150, located 100 feet north of the Project; however, the Project is anticipated to be implemented during off-peak visitation periods and visual impacts to Village visitors are expected to be minimal. No long-term impacts to visual resources are anticipated under the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.11.5 Noise

Short-term noise impacts are anticipated to result from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. Possible contributors to noise during construction would be earth-moving equipment, trucks, and other machinery. Construction noise will be noticeable; however, operating machinery would be required to have properly functioning mufflers and construction activities would take place during standard daylight hours and on weekdays during off-peak visitation periods. No long-term noise impacts from the Proposed Action Alternative are anticipated.

3.12 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined under NEPA as “an impact on the environment [that] results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.” These actions are to be considered for any agency or person to take into account any changes, minor or otherwise, so as to properly consider what could collectively take place over time.

Future projects that have been reviewed and approved by the Village, such as development of Parcel D and Parcel G in the Core Village as well as Kachina Village, were evaluated under current WWTF conditions (FEI 2016). No new public or private development is approved by the Village unless adequate wastewater service exists (Village 2017a); the Village confirmed that the current WWTF would be able to accommodate those projects while encountering the same constraints identified in **Section 1.2**.

Cumulative and secondary effects of the Proposed Action Alternative to the Village include establishing the capacity to accommodate wastewater inflows from future, unknown projects that may be proposed within the Village service area. While this effect is not likely to increase growth and development within the Village, it would remove an impediment to such growth. The Village 2017 Draft Comprehensive Plan identifies a development capacity of 558 residential units and 183,850 commercial square feet for the undeveloped parcels within the Village boundary (Village 2017a). These calculations are based on assumptions such as access to utilities, density requirements derived from setbacks and building height, and steep slopes; it is important to note that these calculations are not based on actual applications for development.

The Project would be building upon prior facilities to better manage current inflow while also incorporating underserved areas currently on septic or other systems. Thus, the cumulative impacts of an improved WWTF would be beneficial to local and downstream resources by increasing the quality of effluent entering the Rio Hondo. Routine maintenance sewer lines would likely be planned and completed at a future date. For example, one new wastewater treatment line, an 8-inch-diameter line to service Block N, is planned to be completed between 2017 and 2020 (Village 2017a).

Project construction would involve the dedication of natural and manmade physical, human and fiscal resources. In addition to physical materials required for construction, fossil fuels, labor, and time would be expended in the Project. Funding for the Project would require dedicated capital that would not be able to be recovered once used by the Project, and would be considered irreversible and irretrievable. The use of these resources would be balanced against the perceived benefit that improved wastewater services would provide.

4.0 Summary of Mitigation Measures

4.1 Physical Resources Measures

4.1.1 Erosion Control and Storm Water Management

The USEPA requires NPDES permit coverage for storm water discharges from construction projects that will result in one or more acres of total land area. The permit requires that a SWPPP be prepared for the site and appropriate BMPs be installed and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants in storm water runoff from entering waters of the U.S. At this time, the anticipated disturbance associated with the Proposed Action Alternative is approximately 1 acre; a SWPPP would likely be prepared.

The NPDES requires a CGP for any areas one acre or larger in size and that will produce storm water discharges, so as to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation of waterways from construction activities associated with the Project. As the Project is expected to disturb approximately 1 acre of soils; a CGP would likely be prepared.

4.1.2 Acequia

Acequia associations that have provided contact information during the EID development process would be notified prior to the commencement of construction activities. As no impacts to acequia are anticipated, no additional mitigation measures are required.

4.2 Biological Resource Measures

4.2.1 Vegetation

As discussed in **Section 3.8.1**, the APE for the proposed Project is located entirely within previously disturbed and unvegetated areas, and re-vegetation of the APE is not anticipated. Should the Village identify areas of re-vegetation, a re-vegetation plan consisting of native plant species common to the Project Area would be implemented.

4.2.2 General Wildlife

As discussed in **Section 3.8.2**, impacts to general wildlife under the Proposed Action Alternative are not anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

4.2.3 Migratory Birds

As discussed in **Section 3.8.3**, impacts to migratory birds under the proposal are not anticipated. Any incidental tree removal that may be necessary, should be cleared outside the migratory bird nesting season to minimize the potential for impacts.

4.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Measures

As discussed in **Section 3.8.3**, impacts to threatened and endangered species by the Proposed Action Alternative are not anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures specific to threatened and endangered species are required.

4.4 Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice Measures

Impacts to socioeconomic/environmental justice resources by the Proposed Action are not anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures specific to socioeconomics/environmental justice are required.

4.5 Archaeological, Cultural, and Historic Resources Measures

As discussed in **Section 3.9**, no known archaeological or historic properties have been identified within the Project Area. In the event that culturally sensitive materials are encountered during construction, construction would stop immediately in the area of the find, and the NMHPD would be contacted.

4.6 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

No environmentally sensitive areas are known to exist within the APE. Wetlands have been identified in the far southeast and southwest corners of the Project Area; however, Project activities would not occur within these wetlands and the wetlands are separated from the Project by the existing Ocean Boulevard. No mitigation for environmentally sensitive areas is required.

4.7 Other Resources

4.7.1 Public Health and Safety

Hazardous materials are not anticipated to be used under the Proposed Action Alternative; however, as discussed in **Section 3.11.1**, the NMED SWB reviewed the Proposed Action and instructed that any excavated waste, including any special waste, be properly managed, containerized, transported, and disposed in accordance with New Mexico Solid Waste Rules 20.9.2-20.9.10 NMAC (NMED 2016). In addition, should such waste require excavation of more than 120 cubic yards, excavation would cease and a Waste Excavation Plan be prepared and submitted to NMED SWB for review and approval.

If contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered during construction, actions would be taken immediately to protect workers and residents from exposure. The NMED would be contacted for guidance, and any contaminated materials would be properly handled.

4.7.2 Transportation

As discussed in **Section 3.11.3**, existing roadways are adequate for construction traffic to and from the Project Area and no construction is proposed within roadways; therefore, no mitigation for transportation resources is required.

4.7.3 Noise

As discussed in **Section 3.11.5**, during times of construction, noise levels would be higher than normal due to the operation of construction equipment. Construction activities will generally be conducted during daylight hours, Monday through Friday. No mitigation is required.

4.8 Cumulative Impact Measures

The Proposed Action Alternative would not independently or cumulatively result in a negative impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. Improved wastewater infrastructure would provide positive effects to the human and natural environment by increasing the quality of effluent entering the Rio Hondo. Future development proposed within the Village would be subject to standard zoning and subdivision reviews and approvals. The Village would develop plans and coordinate with other infrastructure providers to ensure that adequate infrastructure is available to support anticipated growth. No additional mitigation measures for cumulative impacts are required.

5.0 Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

5.1 Agencies Consulted

Consultation letters were mailed to federal, state, and local agencies and requested comments on the Proposed Action Alternative. An example of the consultation letter, copies of agency responses, and agency coordination tracking table are included in the Scoping Comment Summary in **Appendix 1. Table 5** lists those agencies consulted, dates for responses received or follow-up contact, and a brief summary of the response.

[Additional agency consultation will be summarized following close of Draft EID Public Comment Period]

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
NM Historic Preservation Division – Department of Cultural Affairs	9/20/2016	N/A	The Project Area was surveyed under NMCRIIS No. 134299. No historic properties affected. Recommend Project is discussed with Carson National Forest.
NPS Intermountain Region	--	12/14/2016	Directed to Tom Lincoln in the NEPA Department. Left voicemail with Mr. Lincoln; no response received.
USFWS New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office	--	12/15/2016	When asked for comment during follow-up telephone call, agency replied 'no comment.'
NM Department of Game and Fish – Conservation Services Division	9/12/2016	N/A	NMDGF does not anticipate adverse effects to wildlife or habitats from implementation of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.
NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department – Forestry Division	--	12/14/2016	When asked during follow-up telephone call, agency replied 'no comment.'
US Army Corps of Engineers - Albuquerque District Regulatory Branch	--	12/15/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
USDA-NRCS State Conservationist, NM State Office	9/28/2016	N/A	The project will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands or hydric soils to be converted to non-agricultural or non-hydric uses.
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator – NMED Office of General Council	--	12/15/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in joint letter with Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. Stated that should the project limits expand beyond the proposed 0.96 acre, a Notice of Intent to discharge under a Construction General Permit may be required. Additionally, if activity or disturbance will occur within a watercourse, coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division will be required.
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in joint letter with Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Surface Water Quality Bureaus. Lists regulation requirements. The project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on groundwater quality in the area of potential effect. Identified potential release of wastewater during retrofitting and repurposing of existing concrete treatment tanks, as well as the possible release of contaminants associated with heavy equipment malfunction.
NMED Drinking Water Bureau	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up telephone call, agency stated they would review letter and provide comments. No comments were received.
NMED Solid Waste Bureau	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in a joint letter with Air Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. Stated that any excavated waste, including special waste such as regulated asbestos waste, must be properly managed, containerized, transported, and disposed in accordance with regulations. Should the project result in discovery of a single area requiring excavation of more than 120 cubic yards of solid waste would require, excavation shall cease and a Waste Excavation Plan will be prepared in accordance with regulation and submitted to the Solid Waste Bureau for review and approval.

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
NMED Air Quality Bureau	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in a joint letter with Solid Waste, Surface Water Quality, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. The Project as proposed is not anticipated to contribute negatively to air quality on a long-term basis; however, short-term impacts originating from combustion-related construction equipment and earth excavation and movement would occur. Applicable local or county regulations requiring noise or dust control must be followed; in absence of regulations, dust control measures should be considered especially during high wind events.
EPA Air Planning Section	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up phone call, agency stated status of SE Group letter packet was unknown. Directed to the voicemail for a technician; no response received.
Office of the State Engineer – Water Rights Division District VI	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up phone call, agency stated that projects are only a concern to the agency if water rights are being transferred or points of diversion are being moved. As this project is proposing neither of these actions, the agency has no comment.
NMDOT Environmental Design Bureau	9/20/2016	N/A	When asked during follow-up telephone call, agency replied ‘no comment.’
Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region VI	9/15/2016	N/A	Agency stated it had no comments and recommended contact with Taos County Flood Plain Administrator and state National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator.
EPA Region 6 Source Water Protection Branch	--	12/15/2016	Project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and is thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.
EPA Region 6 Office of Planning and Coordination	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up telephone call agency stated that they have no comment as project does not pertain to source water protection.
US Forest Service – Carson National Forest	9/19/2016	N/A	Agency requested status of in-progress land transfer status. No additional comments were received.
Taos County, Floodplain Management	9/19/2016	N/A	The Project is outside the 100-year floodplain and the agency has no objections to the Project.
Taos County, Planning Department	--	--	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Taos Soil and Water Conservation District	9/16/2016	N/A	The agency does not have any concerns about the proposed Project.

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
Village of Taos Ski Valley Community Development Department	9/16/2016	N/A	The Village has no comments about the proposed Project.
BIA – Northern Pueblos Agency	--	12/14/2016	No voicemail available and no contact made after repeated telephone attempts.
Executive Director – Eight Northern Pueblos	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Chairman – Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma	10/25/2016	N/A	The Comanche Nation has identified no properties within the Project Area.
Chairman – The Hopi Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer – The Hopi Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Jemez	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Director of Resource Protection – Pueblo of Jemez	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Director, Culture Center - Jicarilla Apache Nation	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
President – Jicarilla Apache Nation	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Kewa	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer – Pueblo of Kewa	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Environmental Program Manager – Pueblo of Kewa	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Nambe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Nambe Environmental Office – Pueblo of Nambe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Historic Preservation Program – The Navajo Nation	11/2/2016	N/A	No adverse effects to historic and cultural properties significant to the Navajo Nation are anticipated.
President – The Navajo Nation	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call with head of the Ohkay Owingeh Environmental Department; no response received.
War Chief – Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
Cultural Preservation Officer – Pueblo of Okay Owingeh	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Picuris	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any; no response received.
Cultural Officer – Pueblo of Picuris	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any; no response received.
War Chief – Pueblo of Picuris	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any; no response received.
Picuris Pueblo Environment Dept. – Pueblo of Picuris	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Pojoaque	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
War Chief – Pueblo of Pojoaque	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Santa Clara, Forestry	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Environmental Office – Pueblo of Santa Clara	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Chairman – The Southern Ute Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
NAGPRA Coordinator – The Southern Ute Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Taos	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Office of War Chief, Nat. Res. Dept. – Pueblo of Taos	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor – Pueblo of Tesuque	--	12/14/2016	Telephone number out of service.
Cultural Preservation Officer Pueblo of Tesuque	--	12/14/2016	Telephone number out of service.
Chairman – The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Wildlife/Outdoor Rec. Division – White Mountain Apache Tribe	--	12/14/2016	Directed to voicemail, voicemail full on repeated attempts; no response received.

