

Fact Sheet

Potential Septic to Sewer Project Ramona MWD-Santa Maria Service Area December 5, 2024

Background: Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is providing technical assistance to the Acres Community and surrounding neighborhoods to evaluate the ability of providing municipal wastewater collection services to residents within the Santa Maria Service area. Septic systems are aging, requiring maintenance. Septic systems may be contributing to groundwater contamination, including increasing nitrates, in local private groundwater wells.

A Feasibility Study is being conducted with the input of a stakeholder group, which includes local residents, State Water Board¹ staff, and staff from the Ramona Municipal Water District (District). Because the project is within the District service area, District staff have actively participated in the planning stages of the project. A draft of the Feasibility Study will be available soon and will be posted on the District website for review by the public.

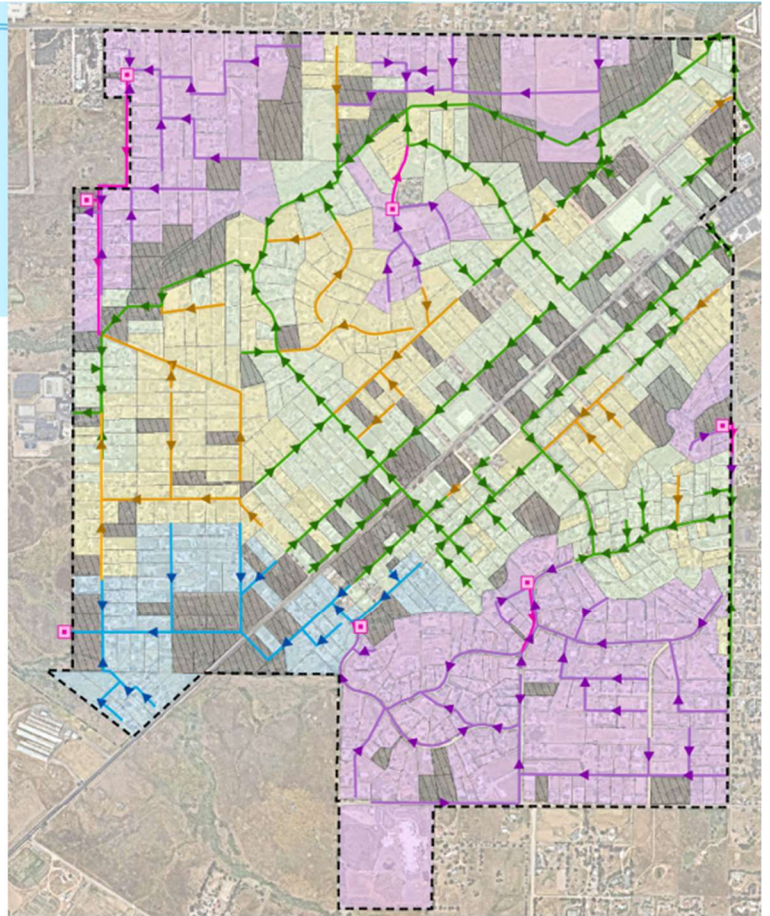
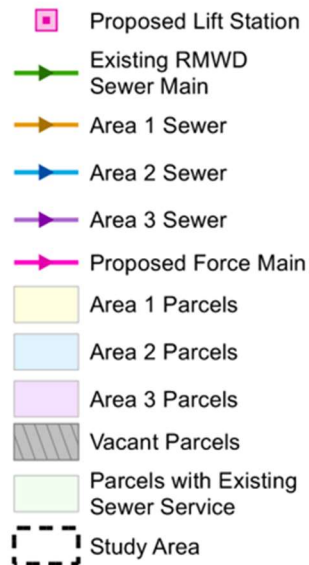
The study area includes 1,200 acres with a total of 996 residential and commercial parcels. Of those residents or businesses 517 parcels rely on private septic systems for sewage disposal. A portion of the study area is considered a disadvantaged community and could be eligible for grant and/or loan funding for improvements. A map of the study area is shown on the following page.

Purpose of Feasibility Study: The Purpose of the Study is to develop and evaluate the viability of connecting residences, currently using private sewer septic systems, to the District's wastewater collection system. The study assesses the available capacity in the Santa Maria plant and sewer system to serve residents, and determines primary project components for subsequent design and construction.

A map showing the alternatives considered is shown on the following page:

¹ Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the foregoing, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

PRELIMINARY SEWER LAYOUT



Factors considered for the assessment of the most viable alternatives to serve the various subareas include:

- Anticipated cost per connection
- Availability of capacity at the Santa Maria plant
- Risk of environmental impacts (Santa Maria Creek, Floodway)
- Dependence of each alternative on other alternatives or construction associated with future development
- Requirements for lift stations and force mains
- Land acquisition and easement requirements
- Interest of property owners in the project
- Total construction cost for the project (not to exceed \$30,000,000)

For the evaluation, the area was divided into three primary areas: 1, 2 and 3.

- Area 1 – Parcels adjacent to existing RMWD sewers and parcels that can be easily connected with gravity sewers

- Area 2 – Southwest area that requires a sewer lift station, crossing environmentally sensitive areas and crossing Caltrans SR-67
- Area 3 – Other areas requiring lift stations or pipelines in environmentally sensitive areas.

Some sub-alternatives may be affected by the Cummings Ranch development, or future relocation of the Santa Maria interceptor (shown as the black line to the south of Santa Maria Creek).

Based on the study, the recommended project for the first phase is shown below:

- Area 1 Parcels (196 connections), as shown in yellow on the map below
- 19,100 feet (LF) of new gravity sewer mains, shown in orange on the map below

