

Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Approval of Repair, Maintenance and Pre-Construction Activities

Summary

SCH Number

2026031237

Public Agency

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)

Document Title

Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Approval of Repair, Maintenance and Pre-Construction Activities

Document Type

NOE - Notice of Exemption

Received

3/27/2026

Posted

3/27/2026

Document Description

Adoption of the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (the "Budget"), which includes funding for ten projects to maintain or replace existing equipment, purchase small equipment, and engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear ("Budget"). The ten potential projects include: 1) Outfall line investigation, 2) North Shore Pump Station 3 well rehabilitation planning and engineering 3) Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) rotor replacements and softstart replacement 4) replace security lights and surveillance system, 5) replacement of an Agency vehicle, 6) effluent pump rebuild, 7) replace the Headworks carbon tower, 8) relocate the Headworks equipment panel, 9) Wastewater Treatment and Outfall and Collection System Master Plans, and 10) performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear ("RBB, BBARWA's Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Project"), (collectively, "Proposed Approvals").

Contact Information

Name

David Lawrence

Agency Name

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

Job Title

General Manager

Contact Types

Lead/Public Agency / Parties Undertaking Project

Address

121 Palomino Dr. P. O. Box 517
Big Bear City, CA 92314

Phone

(909) 584-4018

Email

dlawrence@bbarwa.org

Location

Cities

Big Bear City

Counties

San Bernardino

Regions

Citywide

Other Location Info

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency service area

Notice of Exemption

Exempt Status

Other

Type, Section or Code

14 Cal. Code Regs. (State CEQA Guidelines), section 15378

Reasons for Exemption

The March 25, 2026 approval of the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) is not a CEQA “project,” because the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) will not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts under State CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Further, the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are not subject to CEQA review, because it can be seen with certainty that they have no potential to impact the environment under State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).

Exempt Status

Statutory Exemption

Type, Section or Code

14 Cal. Code Regs. (State CEQA Guidelines), section 15262

Reasons for Exemption

Additionally, and even if the Budget and the Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are a CEQA “project,” they are still categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15262, 15301, and 15302, because the Budget and the Proposed Approvals involve: • Feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded • the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing today pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15301; • the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, which will be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure or facility replaced pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15302; • the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15303.

Exempt Status

Categorical Exemption

Type, Section or Code

14 Cal. Code Regs. (State CEQA Guidelines), section 15301, 15302

Reasons for Exemption

Additionally, and even if the Budget and the Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are a CEQA “project,” they are still categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15262, 15301, and 15302, because the Budget and the Proposed Approvals involve: • Feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded • the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing today pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15301; • the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, which will be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure or facility replaced pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15302; • the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15303. Finally, none of the “exceptions” to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2. As to Replenish Big Bear (i.e., project 10), the approval of the Budget does not constitute an approval of the Replenish Big Bear Program as a whole, but rather allows BBARWA to approve the Budget for performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities. Lastly, the Budget is exempt from under State CEQA Guidelines § 15273 since the Budget includes rate adjustments to maintain service within existing service areas.

County Clerk

San Bernardino

Attachments

Notice of Exemption

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency Notice of Exemption re 2027 Budget  

Disclaimer: The Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) accepts no responsibility for the content or accessibility of these documents. To obtain an attachment in a different format, please contact the lead agency at the contact information listed above. For more information, please visit [LCI’s Accessibility](#)


[Site.](#)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of San Bernardino 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Fl. San Bernardino, CA 92415	FROM: Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018
Project Title:	Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Approval of Repair, Maintenance and Pre-Construction Activities.
Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (“BBARWA”) service area (map of location where projects will occur is attached)
a) Project Location – City:	Big Bear City
Project Location – County:	County of San Bernardino
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	Adoption of the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (the “Budget”), which includes funding for ten projects to maintain or replace existing equipment, purchase small equipment, and engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear (“Budget”). The ten potential projects include: 1) Outfall line investigation, 2) North Shore Pump Station 3 well rehabilitation planning and engineering 3) Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) rotor replacements and softstart replacement 4) replace security lights and surveillance system, 5) replacement of an Agency vehicle, 6) effluent pump rebuild, 7) replace the Headworks carbon tower, 8) relocate the Headworks equipment panel, 9) Wastewater Treatment and Outfall and Collection System Master Plans, and 10) performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear, (collectively, “Proposed Approvals”).
Name of Public Agency approving project:	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency
Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency P.O. Box 517 121 Palomino Dr. Big Bear City, CA 92314 Phone: (909) 584-4018
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15378
<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15262
<input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15301, 15302
<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)

Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The March 25, 2026 approval of the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) is not a CEQA “project,” because the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) will not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts under State CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Further, the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are not subject to CEQA review, because it can be seen with certainty that they have no potential to impact the environment under State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).</p> <p>Additionally, and even if the Budget and the Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are a CEQA “project,” they are still categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15262, 15301, and 15302, because the Budget and the Proposed Approvals involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded • the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing today pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15301; • the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, which will be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure or facility replaced pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15302; • the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15303. <p>Finally, none of the “exceptions” to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2.</p> <p>As to Replenish Big Bear (i.e., project 10), the approval of the Budget does not constitute an approval of the Replenish Big Bear Program as a whole, but rather allows BBARWA to approve the Budget for performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities. Lastly, the Budget is exempt from under State CEQA Guidelines § 15273 since the Budget includes rate adjustments to maintain service within existing service areas.</p>
Contact Person:	David Lawrence
Telephone:	(909) 584-4018

Date Received for Filing: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DL', is written over a horizontal line.

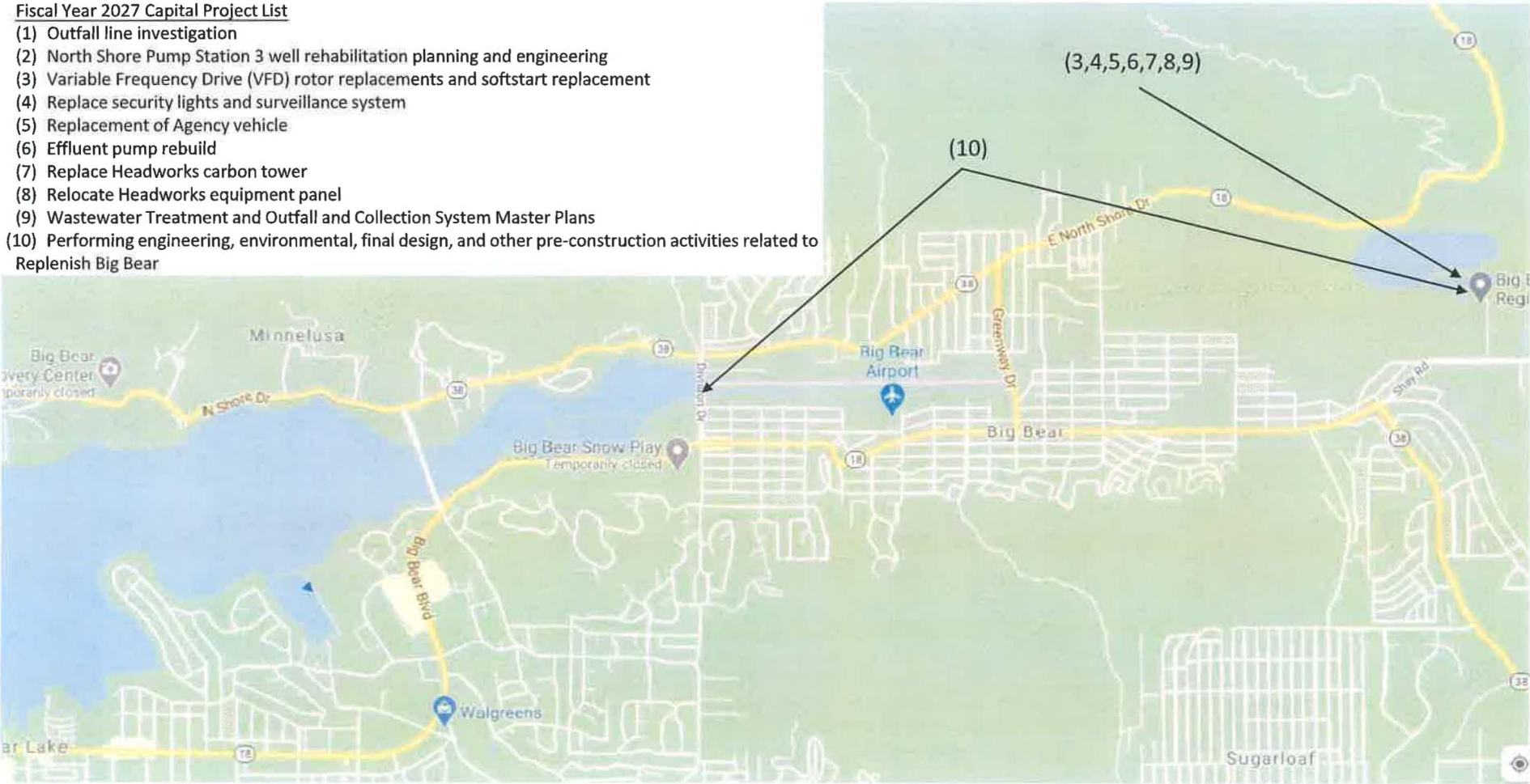
Signature (Lead Agency Representative)/Title
David Lawrence, General Manager