Table 5. Agency Consultation Summary

Agency	Date of Response	Date of Follow-Up	Response Summary
Governor – Pueblo of Zuni	--	12/14/2016	Spoke with Tribal administrator who stated he would respond to the comment request should he located the letter; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer – Pueblo of Zuni	--	12/14/2016	Spoke with Tribal administrator who stated he would respond to the comment request should he located the letter; no response received.

5.2 Public Involvement

5.2.1 Public Scoping

SE Group prepared a project summary sheet, comment/consultation letter, and accompanying figures that were approved by NMED on September 7, 2016, and mailed to 78 interested parties including those agencies identified in **Section 5.1** on September 8, 2016. SE Group also published legal notices in the Santa Fe New Mexican and Taos News on September 8, 2016, and posted the legal notice in six locations in the community. Two informational meetings, including an Acequia Association meeting and a Public Scoping meeting, were held on October 12, 2016 and October 26, 2016, respectively.

The majority (62 percent) of scoping comments received pertained to hydrology, specifically water quantity and water quality. Commenters were generally concerned with the potential for the increased permitted wastewater discharge volume to impact the quality of water used for irrigation, livestock watering, and maintaining riparian habitat. Other commenters were concerned that the proposed project would change the amount of water within the Rio Hondo, downstream wells, and acequia. Others expressed concern about stormwater and associated sediments. The remaining 33 percent of comments recommended design criteria, conservation measures, and public involvement opportunities.

Please refer to **Appendix 1**, Scoping Comment Summary, for copies of the scoping mailing, mailing list recipients, legal notice, affidavits of publication, posting locations, meeting summaries, and scoping responses.

5.2.2 Public Comment

[Draft EID Public Comment Period will be summarized in this section following close of the Draft EID Public Comment Period]

5.3 Responsiveness Summary

[Responsiveness Summary to be inserted following close of Draft EID Public Comment period]

6.0 References

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Appendix 1. Scoping Comment Summary

SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY

Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Environmental Information Document

February 2017

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



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APPENDICES

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 Appendix B: Project Summary Sheet and Associated Materials
 Appendix C: Public Notice
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1.0 SCOPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

As is required for projects and activities receiving federal funding assistance under the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) and in compliance with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Construction Programs Bureau (CPB), public involvement will occur throughout the Environmental Information Document (EID) preparation process. SE Group prepared a project summary sheet, comment/consultation letter, and accompanying figures that were approved by NMED on September 7, 2016, and mailed to 78 interested parties on September 8, 2016. A copy of the original mailing list is provided in **Appendix A**. Copies of the project summary sheet and associated materials are provided in **Appendix B**. Potentially interested parties included community residents, government officials, public agencies, Native American tribes, and other organizations. The project summary provided a brief description of the project, the need for action, the project's area of potential effects, and cultural and biological studies that have been completed. SE Group also published a legal notice in two local publications and posted the notice within the community. This notice was specifically designed to notify the public of the project and upcoming public meetings, and to elicit comments, concerns, and issues pertaining to the proposal. A copy of the public notice is provided in **Appendix C**.

1.1 APPROACH TO SOLICIT COMMENTS

SE Group provided multiple ways to notify the public of the proposed project to encourage maximum participation. Notice of the public meeting was made in various publications and locations including:

- Publication in the Santa Fe New Mexican (Affidavit of Publication provided in **Appendix D**)
- Publication in the Taos News (Affidavit of Publication provided in **Appendix D**)
- Posting at the Village of Taos Ski Valley (Village) Post Office at Box Canyon
- Posting at the Village Administrative Offices
- Posting at the Village Chamber of Commerce
- Posting at the Taos Ski Valley Inc. Display case
- Posting at Bumps Convenience Store
- Posting on the Village Government Website (www.vtsv.org)

Other means requesting review and comment on the proposed project included:

- Mailing of information packets
- Responding to individual inquiries and suggestions of additional potential interested parties
- Two informational meetings:
 - Stakeholder meeting with local acequia associations
 - Public scoping meeting

1.2 APPROACH TO RECEIVE COMMENTS

The Village and SE Group provided multiple ways for the public to review and submit comments on the proposed project through the following means:

- Stakeholder meeting
- Public scoping meeting
- Traditional mail delivery
- Telephone

- Email

1.3 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

A Stakeholder Meeting for the local acequia associations was held at the location, date, and time as indicated below:

- El Prado, NM: Quail Ridge Resort, 88 State Road 150, October 12, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This meeting was attended by three individuals and seven project team members. A list of the invitees and a copy of the meeting sign-in sheet is provided in **Appendix E**.

A Public Scoping Meeting was held at the location, date, and time as indicated below:

- Taos Ski Valley, NM: The Looking Glass, TSV Resort Center, 116 Sutton Place, October 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This meeting was attended by thirty individuals and thirteen project team members. Copies of the meeting sign-in sheet and meeting minutes are provided in **Appendix F**.

1.4 SCOPING PARTICIPATION

The informal scoping comment period was open on September 8, 2016, and 18 responses were received prior to January 1, 2017. Of the 18 responses, 33 percent (six comments) were submitted via email, 61 percent (eleven comments) were submitted via letter, and 5 percent (one comment) was submitted in person at the public scoping meeting. A copy of the Consultation Coordination Matrix is provided in **Appendix G**. Copies of the responses are provided in **Appendix H**.

Of the 18 responses received during the scoping process, 14 responses (77 percent) were submitted with information about the address of the author. Of these 14 responses, 10 (55 percent) were submitted by commenters with a New Mexico address. The comments from New Mexico were distributed as follows: 60 percent (six comments) from Taos County residents, 30 percent (three comments) from Bernalillo County residents, and 10 percent (one comment) from an author from Santa Fe County.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMENTS

Responses received on the proposed project were initially sorted into three broad groups based on the nature of the response. The first group of comments (three responses, or 16 percent) consisted of the returned Request for Comment/Consultation letter with the checkbox “has no comments” selected. The second group of comments (nine responses, or 50 percent) consisted of letters received stating “no concern” or similar. The third group of comments (six responses, or 33 percent) consisted of responses indicating concern/comment with the proposed project. This third group of comments was categorized and analyzed based on the theme(s) of the comments in order to facilitate the recording and response process.

The table below displays the relative distribution of responses among resource categories:

Resource Category	# of Comments Received	% of Total
Hydrology	5	62
Design Criteria/Conservation Measures	2	25
Public Process and Input	1	13
TOTAL	8	100

3.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY RESOURCE

Below is a brief synopsis of comments submitted, in order of the most commonly mentioned categories.

3.1 HYDROLOGY (5 COMMENTS, 62% OF TOTAL)

The largest number of comments received pertained to hydrology, specifically water quantity and water quality. Commenters were generally concerned with the potential for the increased permitted wastewater discharge volume to impact the quality of water used for irrigation, livestock watering, and maintaining riparian habitat. Other commenters were concerned that the proposed project would change the amount of water within the Rio Hondo, downstream wells, and acequia. Others expressed concern about stormwater and sediment flow and containment.

3.2 DESIGN CRITERIA AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (2 COMMENTS, 25% OF TOTAL)

Comments recommending design criteria and conservation measures comprised the next highest percentage of total comments. Commenters suggested incorporating design redundancy and Green Initiatives/Low Impact Development (GI/LID) components.

3.3 PUBLIC PROCESS AND INPUT (1 COMMENT, 13% OF TOTAL)

One commenter expressed concerns that the public, specifically downstream acequia associations, were not being notified of the project and the current environmental review process.

APPENDIX A: MAILING LIST

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip	Email
		NM Historic Preservation Division - Department of Cultural Affairs	407 Galisteo Street Suite 236	Santa Fe	NM	97501	
		USFWS New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office	2105 Osuna Road NE	Albuquerque	NM	87113-1001	
		NM Department of Game and Fish - Conservation Services Division	P.O. Box 25112	Santa Fe	NM	87504	
		NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department - Forestry Division	1220 S. St. Francis Drive - PO Box 1948	Santa Fe	NM	97505-1948	
		Environmental Impact Review Coordinator - NMED Office of General Council	P.O. Box 5469	Santa Fe	NM	87502-5469	
		NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau	P.O. Box 5469	Santa Fe	NM	87502-5469	
		NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau	P.O. Box 5469	Santa Fe	NM	87502-5469	
		NMED Air Quality Bureau	525 Camino de los Marquez Suite #1	Santa Fe	NM	87505-1816	
		Office of the State Engineer - Water Rights Division District VI	P.O. Box 25102	Santa Fe	NM	87504-5102	
Edward	Vigil	Taos County, Floodplain Management	105 Albright Street Suite H	Taos	NM	87571	
Planning	Director	Taos County, Planning Department	105 Albright Street Suite H	Taos	NM	87571	
Peter	Vigil	Taos Soil and Water Conservation District	P.O. Box 2787	Ranchos de Taos	NM	87557	
Matthew	Foster	Village of Taos Ski Valley Community Development Department	P.O. Box 100	Taos Ski Valley	NM	87525	
Greg	Dyson	Wild Earth Guardians	312 Montezuma	Santa Fe	NM	87501	bbird@wildearthguardians.org
Sam	Hitt	Wild Watershed	P.O. Box 1943	Santa Fe	NM	87504	
Rachel	Conn	Amigos Bravos	PO Box 238	Taos	NM	87571	rconn@amigosbravos.org
Kay	Matthews	La Jicarita	HC 65, Box 206	Chamisal	NM	87521	
		Center for Biological Diversity	P.O. Box 710	Tuscan	AZ	85702-0710	
Judy	Calman	Staff Attorney, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance	142 Truman St. NE #B-1	Albuquerque	NM	87108	judycalman@yahoo.com
Joanie	Berde	Carson Forest Watch	PO Box 15	Llano	NM	87543	
Mark	Dahm	FEI Engineers	1485 Florida road, Suite C206	Durango	CO	80301	mark.dahm@feengineers.com
Jennifer	McCabe	La Cuchilla Acequias	P.O. Box 44	Santa Fe	NM	87505	jennifer@nmagua.com

Title	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip
Chairman	Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma	Box 908	Lawton	OK	73502
Governor	Pueblo of Jemez	PO Box 100	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024
Governor	Pueblo of Kewa	Route 5, Box 315-A	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Governor	Pueblo of Nambe	Route 1, Box 117-BB	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Governor	Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	PO Box 1099	Ohkay Owingeh	NM	87566
Governor	Pueblo of Picuris	PO Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
Governor	Pueblo of Pojoaque	39 Camino del Rincon	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Governor	Pueblo of Santa Clara, Forestry	PO Box 580	Espanola	NM	87532
Governor	Pueblo of Tesuque	Route 42, Box 360-T	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Governor	Pueblo of Zuni	PO Box 339	Zuni	NM	87327
Governor	Pueblo of Taos	PO Box 1846	Taos	NM	87571
	BIA - Northern Pueblos Agency	PO Box 4269 - Fairview Station	Espanola	NM	87533
Executive Director	Eight Northern Pueblos	PO Box 969	San Juan Pueblo	NM	87566
Director, Culture Center	Jicarilla Apache Nation	PO Box 507	Dulce	NM	87528
President	Jicarilla Apache Nation	PO Box 507	Dulce	NM	87528
Director of Resource Protection	Pueblo of Jemez	PO Box 100	Jemez Pueblo	NM	87024
Cultural Preservation Officer	Pueblo of Kewa	Route 5, Box 315-A	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Nambe Environmental Office	Pueblo of Nambe	Route 1, Box 117-BB	Santa Fe	NM	87506
War Chief	Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	PO Box 1099	Ohkay Owingeh	NM	87566
Cultural Officer	Pueblo of Picuris	PO Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
War Chief	Pueblo of Picuris	PO Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
War Chief	Pueblo of Pojoaque	39 Camino del Rincon	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Environmental Office	Pueblo of Santa Clara	PO Box 580	Espanola	NM	87532
Office of War Chief, Nat. Res. Dept.	Pueblo of Taos	PO Box 2596	Taos	NM	87571
Cultural Preservation Officer	Pueblo of Zuni	PO Box 339	Zuni	NM	87327
Chairman	The Hopi Tribe	PO Box 123	Kykotsmovi	AZ	86039
Cultural Preservation Officer	The Hopi Tribe	PO Box 123	Kykotsmovi	AZ	86039
Historic Preservation Program	The Navajo Nation	PO Box 4950	Window Rock	AZ	86515
President	The Navajo Nation	PO Box 9000	Window Rock	AZ	86515
Chairman	The Southern Ute Tribe	PO Box 737	Ignacio	CO	81137
NAGPRA Coordinator	The Southern Ute Tribe	PO Box 737	Ignacio	CO	81137
Chairman	The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	PO Box 248	Towaoc	CO	81334
Wildlife/Outdoor Rec. Division	White Mountain Apache Tribe	PO Box 220	White River	AZ	85941

Environmental Program Manager	Pueblo of Kewa	Route 5, Box 315-A	Santa Fe	NM	87506
Cultural Preservation Officer	Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	PO Box 1099	Ohkay Owingeh	NM	87566
Picuris Pueblo Environment Dept.	Pueblo of Picuris	PO Box 127	Penasco	NM	87553
Cultural Preservation Officer	Pueblo of Tesuque	Route 42, Box 360-T	Santa Fe	NM	87506

**APPENDIX B:
PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET
AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS**



September 13, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has requested funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). We are gathering information for an environmental review of the referenced project. The project is described in the attached project summary sheet and the location is depicted on the attached maps.

