

Prepared for  
Town of Paradise

# Paradise Sewer Project

## Town Council Meeting Collection System Alternatives Technical Evaluation

Carollo Engineers

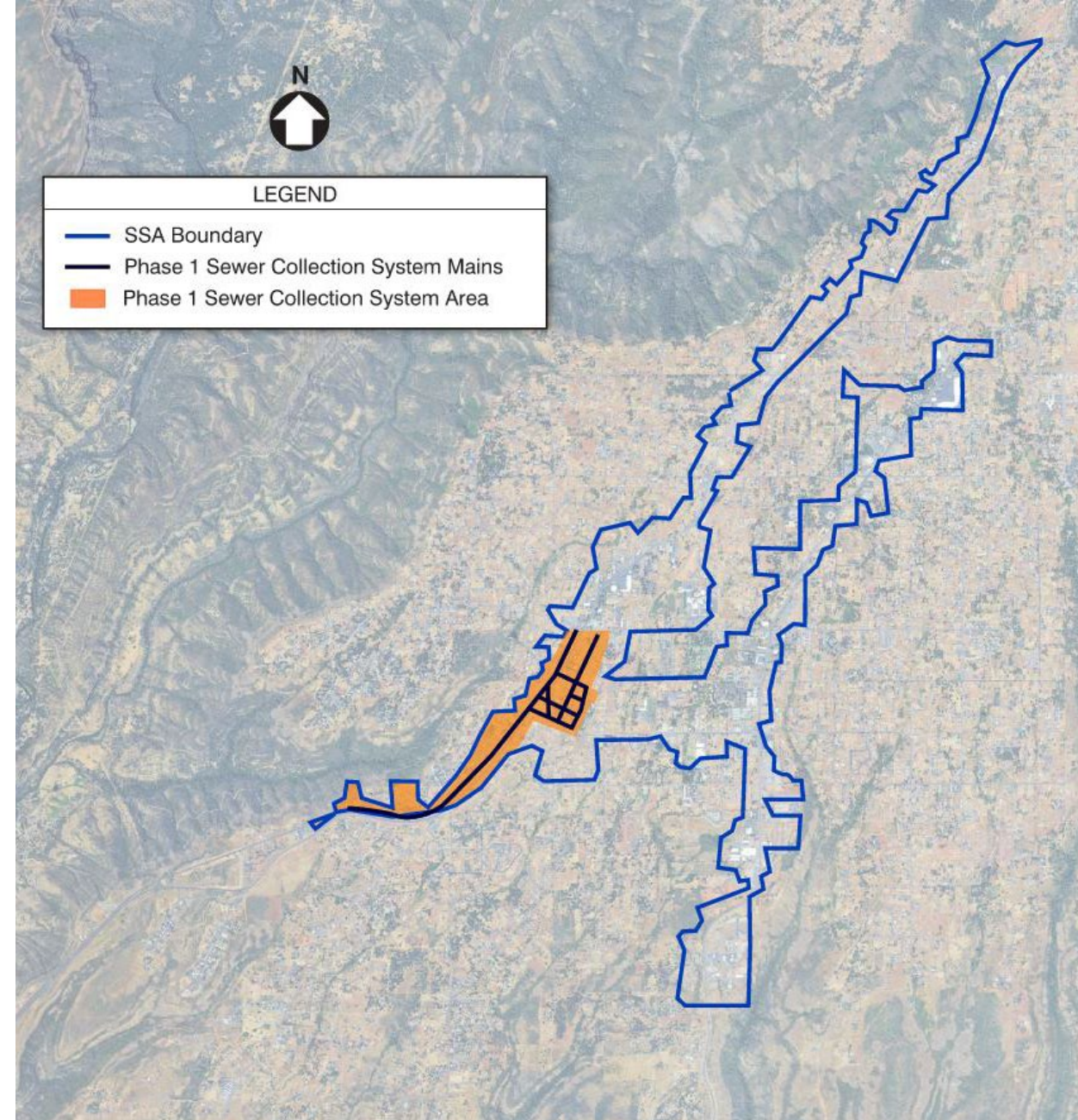
June 9, 2026





# Paradise sewer project goals

- Implement collection system for Phase 1 of the sewer service area (SSA) in a manner that is:
  - » Affordable
  - » Scalable
  - » Permittable



Phase 1 and Buildout SSA

01

Purpose of today's  
presentation

—  
Town requested Carollo develop a technical evaluation to compare collection system alternatives

### **Hybrid Gravity and Low-Pressure Collection System**

- Gravity system to WWTF.
- Potential low-pressure system in low lying areas.
- Carollo developing preliminary design of this alternative.