(Clerk Stamp Here)

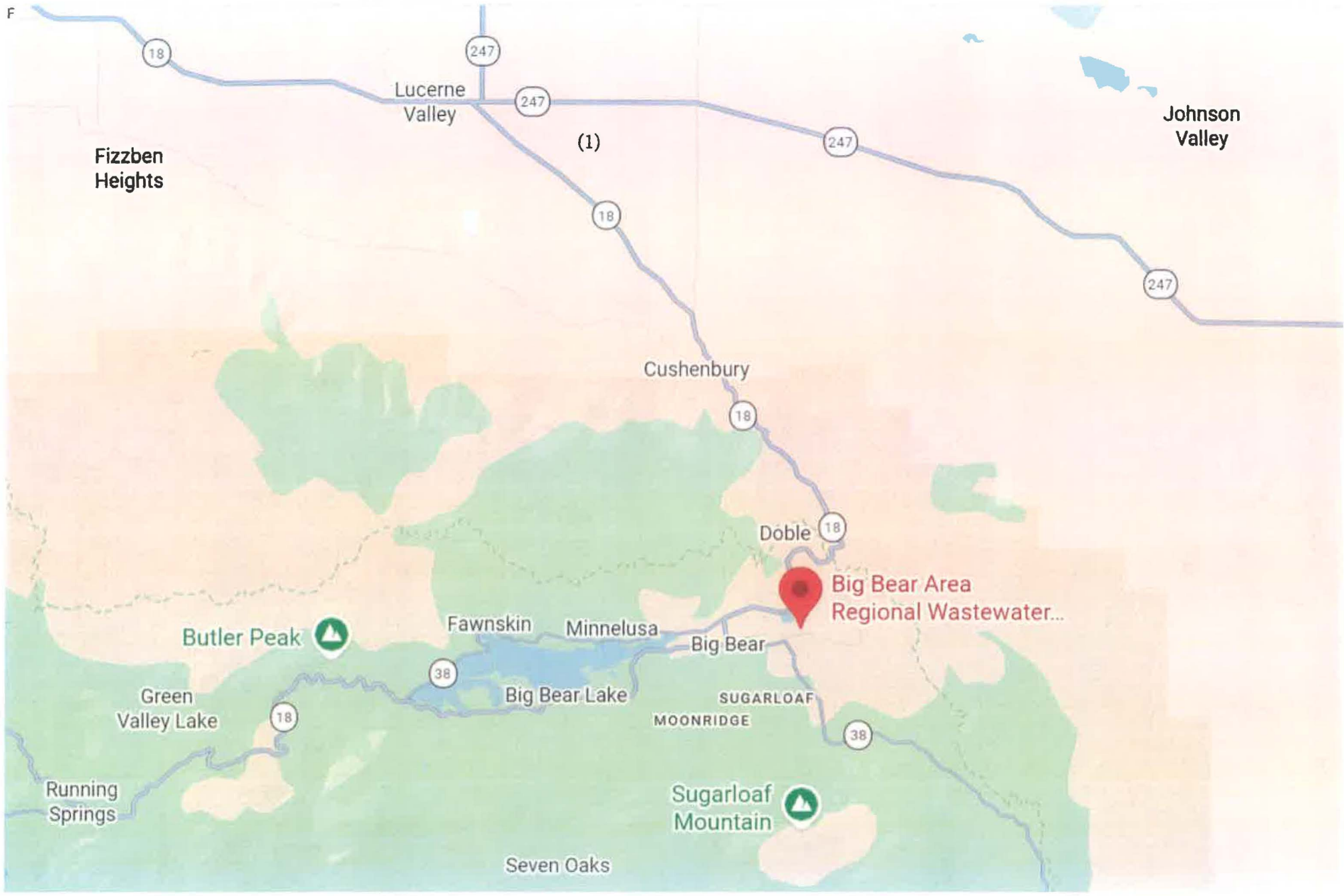
Project Location Map

Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Project List

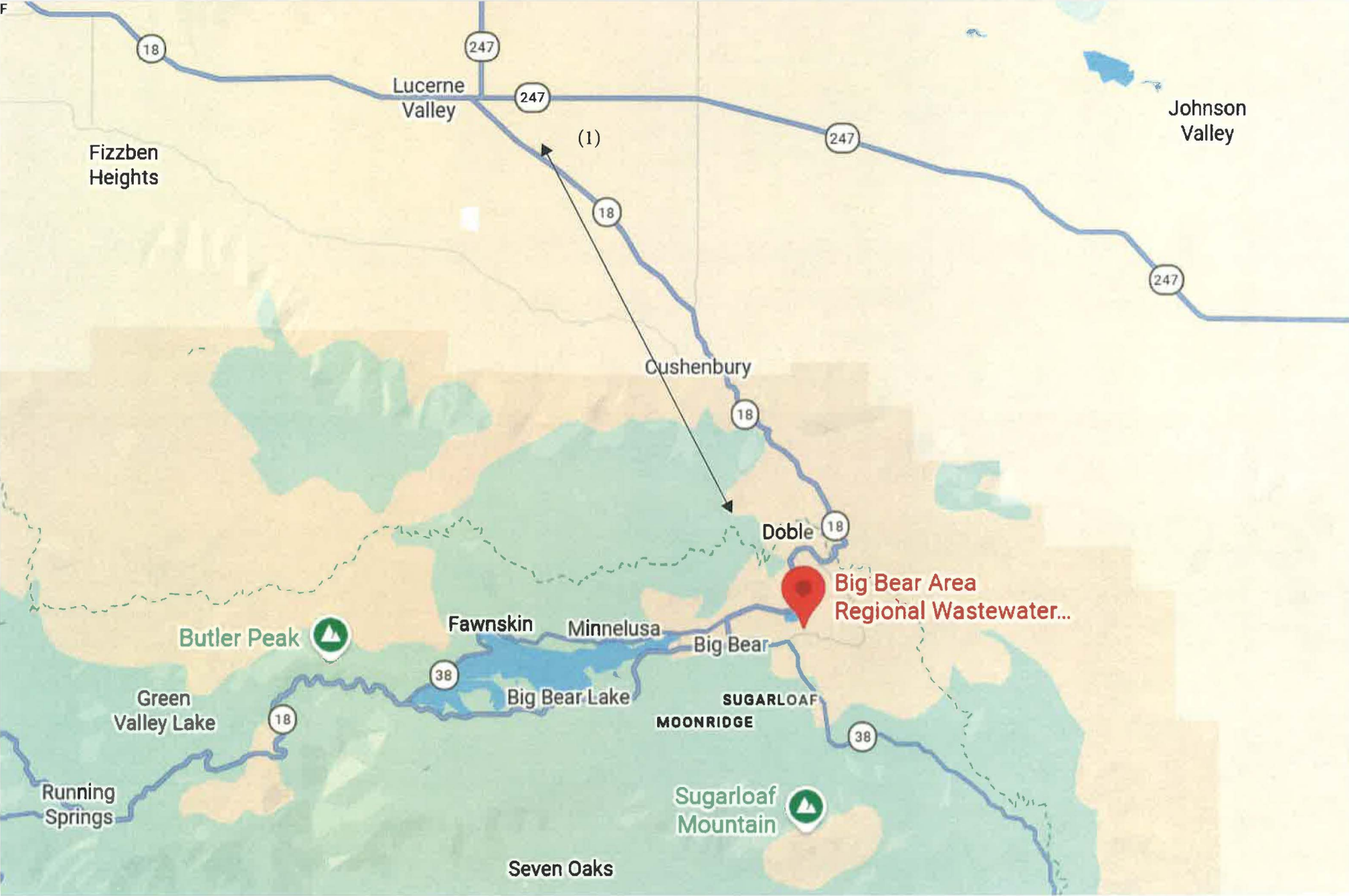
- (1) Outfall line investigation
- (2) North Shore Pump Station 3 well rehabilitation planning and engineering
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- (9) Wastewater Treatment and Outfall and Collection System Master Plans
- (10) Performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear



