



**TOWN OF PARADISE
Council Agenda Summary
Date: May 12, 2026**

Agenda No. 1(g)

ORIGINATED BY: Marc Mattox, Assistant Town Manager, Public Works Director /
Town Engineer

REVIEWED BY: Mike O'Brien, Interim Town Manager

SUBJECT: Paradise Sewer Project Update

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

1. None, written monthly update only.

Background:

This report is a monthly effort to provide additional opportunity for public engagement on the status and next steps of the Paradise Sewer Project.

Analysis:

Since its incorporation in 1979, the Town of Paradise has sought a centralized wastewater system to address failing septic systems that impact public health, groundwater quality, and economic development. The need for sewer service became even more urgent following the 2018 Camp Fire, when the lack of modern wastewater infrastructure emerged as a major barrier to rebuilding businesses, housing, and community resiliency.

In 2022, the Town secured \$30 million in CDBG-DR funds to begin pre-construction work, including environmental review, design, and permitting. To provide technical expertise, HDR was retained as Owner's Agent, and a progressive design-build team was selected to develop a Basis of Design Report. That effort confirmed that a locally managed, phased sewer project was necessary to achieve both affordability and long-term community needs.

In January 2025, the Town Council formed a Sewer Project Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate local treatment and collection alternatives, with strong emphasis on public engagement and cost feasibility. The Committee, working alongside staff, HDR, and the Paradise Irrigation District, conducted community meetings, stakeholder workshops, site tours of other wastewater systems, and a technical alternatives analysis.

In August 2025, the Town Council unanimously voted to concur with the Paradise Sewer Project Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to direct a revised project description to include hybrid gravity/low pressure collection system, aerated lagoon wastewater treatment, and percolation/evaporation pond effluent discharge.

Main Accomplishments

- Initiate subsurface investigations for Collection System.
- Ongoing field topographic survey for Collection System.
- Ongoing sewer hydraulic model update for Phase 1 collection system.
- Completed geotechnical desktop study for WWTF.

- Completed categorical exemption for subsurface investigations at a potential WWTF site.
- Ongoing evaluation of potential WWTF alternative sites.
- Ongoing AB52 Tribal consultations.

Key Activities (One Month Look-Ahead)

- Initiate subsurface investigations for a potential WWTF site.
- Evaluate community proposal consideration for full STEP collection system, Membrane Bioreactor treatment and beneficial reuse alternative in parallel to ongoing work as directed by Council.
- Collection System Hydraulic Model workshop.
- Ongoing subsurface investigations for Collection System.
- Ongoing field topographic survey.
- Ongoing evaluation of potential WWTF alternative sites.
- Ongoing preliminary design of Collection System and WWTF.