### **Full Low-Pressure Collection System**

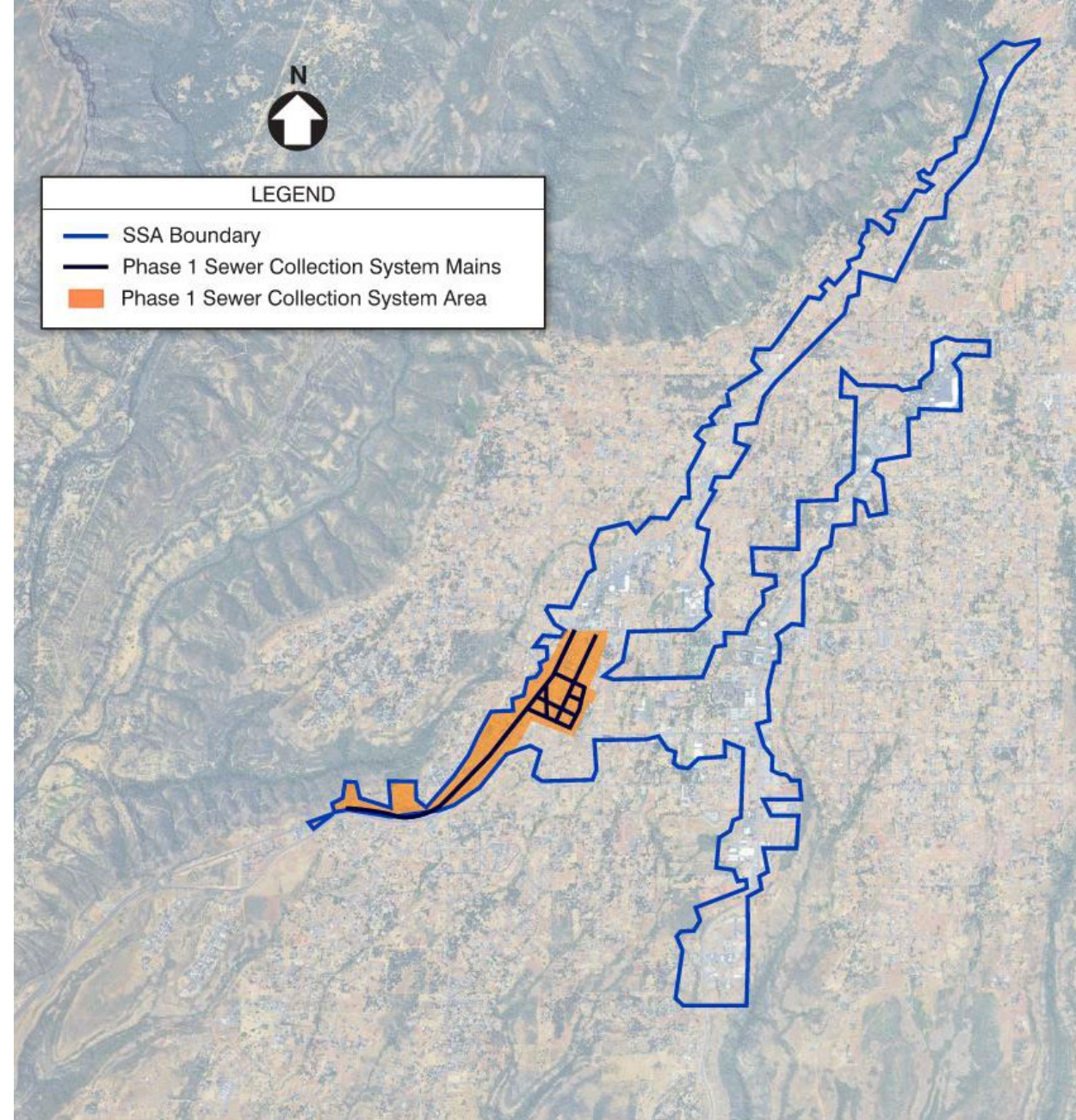
- STEP tanks or grinder pump stations at each connection.
- Pressurized wastewater pipelines to WWTFs
- Potential alternative.

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Hybrid gravity and low-pressure  
collection system overview