The review process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review.

To provide verbal comments or for more information, please contact

SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ashley L. Smith'.

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for _____ (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☐ has the attached comment or ☐ has no comments.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Project Summary Sheet

The Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV) is proposing to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.31 MGD. It is anticipated that the project would include the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loans; as such, improvements to the VTSV WWTF require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 6, 25, 35, and 1500) and State of New Mexico regulations (New Mexico Administrative Code 20.7.7), which require analysis of the environmental effects of a proposed action. The VTSV is completing an Environmental Information Document (EID) to assist the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Construction Programs Bureau (CPB) with completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.

The VTSV owns and has operated the existing WWTF since acquiring the facility in 2001 (see attached Figure 1). The existing WWTF is permitted to discharge 0.167 MGD of treated effluent to the Rio Hondo, under National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number NM0022101. Plant operations data indicate that the facility's capability becomes challenged at peak flows of approximately 0.120 MGD, including the ability to meet the currently permitted nitrogen effluent discharge standards. These challenges have resulted in permit violations. The VTSV is expecting that the planned re-development and new development in its wastewater service area will further challenge the performance of the current WWTF.

To address these challenges, the VTSV is proposing to improve the WWTF by converting the existing integrated fixed film activated sludge process system to a membrane bioreactor (MBR) system (the Proposed Project). The upgraded facility would be designed to treat a maximum monthly average daily flow of 0.31 MGD, along with an organic loading of 911 pounds per day. Construction of the proposed MBR treatment process system would include retrofitting and re-purposing the existing concrete treatment tanks, in addition to constructing additional new treatment tanks and replacing the existing building or constructing a new building to encompass the new tanks. A total of approximately 3,110 square feet of new structures are proposed, with an additional approximately 3,940 square feet of modified or removed structures (refer to Figure 2). The Proposed Project would be contained within the existing WWTF site and would disturb approximately 0.96 acres (the Area of Potential Effects [APE]), all of which has been disturbed for facility development in the past. Funding sources for the Proposed Project is anticipated to be limited to a CWSRF loan with the potential to receive a portion of the funding as a grant.

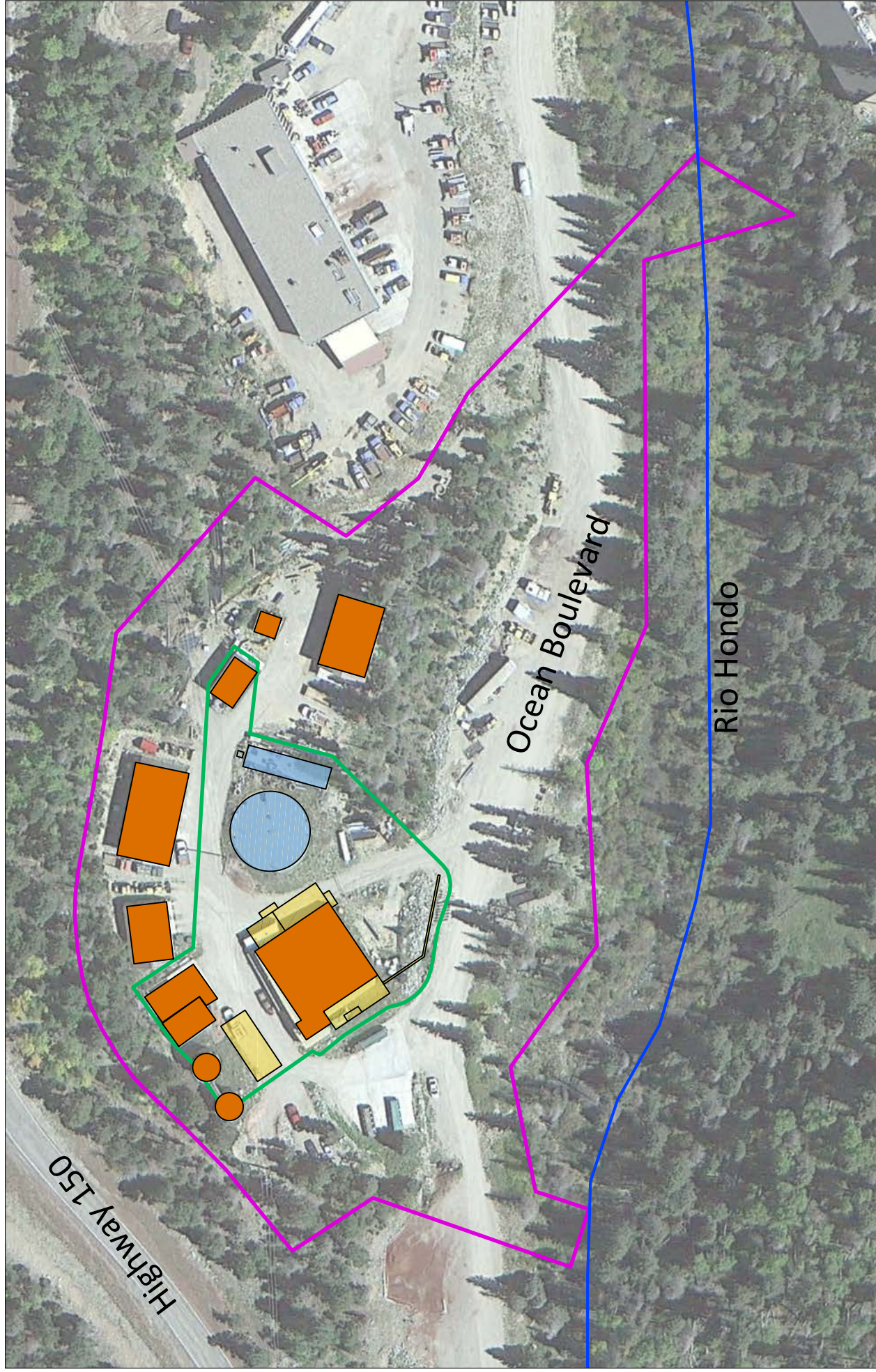
The proposed 0.96-acre APE is located on lands owned by the VTSV. These lands have been developed as a WWTF since prior to 1982. The APE is located approximately 140 feet from the Rio Hondo within Section 4 of Township 27 North, Range 14 East (see Figure 1). The APE is bordered to the north and west by State Highway 150 (paved); to the east by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. Vehicle Maintenance Facility; and to the south by Ocean Boulevard (gravel) and the Rio Hondo (see Figure 2).

According to a New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) report completed for the area on September 22, 2015, no cultural material older than 30 years was observed. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office and Native American tribes that may be culturally affiliated with the general area will be contacted as part of the EID process for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Project Summary Sheet, Cont.

A Soil and Watershed Specialist Report was completed for the area on October 7, 2015. The area is located outside of the 100-year floodplain and has been highly disturbed over time through removal of native forest vegetation, grading, compaction, and mixing of soil layers. Wetlands associated with the Rio Hondo were identified outside of the APE and south of Ocean Boulevard.

An Analysis of Existing Biological Conditions Report was completed for the area on October 7, 2015. The area includes mixed-conifer habitat, with species also indicative of a transitional spruce-fir habitat. No habitat for federal Threatened, Endangered, or species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act is present within or near the APE. Habitat exists within the area for ten priority migratory bird species.



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Wastewater Treatment Facility
Improvements Detail

Figure 2

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Taos County, New Mexico
Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project No. CWSRF 052

Date: October 26, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: The Looking Glass
TSV Resort Center
116 Sutton Place
Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

Agenda: 6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. – Presentation of Project Background and Purpose
6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. – Presentation of Preliminary Engineering Report and Process
6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Public Question and Answer, Comments

Purpose: The Village of Taos Ski Valley has applied for funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program to complete improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. These improvements are proposed in order to upgrade and increase the facility from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to a capacity of 0.32 MGD. The Project is needed to increase treatment capacity to meet current peak flow periods and to meet the future wastewater flows in the service area.

The purpose of this public meeting is to provide notice of the proposed project, identify issues of concern, discuss the preliminary range of alternatives considered, identify potential cooperating agencies and other stakeholders, and enlist public participation in development of the project plan.

Documents for the Project may be reviewed at the Public Works Department at the Village Office, located at 7 Firehouse Road, Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico 87525.

For more information contact: Ashley Smith
asmith@segroup.com
(970) 262-4345
PO Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If special assistance is required to participate in this public meeting, please contact the person above at least three days prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

APPENDIX D:
AFFIDAVITS OF PUBLICATION

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Founded 1849

SE GROUP.
PO BOX 2729
FRISCO, CO 80443

ACCOUNT: 26416
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LEGAL NO 81508 P.O. #:
1 TIME(S) 123.90
AFFIDAVIT 20.00
TAX 11.13
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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF SANTA FE

I, W. Barnard, being first duly sworn declare and say that I am Legal Advertising Representative of THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN, a daily newspaper published in the English language, and having a general circulation in the Counties of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Los Alamos, State of New Mexico and being a newspaper duly qualified to publish legal notices and advertisements under the provisions of Chapter 167 on Session Laws of 1937; that the Legal No 81508 a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper 1 day(s) between 09/08/2016 and 09/08/2016 and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in any supplement; the first date of publication being on the 8th day of September, 2016 and that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the matter and things set forth in this affidavit.

/s/

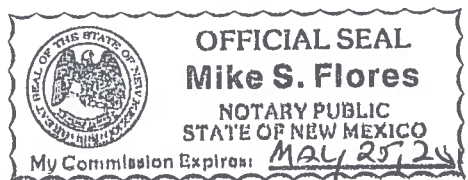
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 8th day of September, 2016

Notary

Commission Expires:

MAY 25, 2019



SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Founded 1849

LEGAL #81508

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Taos County, New Mexico
Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project No. CWSRF 052

Date: October 26, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Place: The Looking Glass TSV Resort Center 116 Sutton Place Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

Agenda:

Time 6:00 to 6:15 - Presentation of Project Background and Purpose

Time 6:15 to 6:45 - Presentation of Preliminary Engineering Report and Process

Time 6:45 to 8:00 - Public Question and Answer, Comments

Purpose: The Village of Taos Ski Valley has applied for funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program to complete improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. These improvements are proposed in order to upgrade and increase the facility from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to a capacity of 0.32 MGD. The Project is needed to in-

Continued...

crease treatment capacity to meet current peak flow periods and to meet the future wastewater flows in the service area.

The purpose of this public meeting is to provide notice of the proposed project, identify issues of concern, discuss the preliminary range of alternatives considered, identify potential cooperating agencies and other stakeholders, and enlist public participation in development of the project plan.

Documents for the Project may be reviewed at the Public Works Department at the Village Office, located at 7 Firehouse Road, Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico 87525.

For more information contact:
Ashley Smith
asmith@segroup.com
970.262.4345
PO Box 2729
323 W. Main Street,
Suite 201
Frisco, CO 80443

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If special assistance is required to participate in this public meeting, please contact the person above at least three days prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

Published in the Santa Fe New Mexican on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

AFFP

Legal 15,308_Wastewater Treat

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NEW MEXICO } SS
COUNTY OF TAOS }

Moriah Gonzales, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Legal Advertising Representative of the The Taos News, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Taos, Taos County, New Mexico; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

September 08, 2016

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED: 

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 8th day of September 2016.



Mary Chavez, Notary Public, Taos County, New

My commission expires: January 21, 2017

Legal No. 15,308.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Village of Taos Ski Valley Taos County, New Mexico
Wastewater
Treatment Facility
Improvements
Project No.CWSRF 052

Date: October 26, 2016
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Place: The Looking Glass TSV Resort Center 116 Sutton
Place Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

Agenda: Time 6:00 to 6:15 – Presentation of Project Background and Purpose
Time 6:15 to 6:45 – Presentation of Preliminary Engineering Report and Process
Time 6:45 to 8:00 – Public Question and Answer, Comments

Purpose: The Village of Taos Ski Valley has applied for funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program to complete improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. These improvements are proposed in order to upgrade and increase the facility from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to a capacity of 0.32 MGD. The Project is needed to increase treatment capacity to meet current peak flow periods and to meet the future wastewater flows in the service area.