Project Location Map



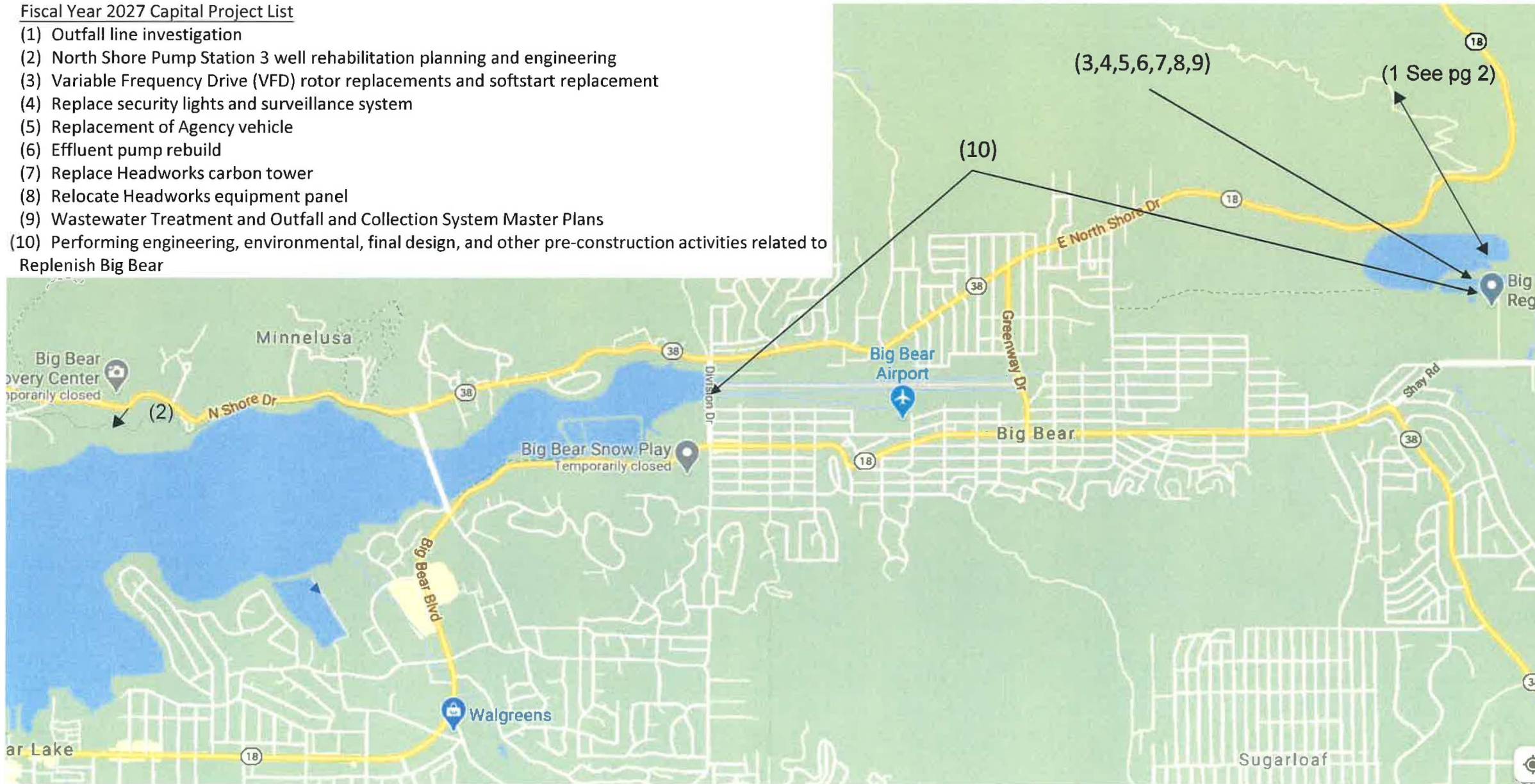
Project Location Map



Project Location Map

Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Project List

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a) Project Location – City:	Big Bear City
Project Location – County:	County of San Bernardino
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project: <p>DATE FILED & POSTED Posted On: 3.27.26 Removed On: 5.4.26 Receipt No: 36-03272026-198</p>	Adoption of the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (the "Budget"), which includes funding for ten projects to maintain or replace existing equipment, purchase small equipment, and engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear ("Budget"). The ten potential projects include: 1) Outfall line investigation, 2) North Shore Pump Station 3 well rehabilitation planning and engineering 3) Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) rotor replacements and softstart replacement 4) replace security lights and surveillance system, 5) replacement of an Agency vehicle, 6) effluent pump rebuild, 7) replace the Headworks carbon tower, 8) relocate the Headworks equipment panel, 9) Wastewater Treatment and Outfall and Collection System Master Plans, and 10) performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities related to Replenish Big Bear, (collectively, "Proposed Approvals").
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<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines § 15378
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CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 2026 MAR 27 PM 12:14
 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
 CALIFORNIA

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 MAR 27 PM 12:14
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

<p>Reason why project was exempt:</p>	<p>The March 25, 2026 approval of the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) is not a CEQA “project,” because the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) will not result in any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect environmental impacts under State CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Further, the Budget and Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are not subject to CEQA review, because it can be seen with certainty that they have no potential to impact the environment under State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).</p> <p>Additionally, and even if the Budget and the Proposed Approvals (projects 1-9) are a CEQA “project,” they are still categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15262, 15301, and 15302, because the Budget and the Proposed Approvals involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded • the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment that will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing today pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15301; • the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities, which will be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure or facility replaced pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15302; • the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15303. <p>Finally, none of the “exceptions” to the categorical exemptions apply under State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2.</p> <p>As to Replenish Big Bear (i.e., project 10), the approval of the Budget does not constitute an approval of the Replenish Big Bear Program as a whole, but rather allows BBARWA to approve the Budget for performing engineering, environmental, final design, and other pre-construction activities. Lastly, the Budget is exempt from under State CEQA Guidelines § 15273 since the Budget includes rate adjustments to maintain service within existing service areas.</p>
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>David Lawrence</p>
<p>Telephone:</p>	<p>(909) 584-4018</p>

