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**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
ENGINEERING DIVISION**

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**CITY OF CHICO  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE CHICO AIRPORT SEWER  
POND REPAIR PROJECT**

**January 24, 2026**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Chico Community Development Director intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project described below. The project will be approved administratively unless referred to the City Council for action.

**Chico Airport Sewer Pond Repair Project (Capital Project No. 50358)** – The City proposes to upgrade the existing sewer and stormwater infrastructure at the former wastewater treatment plant located southeast of the Chico Regional Airport and adjacent to the City Compost Facility on the west side of Cohasset Road. The purpose of the project is to prevent the discharge of overflow wastewater into an existing abandoned wastewater holding pond to avoid inadvertent mixing with stormwater runoff during rain events. Specifically, an existing storm drain line will be abandoned, capped in place, and replaced by approximately 345 feet of 12-inch storm drainpipe that will bypass the abandoned wastewater pond and discharge directly into an existing adjacent storm drain ditch. Additional work includes the installation of a new, real-time wastewater level sensor in the sewer flow control vault to provide early detection of downstream obstructions in the sewer main and follow-up maintenance response. A new sewer manhole will be installed downstream from the sewer siphon south of the Sheep Hollow levee to allow for maintenance. The existing manhole located within the channel will be abandoned in place. An all-weather, crushed rock roadway will be constructed to allow access to the manhole year-round. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2026 or 2027 and is anticipated to last approximately three months.

Questions regarding the environmental review for this project should be directed to Tracy R. Bettencourt, AICP – Senior Planner, Public Works – Engineering Department, who can be reached at (530) 879-6903 or via email at [tracy.bettencourt@chicoca.gov](mailto:tracy.bettencourt@chicoca.gov).

An Initial Study for environmental review has been prepared for the project. Based upon the information within the Initial Study, the Public Works – Engineering Department is recommending that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Mitigated Negative Declaration is a determination that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment after the incorporation of specific mitigation measures. A 30-day public review period is being conducted on the Draft Initial Study / Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) commencing on **Saturday, January 24, 2026, and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026**. The document as well as all applicable technical appendices may be reviewed at the City's website at: <https://chicoca.gov/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/Airport-Pond-Sewer-Repair-Project/>.

Comments relating to environmental concerns and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be filed in writing to the City of Chico Public Works - Engineering Department, P.O. Box 3420, Chico, CA 95927 or sent via email to [tracy.bettencourt@chicoca.gov](mailto:tracy.bettencourt@chicoca.gov) during the designated time period.

E/R PUBLISH: **Saturday, January 24, 2026**