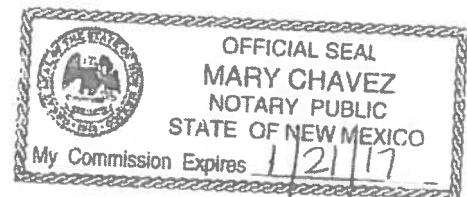
The purpose of this public meeting is to provide notice of the proposed project, identify issues of concern, discuss the preliminary range of alternatives considered, identify potential cooperating agencies and other stakeholders, and enlist public participation in development of the project plan.

Documents for the Project may be reviewed at the Public Works Department at the Village Office, located at 7 Firehouse Road, Village of Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico 87525.

For more information contact: Ashley Smith
asmith@segroun.com 970.262.4345
PO Box 2729
323 W. Main Street, Suite 201
Frisco, CO 80443

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If special assistance is required to participate in this public meeting, please contact the person above at least three days prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

(Legal No. 15,308;
Pub. Sep. 8, 2016).



00004244 00006083

SE GROUP
PO BOX 2729
FRISCO, CO 80443

APPENDIX E:

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Invitees to October 12, 2016 Stakeholder Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	Telephone Number
Rachel	Conn	Amigos Bravos	rconn@amigosbravos.org	575-758-3874
Glorianna	Atencio	Arroyo Hondo Ditch	gdatencio@windstream.net	505-753-4504
Willie	Atencio	Arroyo Hondo Ditch	wgatencio@windstream.net	505-753-4504
Sol Kaplan	Mayardomo	Atalaya Ditch	none	575-776-1333
Floyd	Archuletta	Lower Des Montes Neighborhood Assoc	floydabz@gmail.com	770-6970
MaryAnn	Romo	Mat Ditch Association	maryanntaos@yahoo.com	575-758-2397
Dennis	Johnson	Des Montes Cuchilla Ditch Association		575-776-2950/741-0491
Herbert	Martinez	Des Montes Cuchilla Ditch Association	HerbStompers@yahoo.com	575-776-8918/770-5590
Carlos	Miera	Des Montes Ditch Association	cmiera@q.com	575-776-8915
Jesse	Gonzales	Plaza Ditch		575-776-1333
Peter	Mersch	Plaza Ditch	pmersch@newmex.com	575-776-1333
Phillip	Rael	Plaza Ditch		575-776-2374
Monty	McCarty	Revasle Ditch Association	mccartymonty@gmail.com	575-770-7512
Gabriel	Olguin	Trujillo Ditch Association	intaos@yahoo.com	575-779-1505

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Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Project Acequia Stakeholder Meeting – October 12, 2016

Name (First and Last) and Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	Mailing Address (include City, State, & Zip)	Email	Receive Future Mailings? (Y/N)
Ashley Smith SEGroup	323 W. Main Street Suite 201 Frisco CO 80443	asmith@segroup.com	
Glorianna D. Atencio	P.O. Box 235 Española, NM 87532	gdatencio@windstream.net	
Walter Atencio	" "	" "	
Mark Dahm	FEI Engineers 1485 Florida Rd Ste C206 Durango, CO 80301	mark.dahm@feiengineers.com	
Ruth Martin	VTSV PO Box 100 Taos NM 87525	rmartin@vtsv.org	
Mark G. Fratrack	VTSV " " "	mfratrack@vtsv.org	
Ray Keen	VTSV Public Works Dir	rkeen@vtsv.org	
Jay Lazans	Gloria Acuña, Inc PO Box 5722 Santa Fe NM 87502	jla@gloriaacuna.com	
Rachel Conn	P.O. Box 238 Taos, NM 87571	rconn@amigosbravos.org	

APPENDIX F: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Project Public Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2016

Name (First and Last) and Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	Mailing Address (include City, State, & Zip)	Email	Receive Future Mailings? (Y/N)
Mark Dahm FEI Engineers	1485 Florida Rd, Suite 2208 Durango, CO 80301	mark.dahm@FEIEngineers.com	X
Kate Moran LRE	2104 N. High St Denver CO 80205	kate.moran@lrewater.com	N
MARK G FRATRICK VTSV	TSV	MFRATRICK@VTSV.ORG	N
WILLIAM JONES VTSV	TSV	wjones@vtsv.org	
TOM WITTMAN VTSV	PO BOX 149	topwit@aol.com	N
Sheila & Dick Duffy	PO Box 35 TSV 87525	r_sduffy@yahoo.com	
Dennis Romero	PO Box 1932 1 Dor	dromero@cw@doc.com	
A. Biardello			
Jennifer McCabe LaCuchilla Acequias	P.O. Box 44 Santa Fe NM 87504	jennifer@nmagua.com	Yes
Cliff Bain Acequia de Atlatz	P.O. Box 297 Arroyo Hondo NM 87513	Cliftonbain33@gmail.com	Yes

Name (First and Last) and Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	Mailing Address (include City, State, & Zip)	Email	Receive Future Mailings? (Y/N)
Priscilla C. Rael Commissioner Aleguia de San Antonio Valdez	P.O. Box 493 Valdez NM 87580	elipb@gwaatoffice.net	<u>Yes</u>
ELIAS ONTIVEROS	P.O. Box 493 Valdez NM 87580	Elipb@gwaatoffice.net	<u>Yes</u>

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9

Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Project Public Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2016

Name (First and Last) and Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	Mailing Address (include City, State, & Zip)	Email	Receive Future Mailings? (Y/N)
Gabriel Olguin	211 Riban Taos NM 87571	Intaos@yahoo.com	Yes
Jai Cross	PO Box 612 Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513	JAISCROSS@GMAIL.COM	Yes
Rachel Conn	P.O. Box 238 Taos, NM 87571	rconn@amigabusiness.org	Yes
Gloriana D. Atencio	P.O. Box 235 Española, NM 87532	glatencia@windstream.net	Yes
Willie Atencio	" "	" "	Yes
Jabir D. Teller	PO Box 1682 Taos, NM		
Jay Lazans	PO Box 5727 St 87505	lazans@glorieta.org	Yes
Paul Dralcos	PO Box 22536 SP 87502	dralcos@glorieta.org	Yes
Gordon Briner		GORDON.BRINER@ SKI TAOS.COM	Yes

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Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Project Public Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2016

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Public Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2016

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Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Project Public Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2016

Name (First and Last) and Organization/Affiliation (if applicable)	Mailing Address (include City, State, & Zip)	Email	Receive Future Mailings? (Y/N)
RUTH MARTIN VTSV	POB 100 TSV NM 87525	rmartin@vtsv.org	
Ray Keen VTSV	PO Box 100 Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	rKeen@vtsv.org	
Joe Apodaca VTSV	P.O. Box 100 Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	japodaca@vtsv.org	
Francisco Chavez VTSV	P.O. Box 100 Arroyo Soc Taos 87557	FCMC@gmail.com	
OLAF MINGO VTSV	P.O. Box 100 TAOS SKI VALLEY, NM 87525	OLAF@VTSV.ORG	
Kathy BENNETT	PO Box 684 TSV, NM 87525	KathyBENNETTTSV@CS.COM	
NEAL KING	PO Box 684 TSV NM 87525	nealkingtsv@cs.com	
Tom Brandt	121 Tijeras NE Albug. NM 8710	tom.brandt@state.nm.us	
Carlos Miran	PO Box 714 Arroyo Soc ALN 87514	cmiran@q.com	Y
Elias ESPINOZA	P.O. Box 336 VALDEZ, NM 87580	_____	✓

[illegible]

TO: Project File

FROM: --

CC: --

DATE: 12/14/16

SUBJECT: Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Meeting

PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR IMMEDIATELY IF THERE ARE ANY DISCREPANCIES IN THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT

MEETING START: OCTOBER 26TH, 2016 AT 6:00PM

MARK FRATRICK – Town Administrator – Opened Meeting

Mr. Frattrick provided an overview of the project, the Townsite Act, the status of land conveyance with the United States Forest Service (USFS), and a map of the project site. Mr. Frattrick described the open house meeting format, asking that after a general overview of the project, the meeting would then break into small groups to facilitate attendees visiting visual information stations with the opportunity to speak with representatives from the Village, FEI Engineers, and SE Group.

MARK DAHM – FEI Engineers – Addressed engineering aspects of proposed project

Mr. Dahm described the challenges with the current facility's design, the three upgrade design options that were analyzed in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), and the Preferred Action (a membrane bioreactor [MBR] system).

Mr. Dahm explained that the facility currently experiences fluctuations in process flows, from low flows during the summer months to considerably higher flows during peak winter ski area visitation periods. In this regard, peak period flow swings are unique to this Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). He went on to explain how cold influent temperatures during wintertime peak flows resulted in wastewater that is more difficult to treat. Mid-summer average flows around 20,000 gallons per day (gal/day), and winter holidays and spring break average approximately 40,000 gal/day.

Mr. Dahm discussed how current flow and loading is meeting the limits of the facility's current technology, thus resulting in the effluent pollution concentration exceedances documented. FEI is in the process of looking at upgrade options and what future use patterns for VTSV may be. He went on to explain how the primary process of the current WWTF is removal of solids and clarification whereas the secondary process is a biological process. The current system utilized by VTSV is an integrated fixed film activated sludge process. The VTSV would like to convert to the more technologically advanced membrane bioreactor (MBR) system. MBR is a physical barrier to filter treated effluent. Advantages of the MBR system include a system that is better suited to highly variable process rates and that is also extremely reliable. MBR is the most cost effective option of those feasible options FEI assessed.

Mr. Dahm presented a table of effluent limits comparison as a visual aid and went on to talk about how the project would not increase allowable effluent per day, but rather the MBR would produce the same

high quality effluent, reducing concentration of biological oxygen demand, total suspended solids, nitrogen, ammonia, and phosphorous.

ASHLEY SMITH - SE Group – Explained NMED EID and NEPA process

Ms. Smith reviewed the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Environmental Impact Document (EID) process as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and identified the three key time periods where public involvement occurs. She then provided an overview of the public comment process, including instructions for providing comments during and after the meeting.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION – OPEN FLOOR QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q: Is this a renovation of existing facilities?

In a way yes, updates would focus on the second process of the main treatment plant by building additional tank space.

Q: How far into the future will this renovation last?

This renovation is projected to a 20-30 year planning horizon.

Q: Regarding proposed expansion plan in VTSV, I would like to see what those plans might be. What is the proposed build out; are there potential impacts to water quality?

FEI is using historical data and skier projection numbers to project growth numbers and do not have information as to what specific projects VTSV is planning over the longer term. Known factors are that VTSV has a 2010 Master Development Plan (MDP), which includes the Village Core, the new hotel, and Parcel D. All projects have been approved utilizing the existing WWTF. An improved WWTF would allow VTSV to better address current treatment issues.

Q: What about water rights for the WWTF?

No additional water rights are required for operation of an upgraded WWTF.

Q: Is this a technological solution or a dilution solution?

No new water would be required for the proposed MBR; the MBR system would be able to process higher flows while maintaining current effluent levels, resulting in 'dilution.'

Q: What about oversight for cumulative impacts? Where is the Forest Service Forest Plan? What are the limits to growth? Requesting more transparency into what the FS is doing. What about cumulative impacts to water, air, wilderness... Wasn't there a skier limit of 2,200 skiers/day at Taos years ago? Is the FS responsible for this?

TSV Inc. MDP approved by the FS. 350,000 skiers/year in the 1990s.

Ms. Owens from SE Group redirects group discussion to WWTF plan and process...

Q: How many hook-ups are planned for the WWTF? Any limits?

Limits are not quantifiable in number of hook-ups as increase will be measured in amount of overall flow.

Q: Where does the sludge go?

Sludge is currently trucked to Rio Rancho. VTSV generates about 14-15 dry tons/year. The Taos Regional Landfill (TRLF), recently approved accepting sludge and VTSV WWTF would like to explore trucking sludge to TRLF instead of Rio Rancho in an effort to save on transportation costs. During peak times for the VTSV WWTF, roll offs of roughly 10,000 lbs/month are trucked to Rio Rancho.

Q: Is this tertiary? Why hasn't that been considered for this process?

Tertiary filtration is generally for phosphorous removal. Tertiary treatment is required for two of the three alternative options: integrated fixed film activated sludge (IFAS) and sequencing batch reactor (SBR) systems. An MBR system does not need tertiary treatment and phosphorous is effectively removed.