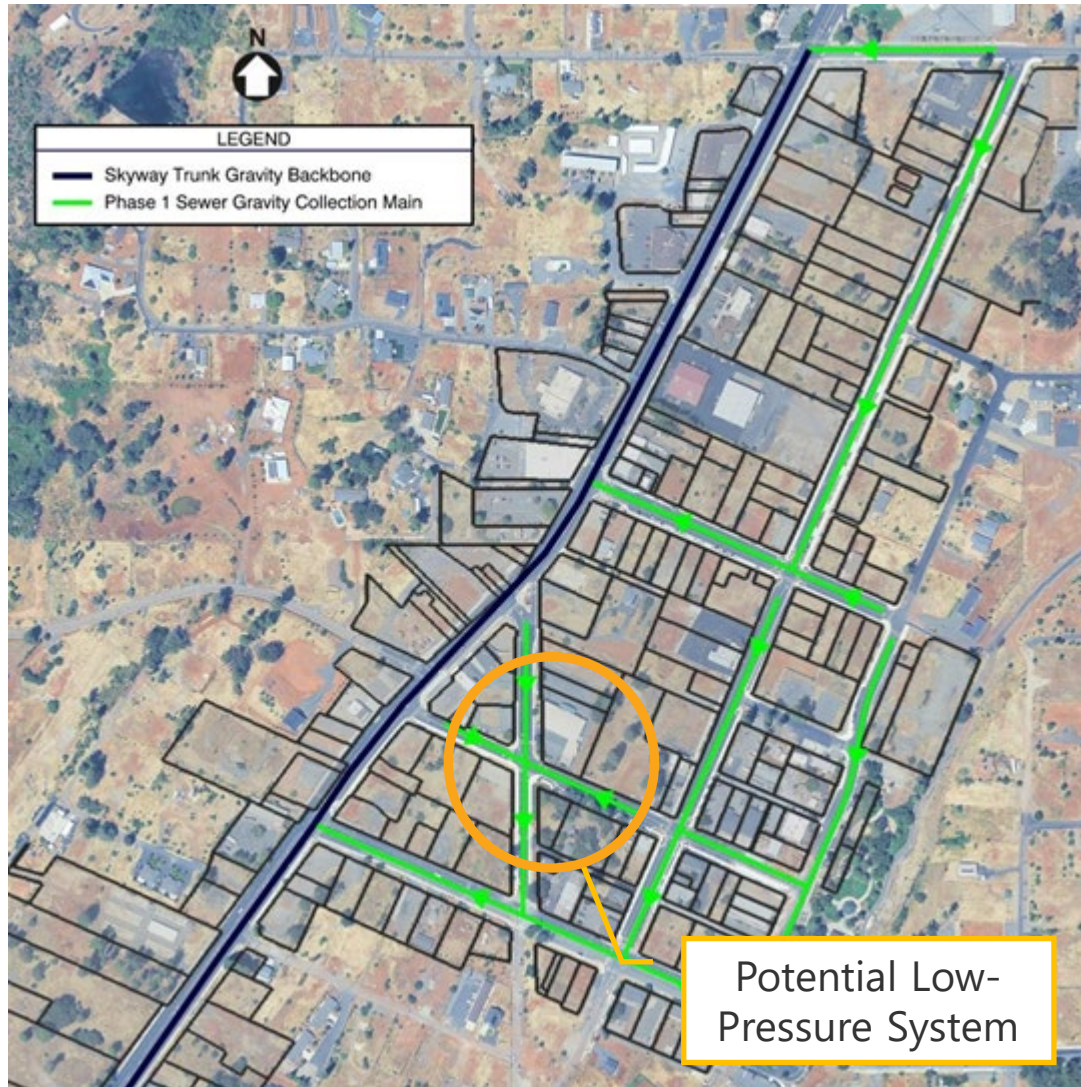
— Sewer Ad Hoc Committee recommended moving forward with hybrid low-pressure gravity system in 2025

- Public outreach and technical evaluation performed in 2025.
- Carollo hired to design hybrid low pressure and gravity system.
- Carollo is developing the preliminary design.



