



Town of Paradise
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Date: March 25, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Sewer Regionalization Project Advisory Committee Completes First Draft of Principles of Agreement between Chico and Paradise

On Monday, March 21, the Sewer Regionalization Project Advisory Committee (SRPAC) approved the first draft of the Principles of Agreement, which could guide a future agreement between the City of Chico and Town of Paradise for wastewater treatment services.

Prior to the Camp Fire, the Town of Paradise was one of the largest communities without a formal wastewater treatment system, meaning each parcel is required to maintain onsite septic tanks and leach fields. While studied since before the Town incorporated in 1979, the need for a sewer system in Paradise has never been greater in response to the Camp Fire. If constructed, a collection system and export pipeline to the existing Water Pollution Control Plant owned and maintained by the City of Chico, the Paradise Sewer Project would improve groundwater quality and enable increased development of affordable housing within the Town of Paradise while supporting the regional recovery.

The SRPAC, comprised of Mayor Coolidge and Vice Mayor Reynolds of the City of Chico and Mayor Crowder and Councilmember Jones of the Town of Paradise, serves to:

- (1) Monitor progress of the Paradise Sewer Project, including the Project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and efforts being done under the Town and City's Cooperative Work Agreement,
- (2) Develop the Principles of Agreement for an inter-municipal agreement between the Town and City, and make a recommendation on those Principles to the two Councils if applicable, and
- (3) Guide public participation in the EIR process, which will happen separately, but in parallel with the Committee's work.

The first draft of the Principles of Agreement created by the Committee are prepared and attached to this press release. Most notably, the Principles of Agreement (Principles) outline key parameters of a potential agreement such as ensuring that ratepayers for Chico are not financially responsible for any aspect of Paradise's treatment needs, in addition to a potential connection payment from the Town of



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Paradise to the City of Chico, currently estimated at \$14.9 million, to support the existing plant and capacity related needs.

The Principles also set forth a requirement that the Paradise Sewer Project only serves properties within the Town of Paradise Town Limits.

The SRPAC has requested a formal 30-day public comment period of the draft Principles before further revisions are considered and ultimately used to create a contract between the communities if the project were to move forward. This 30-day review period will begin on Friday March 25th and conclude on Monday April 25th. During this time, the draft will be available on each community's website as well as the project specific website at www.paradisesewer.com. Physical copies of the Principles of Agreement may also be reviewed at the City and Town Clerk's Offices respectively. Public Comments for the Principles of Agreement are encouraged to be submitted through the project website at <https://paradisesewer.com/contact/> using the online form. Comments may also be submitted via email to sewercommittee@townofparadise.com.