Date Received for Filing: _____



Signature (Lead Agency Representative)/Title
David Lawrence, General Manager

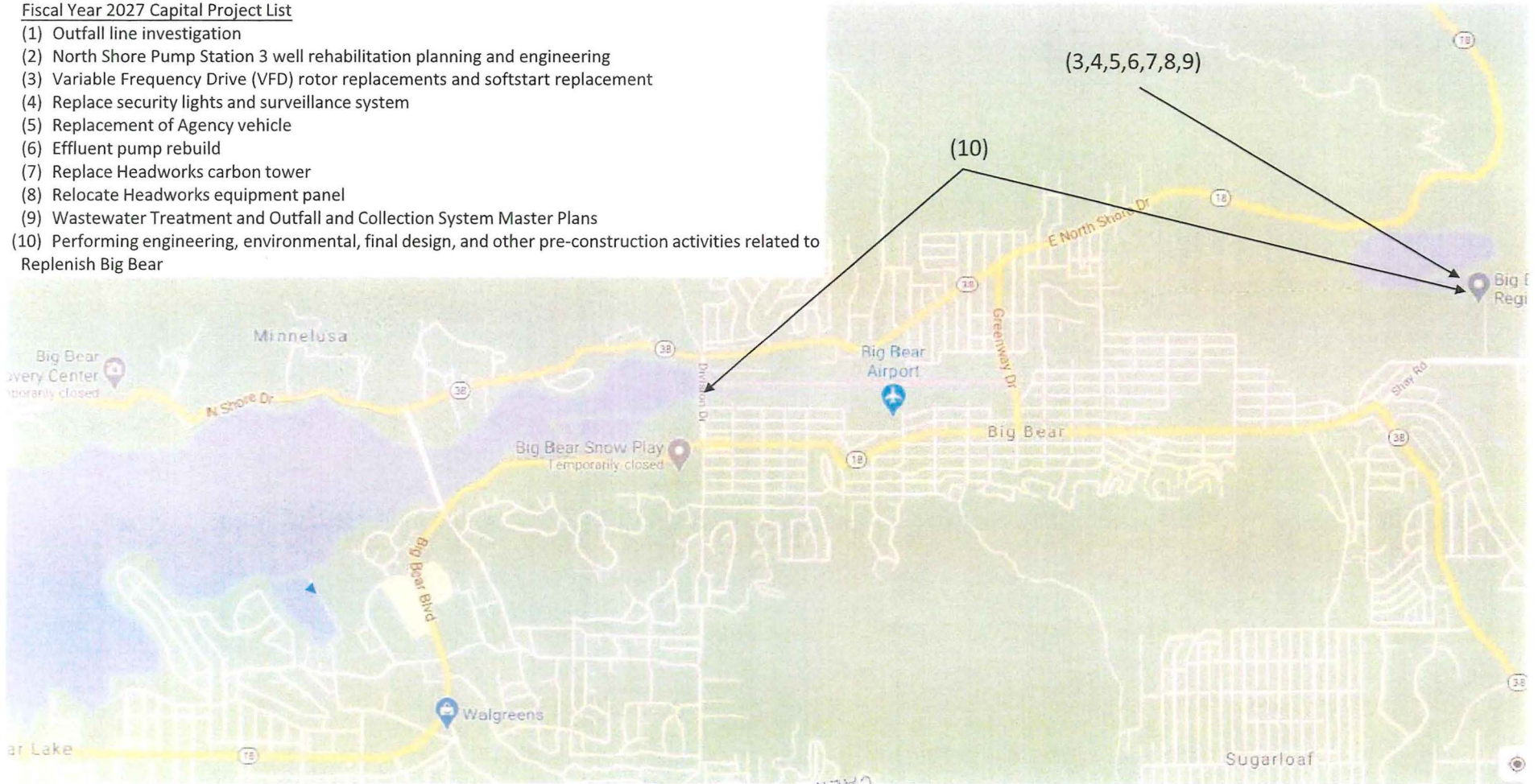
(Clerk Stamp Here)

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 MAR 27 PM 12: 14
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Project Location Map

Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Project List

- (1) Outfall line investigation
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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA
2026 MAR 27 PM 12:14
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Project Location Map



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA
2026 MAR 27 PM 12:14
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Project Location Map





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 36 — 03/27/2026 — 198
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)
 N/A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL -	DATE 03/27/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING San Bernardino	DOCUMENT NUMBER -	

PROJECT TITLE

Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Approval of Repair, Maintenance and Pre-Construction Activities

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL -	PHONE NUMBER (909) 584-4018
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS P.O. BOX 517 121 Palomino Drive	CITY Big Bear City	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 92314

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency School District Other Special District State Agency Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR) | \$4,227.50 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$3,043.75 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,437.25 | \$ | 0.00 |

- Exempt from fee
 Notice of Exemption (attach)
 CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | \$ | |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash Credit Check Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Alicia Meza, Deputy Clerk
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