Q: In regards to preserving water quality, can the WWTF treat at full capacity and keep effluent numbers as low as projected? Concern expressed about lbs/day increasing.

The proposed MBR would keep lbs/day at current loading limit even with an increase in the volume of wastewater than can be treated.

Q: What happens if there is a power outage?

A back-up generator is in place to allow the WWTF to continue operations.

Q: What about a mechanical failure?

The WWTF would contain built-in redundancies, such as installed mechanical back-ups and redundant capacity in cassettes (referring to proposed MBR) as well.

Q: Does NMED keep records from the WWTF?

The WWTF monitors daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly flows which are reported to the EPA. That data can be viewed on the EPA website "echo" or "envirofacts". Data is mostly self-reported; however, outside monitoring takes place annually. Water monitoring crews cycle through each of the state of New Mexico's eight watersheds, spending a year at each to complete comprehensive monitoring. The NMED operates under the EPA, Region 6, Dallas, TX office.

SUMMARY

Towards the end of the allotted time for the large group discussion, questions and concerns were raised in regards to information related to the direction of Taos Ski Valley Inc's future development plans, concern that information regarding these plans is not being effectively communicated to the public, and concerns about downstream water quality. At the end of the large group discussion, the meeting transitioned to a smaller group format which consisted of stations located around the room and including board visuals and representatives from VTSV, FEI Engineering, and SE Group.

One written comment was received during the meeting.

MEETING END: 8:30PM.

APPENDIX G:

CONSULTATION COORDINATION MATRIX

Village of Taos Ski Valley (Project Number CWSRF 052)
Agency/Party Coordination Tracking Table

Agency/Party	Telephone Number	Date Scoping Mailing Sent	Tracking Number	Date Received by Agency/ Party	Date Response Received	Date of Follow-up Telephone Call	Comments
NM Historic Preservation Division - Department of Cultural Affairs	505-827-6320	9/8/2016	70150640000481630904	9/12/2016	9/20/2016	N/A	The Project Area was surveyed under NMCRIS No. 134299. No historic properties affected. Recommend Project is discussed with Carson National Forest.
NPS Intermountain Region	303-969-2500	9/13/2016	70150640000422896345	9/15/2016	--	12/14/2016	Directed to Tom Lincoln in the NEPA Department. Left voicemail with Mr. Lincoln, no response received.
USFWS New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office	505-346-2525	9/8/2016	70150640000481630928	9/12/2016	--	12/15/2016	When asked for comment during follow-up telephone call, agency replied 'no comment.'
NM Department of Game and Fish - Conservation Services Division	505-476-8000	9/8/2016	70150640000481630942	9/12/2016	9/12/2016	N/A	NMDGF does not anticipate adverse effects to wildlife or habitats from implementation of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.
NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department - Forestry Division	505-476-3325	9/8/2016	70150640000481630911	Not picked up	--	12/14/2016	When asked during follow-up telephone call, agency replied 'no comment.'
US Army Corps of Engineers - Albuquerque District Regulatory Branch	505-342-3374	9/9/2016	70150640000422896147	9/12/2016	--	12/15/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
USDA-NRCS State Conservationist, NM State Office	800-410-2067	9/13/2016	70150640000422896338	9/16/2016	9/28/2016	N/A	The project will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands or hydric soils to be converted to non-agricultural on non-hydric uses.
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator - NMED Office of General Council	505-827-2855	9/8/2016	70150640000481630935	9/12/2016	--	12/15/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau	505-827-0187	9/8/2016	70150640000481630966	9/12/2016	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in joint letter with Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. Stated that should the project limits expand beyond the proposed 0.96 acres, a Notice of Intent to discharge under a Construction General Permit may be required. Additionally, if activity or disturbance will occur within a watercourse, coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division will be required.
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau	505-827-2900	9/8/2016	70150640000481630973	9/12/2016	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in joint letter with Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Surface Water Quality Bureaus. Lists regulation requirements. The project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on groundwater quality in the area of potential effect. Identified potential release of wastewater during retrofitting and repurposing of existing concrete treatment tanks, as well as the possible release of contaminants associated with heavy equipment malfunction.
NMED Drinking Water Bureau	877-654-8720	9/13/2016	70150640000422896321	9/16/2016	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up telephone call, agency stated they would review letter and provide comments. No comments were received.
NMED Solid Waste Bureau	505-827-0197	9/9/2016	70150640000422896154	9/14/2016	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in a joint letter with Air Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. Stated that any excavated waste, including special waste such as regulated asbestos waste, must be properly managed, containerized, transported, and disposed in accordance with regulations. Should the project result in discovery of a single area requiring excavation of more than 120 cubic yards of solid waste would require, excavation shall cease and a Waste Excavation Plan will be prepared in accordance with regulation and submitted to the Solid Waste Bureau for review and approval.
NMED Air Quality Bureau	505-476-4300	9/8/2016	70150640000481631109	9/12/2016	11/30/2016	N/A	Provided comments in a joint letter with Solid Waste, Surface Water Quality, and Ground Water Quality Bureaus. The Project as proposed is not anticipated to contribute negatively to air quality on a long-term basis; however, short-term impacts originating from combustion-related construction equipment and earth excavation and movement would occur. Applicable local or county regulations requiring noise or dust control must be followed; in absence of regulations, dust control measures should be considered especially during high wind events.

Village of Taos Ski Valley (Project Number CWSRF 052)
Agency/Party Coordination Tracking Table

Agency/Party	Telephone Number	Date Scoping Mailing Sent	Tracking Number	Date Received by Agency/ Party	Date Response Received	Date of Follow-up Telephone Call	Comments
EPA Air Planning Section	214-665-2200	9/13/2016	70150640000422896314	9/19/2016	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up phone call, agency stated status of SE Group letter packet was unknown. Directed to the voicemail for a technician. No response received.
Office of the State Engineer - Water Rights Division District VI	505-827-6091	9/8/2016	70150640000481630959	9/12/2016	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up phone call, agency stated that projects are only a concern to the agency if water rights are being transferred or points of diversion are being moved. As this project is proposing neither of these actions, the agency has no comment.
NMDOT Environmental Design Bureau	505-827-5100	9/13/2016	70150640000422896307	9/16/2016	9/20/2016	N/A	When asked during follow-up telephone call, agency replied 'no comment.'
Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region VI	940-898-5399	9/9/2016	70150640000422896161	9/12/2016	9/15/2016	N/A	Agency stated it had no comments and recommended contact with Taos County Flood Plain Administrator and state National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator.
EPA Region 6 Source Water Protection Branch	214-665-2200	9/13/2016	70150640000422896291	9/19/2016	--	12/15/2016	Project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and is thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.
EPA Region 6 Office of Planning and Coordination	214-665-2200	9/13/2016	70150640000422896284	9/19/2016	--	12/15/2016	During follow-up telephone call agency stated that they have no comment as project does not pertain to source water protection.
US Forest Service - Carson National Forest	575-586-0520	9/8/2016	70150640000422895799	9/16/2016	9/19/2016	N/A	Agency requested status of in-progress land transfer status. No additional comments were received.
Taos County, Floodplain Management	Certified	9/8/2016	70150640000481630980	9/12/2016	9/19/2016	N/A	The Project is outside the 100-year floodplain and the agency has no objections to the Project.
Taos County, Planning Department	575-737-6440	9/8/2016	70150640000481630997	9/12/2016	--	--	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Taos Soil and Water Conservation District	575-751-0584	9/8/2016	70150640000481631000	9/13/2016	9/16/2016	N/A	The agency does not have any concerns about the proposed Project.
Village of Taos Ski Valley Community Development Department	575-776-8220	9/8/2016	70150640000481631024	9/12/2016	9/16/2016	N/A	The Village has no comments about the proposed Project.
Wild Earth Guardians	505-988-9126	9/8/2016	70150640000481631017	--	--	--	Undeliverable, telephone number incorrect.
Wild Watershed	--	9/8/2016	70150640000481631031	9/17/2016	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Amigos Bravos	575-758-3874	9/8/2016	70150640000481631062	9/14/2016	10/26/2016	N/A	Organization responded requesting to maintain current pollutant loading limits, expressed concern with increased energy consumption of improved facility, requested tertiary treatment to be considered; requested Village address known storm water issues; requested Village incorporate Green Infrastructure/ Low Impact Development into proposal as it may help attain funding.
La Jicarita	--	9/9/2016	70150640000481631055	9/13/2016	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Center for Biological Diversity	--	9/8/2016	70150640000481631048	9/12/2016	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Staff Attorney, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance	--	9/8/2016	70150640000481631086	9/12/2016	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Carson Forest Watch	--	9/8/2016	70150640000481631079	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.

Village of Taos Ski Valley (Project Number CWSRF 052)
Agency/Party Coordination Tracking Table

Agency/Party	Telephone Number	Date Scoping Mailing Sent	Tracking Number	Date Received by Agency/ Party	Date Response Received	Date of Follow-up Telephone Call	Comments
Acequia Arroyo Hondo Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Acequia de Atalaya Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	11/8/2016	--	Comments received expressed concern about potential impacts to quality of water used to irrigate fields, orchards, and gardens; to replenish wells; and to maintain riparian habitat.
Acequia Des Montes Cuchilla Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Acequia Des Montes Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Acequia Lower Des Montes Neighborhood Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	11/14/16 and 11/28/16	--	Comments received expressed concern about bioloading, algal blooms, surface water elevation changes, and impacts to aquatic habitat; requested information regarding whether storm water is treated by the facility; asks whether treatment options such as use of ultraviolet, constructed wetlands, or softening are being considered; and requests downstream acequia receive monthly water quality reports and be notified in the event of WWTF failure
Acequia Mat Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Acequia Plaza Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
Acequia de San Antonio	--	10/20/2016	Email	--	--	--	No comments on the Proposed Action were made; however, the acequia requested to be notified of future communications regarding project.
Acequia Taos Ski Valley - Revasle Ditch Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	12/14/2016	--	No concerns with the Proposed Action were expressed, as long as the Project would not affect the quantity of quality of water in the Revalse Ditch.
Acequia Trujillo Association	--	9/28/2016	Email	--	--	--	Telephone number not available.
BIA - Northern Pueblos Agency	505-753-1400	9/8/2016	70150640000422895966	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	No voicemail available and no contact made after repeated telephone attempts.
Executive Director - Eight Northern Pueblos	505-747-1593	9/8/2016	70150640000422895973	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Chairman - Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma	580-492-3240	9/8/2016	70150640000422896086	9/13/2016	10/25/2016	N/A	The Comanche Nation has identified no properties within the Project Area.
Chairman - The Hopi Tribe	928-734-3000	9/8/2016	70150640000422895805	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer - The Hopi Tribe	928-734-3000	9/8/2016	70150640000422895959	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Jemez	575-834-7359	9/8/2016	70150640000422896093	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Director of Resource Protection - Pueblo of Jemez	575-874-7759	9/8/2016	70150640000422896017	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Director, Culture Center - Jicarilla Apache Nation	575-759-3242	9/8/2016	70150640000422895997	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.

Village of Taos Ski Valley (Project Number CWSRF 052)
Agency/Party Coordination Tracking Table

Agency/Party	Telephone Number	Date Scoping Mailing Sent	Tracking Number	Date Received by Agency/ Party	Date Response Received	Date of Follow-up Telephone Call	Comments
President - Jicarilla Apache Nation	575-759-3242	9/8/2016	70150640000422896123	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Kewa	505-465-2214	9/8/2016	70150640000422896109	Undeliverable	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer - Pueblo of Kewa	505-465-2214	9/8/2016	70150640000422896000	Undeliverable	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Environmental Program Manager - Pueblo of Kewa	505-465-2214	9/8/2016	70150640000422895812	Undeliverable	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Nambe	505-455-2036	9/8/2016	70150640000422895836	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Nambe Environmental Office - Pueblo of Nambe	505-455-2036	9/8/2016	70150640000422896048	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Historic Preservation Program - The Navajo Nation	928-871-7000	9/8/2016	70150640000422895782	9/12/2016	11/2/2016	N/A	No adverse effects to historic and cultural properties significant to the Navajo Nation are anticipated.
President - The Navajo Nation	928-871-7000	9/8/2016	70150640000422895867	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	505-852-4400	9/8/2016	70150640000481631093	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call with head of the Ohkay Owingeh Environmental Department; no response received.
War Chief - Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh	505-852-4400	9/8/2016	70150640000422896024	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer - Pueblo of Okay Owingeh	505-852-4400	9/8/2016	70150640000422895775	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Picuris	575-587-2519	9/8/2016	70150640000422895881	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any. No response received.
Cultural Officer - Pueblo of Picuris	575-587-2519	9/8/2016	70150640000422896031	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any. No response received.
War Chief - Pueblo of Picuris	575-587-2519	9/8/2016	70150640000422896130	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any. No response received.
Picuris Pueblo Environment Dept. - Pueblo of Picuris	575-587-2519	9/8/2016	70150640000422895768	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	During follow-up telephone call, Tribal Administrator stated he would forward comments should there be any. No response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Pojoaque	505-455-3334	9/8/2016	70150640000422895911	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
War Chief - Pueblo of Pojoaque	505-455-3334	9/8/2016	70150640000422896079	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Santa Clara, Forestry	505-753-7330	9/8/2016	70150640000422895904	9/16/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Environmental Office - Pueblo of Santa Clara	505-753-7330	9/8/2016	70150640000422896055	9/16/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.

