

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** July 20, 2021  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Presentation by:** Diana Langley, Public Works Director

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**Summary**

**Subject:** Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project (Plans & Specifications)  
**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution adopting a CEQA Class 1 Categorical Exemption, approving the plans and specifications for the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project and authorizing advertisement for bids on the project.  
**Fiscal Impact:** Engineer's Estimate: \$1,800,000 – Account No. 1229 (Capitalization Fund)

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**Purpose:**

To maintain the City's wastewater collection system's service and efficiency through proactive rehabilitation and major maintenance.

**Background:**

Techite produced Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic Mortar (RPM) pipe between 1967 and approximately 1990 before the development of the 1988 American Water Works Association (AWWA) standard for fiberglass pipe. During this time, RPM was a light-weight, corrosion-resistant, cost-competitive piping alternative to clay, concrete, and other plastic pipe, especially in large-diameter applications. However, many users began experiencing unexplained catastrophic (pipe burst) failures well before service life expiration. Due to numerous lawsuits by users nation-wide, Techite stopped producing RPM pipe.

RPM pipe is prone to extreme de-lamination and catastrophic failures due to numerous design and manufacturing flaws. The manufacturing process for RPM was highly variable because each pipe section was fabricated by hand and highly dependent on the skill of the manufacturing technician leading to resin voids in the pipe wall that expand and cause failure. Due to low pipe stiffness, excessive deflection and soil loading causes severe structural failure.

As of 2020, local agencies including Placer County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, and Calaveras County Water District, among many others, have set aside millions of dollars to replace or rehabilitate all of their known Techite RPM to avoid hundreds of thousands of dollars in customer claims and costly repairs.

**Analysis:**

In 2020, the City adopted the Wastewater Master Plan (WWMP). This WWMP includes a comprehensive analysis of the City’s existing wastewater infrastructure. Specifically, the WWMP recommends the removal or rehabilitation of all Techite RPM pipe due to its high failure rate and substandard material. Public Works has identified approximately 8,830 linear feet of 36” and 42” Techite RPM to rehabilitate in total.

Due to RPM pipes’ brittleness, once exposed to air, the pipe fractures very easily making any open trench repair extremely difficult. Therefore, staff proposes “lining” the pipe to extend its service life. Lining is a trenchless rehabilitation method utilizing a resin-saturated felt tube that is pulled through an existing pipe. The felt tube is inflated with water or air and then heated to allow the resin to cure and harden thus providing full structural integrity and functionality in replacing the existing RPM.

Sufficient funds are not available to rehabilitate all 8,830 linear feet of RPM. Staff proposes the following phasing schedule; which address the largest flow carrying pipe segment first:

- Phase I (proposed): Rehabilitation of approximately 2,590 linear feet of 42” RPM via lining from the Wastewater Treatment Facility on Burns Drive to the intersection of Garden Highway and Lincoln Road.
- Phase II: Rehabilitation of approximately 6,240 linear feet of 36” RPM via lining from the intersection of Garden Highway and Lincoln Road to the intersection of Garden Highway and Del Monte Avenue.

Public Works has prepared the project plans, specifications, and cost estimate for the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project. With Council’s approval of the plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids, staff proposes the following schedule:

Advertise for bid:	August 2021
Open bids:	September 2021
Award contract:	October 2021
Start of construction:	Fall 2021
Complete construction:	Winter 2021

The plans and specifications for the project are on file in the Public Works Department at City Hall and at [www.yubacity.net/publicworksplans](http://www.yubacity.net/publicworksplans) for review. The City’s Public Works Department will perform construction management and inspection.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated total project cost of Phase I is approximately \$1,800,000. This estimate includes 10% contingency. Account No. 1229 (Capitalization Fund) has sufficient funding programmed for Phase I. Detailed fiscal impacts and any appropriate transfers of funds will be presented to Council at the time of award based on actual bid amounts.

**Environmental:**

Staff has performed a preliminary environmental assessment of this project and has determined that it falls within the Class 1 Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, as the rehabilitation of existing pipeline within existing City facilities is defined as a repair, maintenance, or

minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible or no expansion. Further, none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply to this project.

**Alternatives:**

1. Do not approve the plans and specifications and delay the project.
2. Modify the proposed plans and specifications.

Delaying the project may result in the catastrophic failure of the existing RPM and cause significant sewer overflows and property damage.

**Recommendation:**

Adopt a Resolution adopting a CEQA Class 1 Categorical Exemption, approving the plans and specifications for the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project and authorizing advertisement for bids on the project..

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A – Location Map

**Prepared by:**

*/s/ Nick Menezes*  
Nick Menezes  
Assistant Engineer

**Submitted by:**

*/s/ Dave Vaughn*  
Dave Vaughn  
City Manager

**Reviewed by:**

Department Head  
Finance  
City Attorney

DL  
SM  
SLC by email

# ATTACHMENT 1

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUBA CITY  
APPROVING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE GARDEN HIGHWAY TRUNK  
LINE REHAB PHASE I PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ON  
THE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department intends to solicit bids for construction of the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and ordered by the City Council of Yuba City as follows:

1. The City has performed a preliminary environmental assessment of this project relative to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and the City Council finds and determines that the project falls within the Class 1 Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, as the rehabilitation of existing pipeline within existing City facilities is defined as a repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion. Further, none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set form in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project.
2. The plans and specifications for the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project be approved.
3. The Public Works Department is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for bids for the Garden Highway Trunk Line Rehab Phase I Project.

The foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Yuba City at a regular meeting thereof held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Marc Boomgaarden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ciara Wakefield, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
COUNSEL FOR YUBA CITY:

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Shannon Chaffin, City Attorney  
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

## ATTACHMENT 2

# Sewer Vicinity Map

## Garden Highway Trunk Replacement

