

VSPUD wastewater plant project under review

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Several alternatives to improve or relocate the Valley Springs Public Utility District's wastewater treatment plant are scheduled for consideration at a Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday.

The session begins at 6 p.m. in the district office at 150 Sequoia Ave.

District Engineer Gary S. Ghio was instructed by the board to perform an additional study on the existing wastewater treatment plant and the surrounding properties to determine the feasibility of improving the existing plant in lieu of relocating it to the Coe property approximately one mile north of Valley Springs off Paloma Road.

Ghio says the board needs to make a selection soon because grant funding ends March 1 of this year. The district has been seeking a \$6 million government grant and \$2.8 million in a low-interest U.S. Department of Agriculture loan to finance the project.

Ghio's alternatives range in cost from \$5.2 million to \$11.6 million, the highest being a regional system with CCWD.

The existing treatment plant off State Route 12/26 next to the Valley Oaks Center was designed in the 1950s and is out of compliance with some modern wastewater treatment standards. The district also has been looking to move the plant to reduce the risk of flooding and eliminate the potential for effluent spills into Cosgrove Creek, reduce degradation and pollution of shallow groundwater, and minimize the potential for nuisance odors.

There has been opposition to moving the plant from neighbors near the Coe property.