Village of Taos Ski Valley (Project Number CWSRF 052)
Agency/Party Coordination Tracking Table

Agency/Party	Telephone Number	Date Scoping Mailing Sent	Tracking Number	Date Received by Agency/ Party	Date Response Received	Date of Follow-up Telephone Call	Comments
Chairman - The Southern Ute Tribe	970-563-0100	9/8/2016	70150640000422895874	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
NAGPRA Coordinator - The Southern Ute Tribe	970-563-0100	9/8/2016	70150640000422895850	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Taos	575-758-9593	9/8/2016	70150640000422895942	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Office of War Chief, Nat. Res. Dept. - Pueblo of Taos	575-758-9593	9/8/2016	70150640000422896062	9/14/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Tesuque	505-955-7732	9/9/2016	70150640000422895928	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Telephone number out of service.
Cultural Preservation Officer - Pueblo of Tesuque	505-955-7732	9/9/2016	70150640000422895829	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Telephone number out of service.
Chairman - The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	970-565-3751	9/8/2016	70150640000422895898	9/13/2016	--	12/14/2016	Left voicemail during follow-up telephone call; no response received.
Wildlife/Outdoor Rec. Division - White Mountain Apache Tribe	928-338-4346	9/8/2016	70150640000422895980	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Directed to voicemail, voicemail full on repeated attempts. No response received.
Governor - Pueblo of Zuni	505-782-7022	9/8/2016	70150640000422895935	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Spoke with Tribal administrator who stated he would respond to the comment request should he located the letter. No response received.
Cultural Preservation Officer - Pueblo of Zuni	505-782-7022	9/8/2016	70150640000422895843	9/12/2016	--	12/14/2016	Spoke with Tribal administrator who stated he would respond to the comment request should he located the letter. No response received.

APPENDIX H: SCOPING RESPONSES

Ash Smith

From: jai cross <jcross@taosnet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:02 PM
To: Ash Smith
Subject: TSV comments

Thank you for a very good presentation at the public scoping meeting for the Taos Ski Valley wastewater treatment facility held on October 26, 2016. Members of the Acequia de Atalaya and the eight other acequias on the Rio Hondo are very concerned about anything that could affect the quality of water that we use to irrigate our fields, orchard, and gardens; to replenish our wells; and to maintain riparian habitat. I was pleased to hear that the improved facility will maintain the current discharge limits and look forward to reviewing the draft Environmental Information Document when it is completed.

Jai Cross, Secretary of the Acequia de Atalaya

PO Box 612, Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513

jaiscross@gmail.com



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

COMANCHE NATION



SE Group
Attn: Ms. Ashley Smith
P.O. Box 2729
Colorado 80443

October 25, 2016

Re: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wasterwater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project No. CWSRF 052

Dear Ms. Smith:

In response to your request, the above reference project has been reviewed by staff of this office to identify areas that may potentially contain prehistoric or historic archeological materials. The location of your project has been cross referenced with the Comanche Nation site files, where an indication of "**No Properties**" have been identified. (IAW 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)).

Please contact this office at (580) 595-9960/9618 if you require additional information on this project.

This review is performed in order to identify and preserve the Comanche Nation and State cultural heritage, in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Regards

Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office
Theodore E. Villicana ,Technician
#6 SW "D" Avenue , Suite C
Lawton, OK. 73502



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

December 20, 2016

Ms. Ashley L. Smith, Associate Project Manager

SE GROUP

P.O. Box 2729
323 W. Main Street, Suite 201
Frisco, CO 80443

Dear Ms. Smith:

We have received your September 13, 2016, letter requesting our evaluation of the potential environmental impacts that might result from the following project:

**Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment
Facility Improvements
The Location is 140 feet from the Rio Hondo within
Section 4 of Township 27 North, Range 14 East
Project No: CWSRF 052
Taos Ski Valley, Taos County, New Mexico**

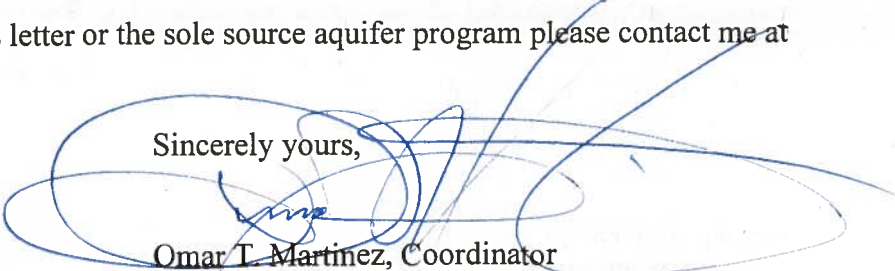
In administering the sole source aquifer (SSA) program under Section 1424 of the Safe Drinking Water Act our Office performs evaluations of projects with federal financial assistance which are located over a designated sole source aquifer.

Based on the information provided, we have concluded that the project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and is thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.

If you did not include the county, project description, project location, area map, plat or the federal funding agency, please do so in future Sole Source Aquifer correspondence

If you have any questions on this letter or the sole source aquifer program please contact me at (214) 665-8485.

Sincerely yours,


Omar T. Martinez, Coordinator
Sole Source Aquifer Program
Ground Water/UIC Section

cc: Michelle Hunter, NMED

Ash Smith

From: Peter Vigil <tswcd@newmex.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 4:56 PM
To: Ash Smith
Cc: mfratrick@vtsv.org
Subject: Taos Ski Valley
Attachments: TSV Comments.pdf

I have discussed the information SE Group provided to my office on September 8, 2016 with the Taos Ski Valley Village Administrator. It seems that the area in question has been highly disturbed over the past couple of decades. There is also a need for the expansion to comply with the recent population growth of the surrounding area. It is in public interest to ensure that adequate capacity is achieved for wastewater and that is discharged in a manner consistent with applicable law and methodology. Therefore Taos SWCD does not have any concerns about the proposed wastewater treatment facility expansion project. Please see attached.

Sincerely,



Taos Soil & Water Conservation District

Peter Vigil
District Manager

P.O. Box 2787 / 202 Chamisa Road
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557
Tel: 575-751-0584 / Fax: 575-751-9253

Email: tswcd@newmex.com

Web: www.tswcd.org

"assuring our future through conservation"



September 8, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has requested funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). We are gathering information for an environmental review of the referenced project. The project is described in the attached project summary sheet and the location is depicted on the attached maps.

The review process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review.

To provide verbal comments or for more information, please contact

SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for TAOS SWCD (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☐ has the attached comment or ☒ has no comments.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Ash Smith

From: Sylvia Rodriguez <sylrodri@unm.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Kelly Owens; Ash Smith
Cc: lgarcia@taosgov.com; azzy@taosnet.com; elipb@qwestoffice.net; tibby4@icloud.com; drsarguello@q.com; nho730@yahoo.com; Ash Smith
Subject: Re: downstream Stakeholders, VTSV Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Kelly,

Thank you for your prompt response. In fact no such notice was posted in Valdez. I have just posted the notice for the October 26 meeting in the Valdez placita.

Perhaps you are unaware that Valdez, Arroyo Hondo, and Des Montes are separate communities and their respective representatives need to be notified directly if you want the information properly disseminated.

I routinely review the legal section of the *Taos News* but failed to detect the notice of the meetings. In any case, the reality is that very few people do read those dense, small print columns, and it often requires a lawyer to decipher their meaning.

Therefore, in the interest of demonstrating good faith and common courtesy in a situation where Valdez has already been left out of the loop, I respectfully urge you to use the email contacts I have provided to notify us of all proposed river-related development in the future.

Inasmuch as the permitting process has been federal and thus automatically able to bypass direct consultation with Valdez, you will perhaps appreciate the significance of according this traditional land grant downstream community the gesture of respect it deserves.

Thank you,

Sylvia

kowens@segroup.com> wrote:

Sylvia,

We appreciate that the Valdez community has special interest in this project. We have run legal notices in the Taos News and Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper and have posted information within the community to get word out to a variety of interest groups. Additionally, please see the attached scoping letter and legal notice regarding the project and the current environmental review process.

Thank you for your participation,
Kelly Owens

KELLY OWENS
Senior Project Manager
<image003.png>
PO Box 2729

323 W. Main Street, Suite 201
Frisco, Colorado 80443
Office Direct 970.262.4345
Office Main 970.668.3398 x105
Mobile 970.406.8033
kowens@seggroup.com
www.seggroup.com

From: Sylvia Rodriguez <sylrodri@unm.edu>
Date: October 20, 2016 at 12:41:08 PM MDT
To: "asmith@seggroup.com" <asmith@seggroup.com>
Cc: Lloyd Garcia <lgarcia@taosgov.com>, "azzy@taosnet.com" <azzy@taosnet.com>, Eli Ontiveros/ Priscilla Rael <elipb@qwestoffice.net>, Tibby Gold <tibby4@icloud.com>, "drsarguello@q.com" <drsarguello@q.com>, Nora Oest <nho730@yahoo.com>
Subject: downstream Stakeholders

Dear Mr. Smith,

I happened to run into Floyd Archuleta this morning and he confirmed the rumor that TSV was holding meetings with downstream stakeholders regarding proposed upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant on the upper Rio Hondo.

No one in Valdez, which is the closest downstream community on the Rio hondo, has ever been contacted about this, so I write to request that you immediately put our acequia commissioners on your address list for all future communications regarding TSV development affecting the river. Their addresses are cc-ed on this email and are thereby made available to you.

Thank you,

Sylvia Rodriguez
Secretary
Acequia de San Antonio de Valdez

cc: hardcopy to Elias Espinoza, Mayordomo of the Acequia de San Antonio

<Request_for_Comment_Consult_20160913.pdf><Scoping_Meeting_Legal_Notice_160901.pdf>

Village of Taos Ski Valley | Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Public Scoping Meeting | October 26, 2016

Please use this form, or submit a concisely-written letter, to comment on the VTSV Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.

Address all comments to:

Ashley Smith – SE Group

RE: VTSV WWTF Improvements

PO Box 2729, Frisco, CO 80443

Submit electronic comments via email to asmith@segroup.com

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY! (ok to use backside of page or additional sheets if necessary)

Name (First and Last) Organization (if applicable)	Rachel Conn
Mailing Address Please include: City, State, Zip Code	P.O. Box 238 Taos, NM 87571
Email address	rconn@amigosbravos.org

Amigos Bravos comments!

- It is essential to keep loading the same.
 (Amigos Bravos will be monitoring permit renewals to ensure loading stays the same.)
- We are concerned with energy use and hope the Village looks at energy consumption (potential increased energy use of upgrades) and potential to offset any additional energy use with alternative (renewable) energy sources.

may help with getting funding plus would help with overall water quality in Rio Hondo.

Has tertiary treatment been considered? Amigos Bravos strongly encourages the use of tertiary treatment.

- We would like the Village to, ~~water a separate process~~, to address the stormwater issues in the village.
- Have you considered including GI/LID components in your proposal? (green infrastructure)



FEMA

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REGION VI
MITIGATION DIVISION**

PUBLIC NOTICE REVIEW/ ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

Re: Village of Taos Ski Valley, Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Village of Taos Ski Valley, NM does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). A non-participating community in the NFIP means that Federal Funds may not be available for projects that are located within a designated Special Flood Hazard Area.

We request to Contact the Taos County Flood Plain Administrator, Mr. Tim Corner

If Project is Federally Funded, project should be compliant with EO 13690 and EO 11990. We would recommend to contact the state NFIP Coordinator.

We have no comments to offer.

REVIEWER: ***Mayra G. Díaz***
(940) 898-5541

Date: September 15, 2016



RECEIVED
FEDERAL MAIL CENTER
REGION 6

September 8, 2016

2016 SEP 14 A 12:42

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has requested funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). We are gathering information for an environmental review of the referenced project. The project is described in the attached project summary sheet and the location is depicted on the attached maps.

The review process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review.

To provide verbal comments or for more information, please contact

SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for _____ (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☐ has the attached comment or ☐ has no comments.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Ash Smith

From: Floyd Archuleta <floyda62@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Ash Smith
Subject: VTSV Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Ashley, Thank you for the opportunity to allow for comment on the VTSV WTFI.

My name is Floyd Archuleta, I am the President of Lower Des Montes Neighborhood Association. My address is 2 JMA Ranch Road, El Prado, NM 87529 and my email is floyda62@gmail.com 575-770-6970

I have lived in Des Montes all my life and have carried on the tradition of farming and ranching, mainly running cattle and growing alfalfa hay for our cattle. I also have a community garden located behind my art gallery in Des Montes and am looking forward to installing a large green house including a 5,000 gallon cistern to hold water for irrigation.

Another project that I am currently involved in is growing barley for Taos Mesa Brewery. This is our first year. If the barley project is successful we are looking at growing more acreage of barley involving other ranchers.

My family uses the Rebalse Ditch as well as the Des Montes Ditch for irrigating.

I'm sure you understand the importance of having clean water as well as the quantity of water we absolutely need for irrigating.

I was surprised that the treatment plant facility was not completed before the \$3 million hotel was completed. Perhaps your engineers can come up with a design for a back up system if the new improvements fail.

It is imperative that we are notified immediately in the event the treatment plant fails to treat the sewage coming out of the VTSV so that we have enough notice to shut down all acequia head gates leading up to our ditches.

We would like to request monthly reports on the readings of water quality dumping into the Rio Hondo River.

Thank You
Floyd Archuleta

Lower Des Montes Neighborhood Association

Membership Comments to:

Village of Taos Ski Valley: Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Use this form to submit a letter or comment on the VTSF Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements:

Address all comments to:

Ashley Smith-SE Group
Re: VTSV WWTF Improvements
P.O Box 2729, Frisco, Co. 80443
Or email to asmith@segroup.com

Name (First and Last): Scott Beeson

Mailing Address: (City, State, zip code): PO Box 2094 El Prado, NM 87529

Email address: sbeeson@centurylink.net

Comment:

Based upon my review of the documentation provided, I do not oppose the project to expand the VTSF WWTP. I am pleased to read that the WWTP will utilize a MBR system that is near to best technology application in this case of a small WWTP.

Questions/Concerns

1. As a concern, the bioloading of 911 lbs per day has concern and I would appreciate further explanation. Is the bioloading to state that the discharge permit will not include disinfection technology, like UV?
2. Is UV a practical application in this instance?
3. Are the models in support that no algal blooms will occur downstream in waterways used for agricultural purposes?
4. Will treated water undergo any softening or other adjustment to avoid blending or for that matter, no blending, of concerns like softened water vs. hard water or swings in TDS?
5. Has the WWTP demonstrated that using constructed wetlands prior to release of water to the Rio Hondo is a non-viable alternative. Cold climate is no longer an easy excuse for dismissing constructed wetlands.
6. Will the WWTP treat combined waste (i.e., that combined stormwater flow and wastewater flow)?
7. It is known that stormwater flows with the increased runoff due to higher impermeable areas will or at least could result in conveyance of unwanted sediments downstream. If

combined waste will not be treated, then will stormwater flows be detained in applications like LID? Or other sediment control mechanisms?

8. Has discharge models demonstrated that increased discharge to the Rio Hondo result in no adverse impact to water surface elevation?
9. Have models demonstrated no adverse impact to aquatic habitat?

Your responses are much appreciated.

Scott Beeson

16 Archuleta Road



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

November 2, 2016

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager
SE Group
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443

RE: VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
IMPROVEMENTS; PROJECT NUMBER CWSRF 052

Dear Ms. Smith,

The Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, hereafter (HPD) is in receipt of consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.16(y) for the *proposed upgrade to existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and environmental review of the project for determination on whether the project has the potential to disturb areas considered important or culturally significant.*

Traditional Culture Program Staff reviewed the informational documents, and have provided the comments herein, HPD finds no adverse effects to historic and cultural properties significant to the Navajo Nation. HPD has no concerns at this time.

If the proposed project within the area inadvertently discovers Traditional Cultural Properties such as habitation sites, plant gathering areas, human remains or objects of cultural patrimony, HPD request that we be notified in accordance with 36 CFR 800 as a Consulting Party, and per the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The Navajo Nation HPD appreciates the SE Group's consultation efforts regarding this undertaking. Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions do not hesitate to contact our department at 928-871-7198.

Sincerely,

Melinda Arviso-Ciocco
Navajo Cultural Specialist
Traditional Culture Program
Historic Preservation Department
TCP File: 16-147

Concurred,

Tamara Billie, Senior Archeologist
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Department
Division of Natural Resources



September 13, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has requested funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). We are gathering information for an environmental review of the referenced project. The project is described in the attached project summary sheet and the location is depicted on the attached maps.

The review process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review.

To provide verbal comments or for more information, please contact

SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for NM DOT Environmental Bureau (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☐ has the attached comment or ☒ has no comments.

Signature:

Date: 9/14/16

Name: GARY FUNKHOUSER

Title: Environmental Scientist



RECEIVED

SEP 12 2016

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

104337

September 8, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has requested funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). We are gathering information for an environmental review of the referenced project. The project is described in the attached project summary sheet and the location is depicted on the attached maps.

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SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☒ has the attached comment or ☐ has no comments. See below

Signature: S. Wakefield Date: 09/14/2016

Name: S. Andy Wakefield Title: Archaeologist

→ Project area was surveyed under NMORIS No. 134299. No
→ Historic Properties Affected
→ Recommend Project is discussed with Carson National Forest



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

121 Tijeras Avenue NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87102-3400
Telephone (505) 222-9500 Fax (505) 222-9510
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



BUTCH TONGATE
Cabinet Secretary Designate
J. C. BORREGO
Acting Deputy Secretary

November 30, 2016

Ms. Ashley Smith
SE Group
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443

Email: asmith@segroup.com

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
NMED EIR #5389

Ms. Smith:

Your letter regarding the above named project was received by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and comments were provided by the Air Quality, Ground Water Quality, Solid Waste, and Surface Water Quality Bureaus.

Air Quality

The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau has evaluated the information submitted with respect to the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility improvements in Taos County. Taos County is currently considered to be in attainment with all New Mexico and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Activities identified in this proposal will create increases in pollutant emissions due to combustion-related construction equipment usage, as well as earth excavation and movement. In addition, if asbestos disturbance is a possibility during demolition or remodeling activities, specific handling and disposal methods for this carcinogenic material may be required. While asbestos is not currently regulated by the State of New Mexico, federal regulations found at 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart M - National Emission Standard for Asbestos, include specific regulations for demolition, waste disposal and reporting, with cross-references to other asbestos regulations (including OSHA) which also must be followed. For more information on asbestos, please visit

the NM Environment Department's asbestos page at
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/asbestos/index.html>

To ensure air quality standards are met, applicable local or county regulations requiring noise or dust control must be followed for the duration of this project. If none are in effect, dust control measures should be considered to minimize the release of particulates due to vehicular traffic, construction equipment, and ground disturbances - especially during high wind events. Areas disturbed by construction activities resulting in significant ground disturbance within and adjacent to the project should be reclaimed to avoid long-term problems with soil erosion and fugitive dust.

All asphalt, concrete, quarrying, crushing and screening facilities contracted in conjunction with the proposed project must have current and proper air quality permits. For more information on air quality permitting and modeling requirements, please refer to 20.2.72 NMAC.

Activities identified in this proposal will increase local emissions and will temporarily impact air quality in the area. Negative impacts associated with construction activities will be minimized if regulations and guidelines identified here are followed. The project as proposed is not anticipated to contribute negatively to air quality on a long-term basis.

Groundwater Quality

Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) staff reviewed the above-referenced project focusing specifically on the potential to affect groundwater resources in the area.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is located in Taos County, in Section 4, Township 27N, Range 14E. The WWTF discharges to the Rio Hondo under NPDES Permit NM0022101. The permitted capacity is 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD). The upgraded WWTF would be designed to treat a maximum monthly average daily flow of 0.31 MGD.

The project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on groundwater quality in the area of potential effect. However, the retrofitting and repurposing of existing concrete treatment tanks could result in the release of wastewater to the ground surface, resulting in the potential to impact groundwater and public health. In addition, implementation of the project will involve the use of heavy equipment thereby leading to a possibility of contaminant releases (e.g., fuel, hydraulic fluid, etc.) associated with equipment malfunctions. The GWQB advises all parties involved in the project to be aware of notification requirements for accidental discharges

contained in 20.6.2.1203 NMAC. Compliance with the notification and response requirements will further ensure the protection of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the project.

A copy of the Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC, is available at <http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title20/20.006.0002.htm>

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Bureau provides comment that any excavated solid waste, including any special waste such as regulated asbestos waste, must be properly managed, containerized, transported and disposed in accordance with the New Mexico Solid Waste Rules 20.9.2 – 20.9.10 NMAC. Upon discovery of any single area requiring excavation of more than 120 cubic yards of solid waste, excavation shall cease and a Waste Excavation Plan in accordance with 20.9.2.10(A)(15) NMAC shall be prepared and submitted to the SWB for review and approval prior to continuing with excavation operations.

Excavation or maintenance activities sometimes results in the knowing or inadvertent generation of regulated asbestos waste as there is the potential to excavate or otherwise impact asbestos cement pipes (sewer, water, or conduit). Suspect pipes, fragments or soils contaminated with related fragments or fines shall be sampled and analyzed by Polarized Light Microscopy ("PLM") to determine if the material contains greater than one percent (1%) asbestos. If so, the pipes, fragments, and/or contaminated soils require management as regulated asbestos waste, in accordance with the New Mexico Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.2-10 NMAC, including proper containerization, labeling, manifesting, transport by an approved commercial hauler, and disposal at a permitted solid waste facility.

Surface Water Quality

This project identifies upgrades to the Taos Ski Valley WWTF, currently covered under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number NM0022101.

This project will increase the design capacity from the currently permitted 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.31MGD.

The State of New Mexico may require supplemental information as part of an Antidegradation Review in accordance with the State Of New Mexico Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters 20.6.4.8, NMAC.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) coverage for storm water discharges from construction activities (such as clearing, grading, excavating, and stockpiling) that disturb (or re-disturb) one or more acres, or smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development. If the project limits (including staging areas) expands from the proposed 0.96 acres, a notice of intent (NOI) to discharge under the CGP may be required. The CGP, NOI, deadlines for submitting an NOI, Fact Sheet, and Federal Register notice is available at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>.

If construction activity or disturbances are to take place in a watercourse, including the stream banks, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the need to obtain a permit from the Regulatory Division. More information on the §404 permitting process, including applicability of Nationwide Permits, mitigation requirements, requirements for certification for any discharges on state, private or tribal land, can be obtained from the USACE at:

<http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgramandPermits.aspx>.

Additionally, a state Water Quality Certification could be required under Section 401 for activities regulated under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

If you have any questions please contact me at (505) 222-9552 or by email at thomas.skibitski@state.nm.us

Sincerely,



Thomas Skibitski

Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
NMED File Number: EIR #5389

Email: asmith@segroun.com

Ash Smith

From: Volke, Malia, DGF <Malia.Volke@state.nm.us>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Ash Smith
Cc: Ogburn, Jeff, DGF; DGF-EEP-TG; nmesfo@fws.gov; Volke, Malia, DGF
Subject: 17300 Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Dear Ashley,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish does not anticipate adverse effects to wildlife or habitats from implementation of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.

Thank you for consulting with us.

Malia

Malia Volke, Ph.D.
Aquatic/Riparian Habitat Specialist
Ecological and Environmental Planning Division
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
505-476-8160 | malia.volke@state.nm.us

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Ash Smith

From: Nanette Ely-Davies <nely@sz-usa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 5:10 PM
To: Ash Smith
Subject: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Attachments: TSV-Comments20171214.pdf

Dear Ashley Smith,

Attached is my comment form regarding the improvements you are planning for the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility. As I said on the form, I am not opposed to any of the improvements you are planning for the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility as long as it will not affect either the quantity or quality of the water in the Revalse Ditch.

Thank you,
Nanette

Nanette Ely-Davies
6000 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque NM 87110
505.262.2679 office
505.265.9297 fax
505.263.6783 cell
nely@sz-usa.com

Revalse Ditch Association

Membership Comments to:

Village of Taos Ski Valley: Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Use this form to submit a letter or comment on the VTSF Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements:

Address all comments to:

Ashley Smith-SE Group
Re: VTSV WWTF Improvements
P.O Box 2729, Frisco, Co. 80443
Or email to asmith@segroup.com

Name (First and Last): Nanette Ely-Davies

Mailing Address: (City, State, zip code): 6000 Lomas Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87110

Email address: nely@sz-usa.com

Comment:

I am not opposed to any of the improvements you are planning for the Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility as long as it will not affect either the quantity or quality of the water in the Revalse Ditch.

COUNTY OF TAOS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Jim K. Fambro
Mark Gallegos
Gabriel J. Romero
Tom Blankenhorn
Candye O'Donnell

District I
District II
District III
District IV
District V

Leandro Cordova

County Manager



TIM CORNER
FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

105 Albright Street, Suite H
Taos, NM 87571
Office: (575) 737-3839
Fax: (575) 737-6449
timothy.corner@taoscounty.org

VTSV WWTF Improvement Project Comments

Date: 9/19/2016

Ref: Project Number CWSRF 052

To: Whom it may concern

I have determined that the project lies outside of the 100 year floodplain as mapped by FEMA. Therefore I have no objection to the proposal.

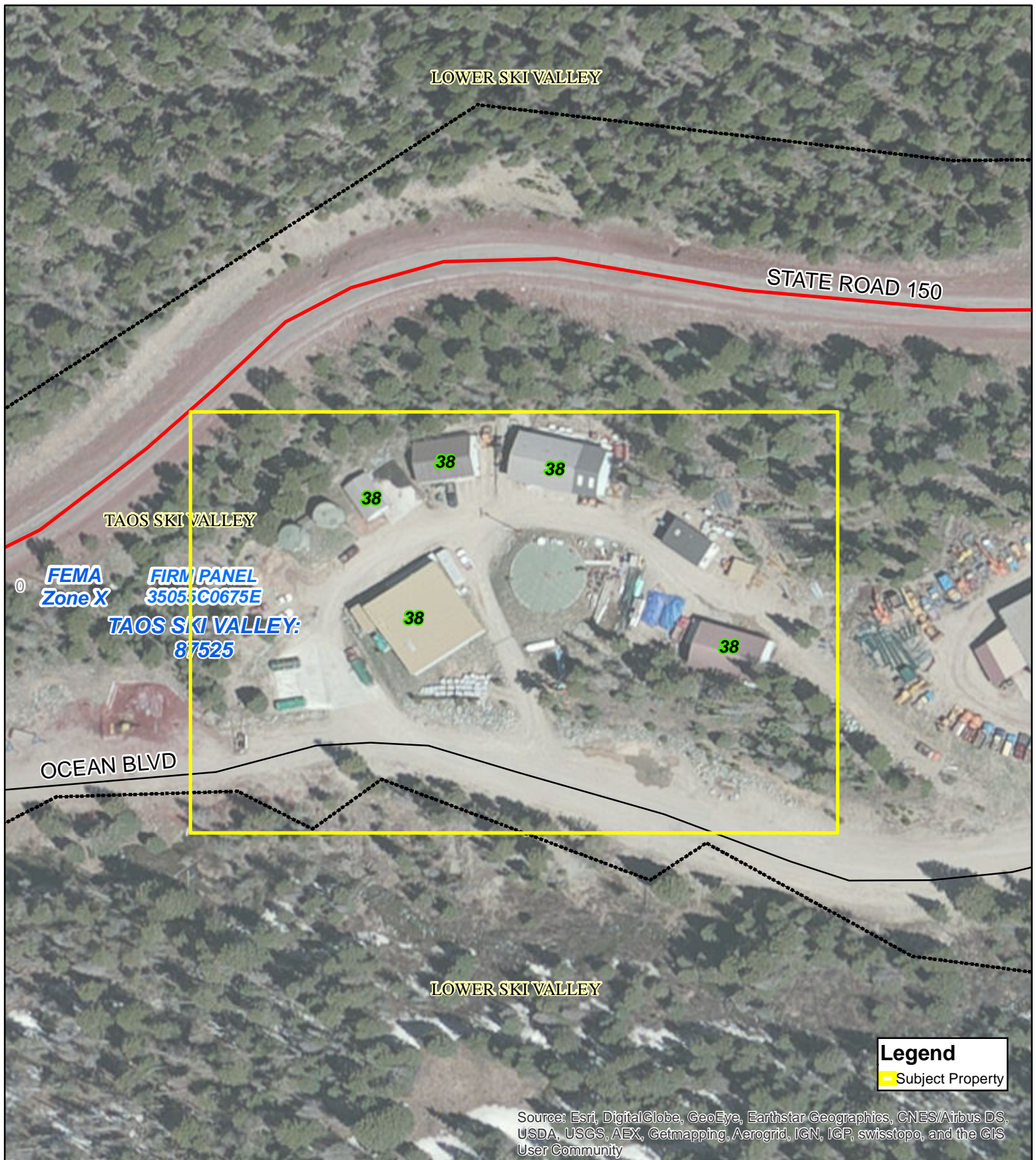
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Corner

Taos County Floodplain Administrator

VTSV WWTF



Taos County Planning
Author: Tim Corner
Document: MapSAG_20160822
Date Saved: 9/16/2016 4:58:33 PM
Source graphics: NAIP 2014 / Taos County Ortho 2010 /
Service Credits

0 200 Feet

The location of the parcel is approximate and is intended for demonstration purposes only. This is not be used as a survey document.





September 8, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

Dear Interested Party,

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To provide verbal comments or for more information, please contact

SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for Taos County (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☒ has the attached comment or ☐ has no comments.

Signature: Tim Corner Date: 9/19/2016
Name: Timothy Corner Title: Floodplain Administrator



United States Department of Agriculture

September 26, 2016

Ms. Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager
SE Group
Post Office Box 2729
323 W. Main St., Suite 201
Frisco, Colorado 80443

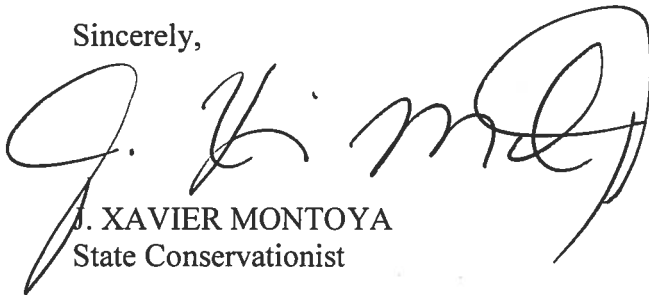
Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for providing the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the opportunity to review the proposed Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Project, Taos County, New Mexico.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) authorizes the NRCS to provide review of proposed projects that have the potential to irreversibly convert farmlands to non-farmland or irreversibly converting hydric areas to non-hydric uses as the result of programs funded by the federal government. In review of the information provided on the project, it is determined that the entire project is located in an urban or development area in an existing easement, or is in an area not designated as Prime or Important Farmland. The FPPA rules define farmland conversion to be "to the extent that it irreversibly converts farmland to other purposes", this project is not expected to have that effect. With this acknowledged, the proposed project will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands or hydric soils to be converted to non-agricultural or non-hydric uses, and is not subject to the Act.

If you have any questions concerning soils information, please contact Richard Strait, State Soil Scientist, at (505) 761-4433 or email at Richard.Strait@nm.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



J. XAVIER MONTOYA
State Conservationist

cc:

Liz Beth Walker, District Conservationist, NRCS, Santa Fe, NM
Richard Strait, State Soil Scientist, NRCS, Albuquerque, NM



September 8, 2016

RE: Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Project Number CWSRF 052

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SE Group (Attn: Ashley Smith)
P.O. Box 2729
Frisco, CO 80443
Telephone: (970) 262-4349
asmith@segroup.com

Best regards,
SE Group

Ashley L. Smith
Associate Project Manager

Enclosure: Project Summary Packet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a representative for the Village of Taos Ski Valley (Organization), the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, ☐ has the attached comment or ☒ has no comments.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Mark G. Fratrack
Village Administrator

Appendix 2. Wildlife Report

Village of Taos Ski Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project

Wildlife Report



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For:
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Construction Programs Bureau

December 2016

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Introduction

Purpose

This document analyzes the effects of implementation of the Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) expansion project on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands within the Questa Ranger District (District), Taos County, New Mexico (Figure 1). It is anticipated that the project would include the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loans; as such, improvements to the VTSV WWTF require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 6, 25, 35, and 1500) and State of New Mexico regulations (New Mexico Administrative Code 20.7.7), which require analysis of the environmental effects of a proposed action. The VTSV is completing an Environmental Information Document (EID) to assist the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Construction Programs Bureau (CPB) with completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. This report consists of four sections: 1) a biological assessment (BA); 2) a biological evaluation (BE); 3) management indicator species (MIS) analysis; and 4) migratory bird (MB) analysis.

The BA addresses federally threatened, endangered, and proposed species within the project area as required in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2672.4) and determines the effects of the proposed action on these species. The BE addresses Region 3 Forest Sensitive species known to occur on the District as required by the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2672.4) and determines whether the implementation activities would lead toward federal listing by the Endangered Species Act, as amended (PL 93-205, as amended in 1973). Additionally, the BE addresses State of New Mexico Threatened and Endangered species with potential to occur or that have habitat in the project area. The MIS addresses 11 species within the Carson National Forest Plan (USFS 1986), as required by planning rule 36 CFR 219.19 and determines the effects of the proposed action on the forest-wide habitat and population trends of the analyzed species. Finally, the MB analysis addresses high-priority migratory bird species by habitat type as required by Executive Order 13186 and determines whether project activities will result in unintentional take and have an effect on the overall population. Only those actions that have the potential to affect a species or its habitat are reviewed in this document.

Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to upgrade the existing VTSV WWTF from a hydraulic capacity of 0.167 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.31 MGD. The VTSV owns and has operated the existing WWTF since acquiring the facility in 2001. The existing WWTF is permitted to discharge 0.167 MGD of treated effluent to the Rio Hondo, under National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number NM0022101. Plant operations data indicate that the facility's capability becomes challenged at peak flows of approximately 0.120 MGD, including the ability to meet the currently permitted nitrogen effluent discharge standards.

To address these challenges, the VTSV is proposing to improve the WWTF by converting the existing integrated fixed film activated sludge process system to a membrane bioreactor (MBR) system (the Proposed Project). The upgraded facility would be designed to treat a maximum monthly average daily flow of 0.31 MGD, along with an organic loading of 911 pounds per day. No increase in pollutants would occur as a result of the increased wastewater volume.

The Carson National Forest Plan outlines goals and objectives that will be met by this proposed project. These include: *Recreation Sites: Ski Areas – Administer the existing ski areas in accordance with the direction in the Master Development Plan for each area (p. 16 Recreation Sites – 4).*

Based on a preliminary assessment, we intend to categorically exclude the proposed project from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) – “Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.”

Project Description

Construction of the proposed MBR treatment process system would include retrofitting and repurposing the existing concrete treatment tanks, in addition to constructing additional new treatment tanks and replacing the existing building or constructing a new building to encompass the new tanks. A total of approximately 3,110 square feet of new structures are proposed, with an additional approximately 3,940 square feet of modified or removed structures (Figure 2). The Proposed Project would be contained within the existing WWTF site and would disturb approximately 0.96 acres (the Area of Potential Effects [APE]), all of which has been disturbed for facility development in the past.

The proposed 0.96-acre APE is located on USFS lands that are in the process of being transferred to the VTSV. These lands have been developed as a WWTF since prior to 1982. The APE is located approximately 140 feet from the Rio Hondo within Section 4 of Township 27 North, Range 14 East (Figure 1). The APE is bordered to the north and west by State Highway 150 (paved); to the east by Taos Ski Valley, Inc. Vehicle Maintenance Facility; and to the south by Ocean Boulevard (gravel) and the Rio Hondo (Figure 2).

Description of the Analysis Area and Habitat

The project area occurs within the Crystalline Mid-Elevation Forests Sub-region of the Southern Rockies Ecoregion (Griffith, G.E. et. al 2006). Habitat within the APE has been completely disturbed and developed via access roads and building infrastructure associated with the WWTF. Immediately surrounding the APE, habitat is dominated by species of the Upper Montane Coniferous Forest, and Montane - Riparian vegetation types (Dick-Peddie 1993). Additionally, species that have been used in reseeded efforts from past disturbance are prevalent throughout those areas. The dominant vegetation in the surrounding habitat is comprised of a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) – white fir (*Abies concolor*) – subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) upland association, and a Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*) – planeleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) – thinleaf alder (*Alnus oblongifolia*) association in the riparian areas. Slopes within the project area range from 0 to 10 percent.

Habitat within the project area or other habitat affected by project activities will be analyzed for effects. Important adjacent habitats or features or species potentially affected by project activities, such as noise due to machinery, will be disclosed in the species-specific analysis.