*Phase 1 and Buildout SSA*

# Hybrid low-pressure gravity collection system overview



Phase 1 of Collection System

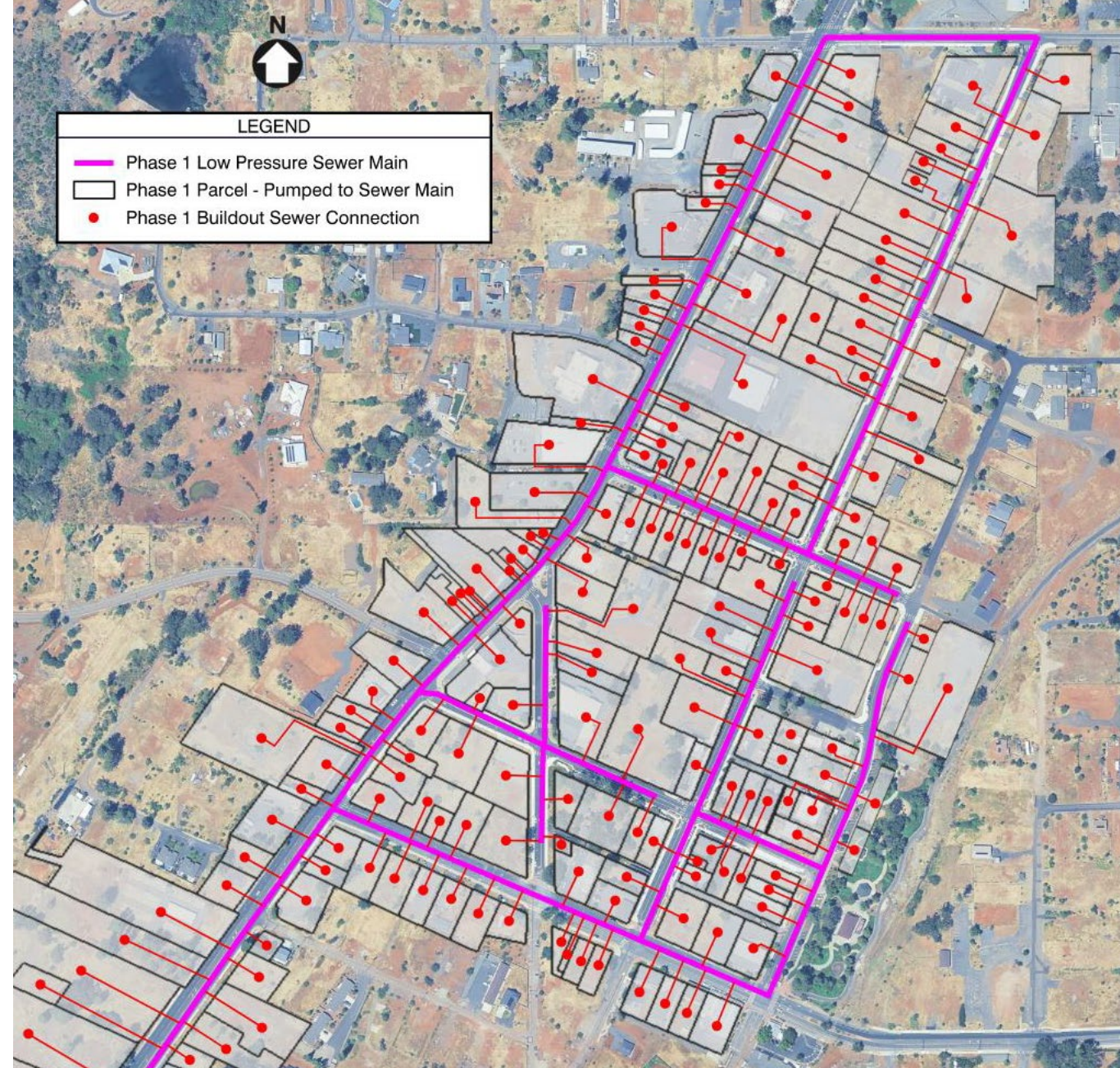
- Gravity collection pipelines and laterals where system can flow by gravity.
- 20,900 feet of gravity collection pipe.
- Evaluating low-pressure collection systems in low lying areas of Town.

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Full low-pressure  
system overview

# Full low-pressure collection system

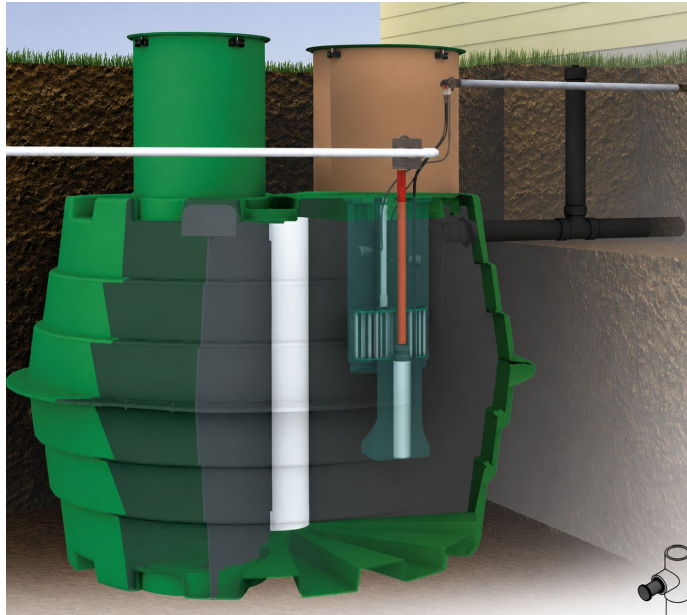
- Pump from each home/business into low-pressure system.
- System is hydraulically interconnected.



Phase 1 of Collection System

# Types of low-pressure system – STEP and Grinder

## Septic Tank Effluent Pump Station (STEP)



- STEP system conveys liquid waste only into low pressure system.

## Grinder Pump Station



- Grinder pump station grinds solids and pumps into low pressure system.

# Septic tank effluent pump (STEP) overview

- STEP tanks separate liquid from solids.
- Solids stay in the tank.
  - » Requires pump out every 3 to 5 years.
- Tank Dimensions.
  - » 1,000-to-1,500-gallon tank.
  - » 10'L x 5'W x 4.5'D for 1000 gallons.



# Grinder pump station system overview

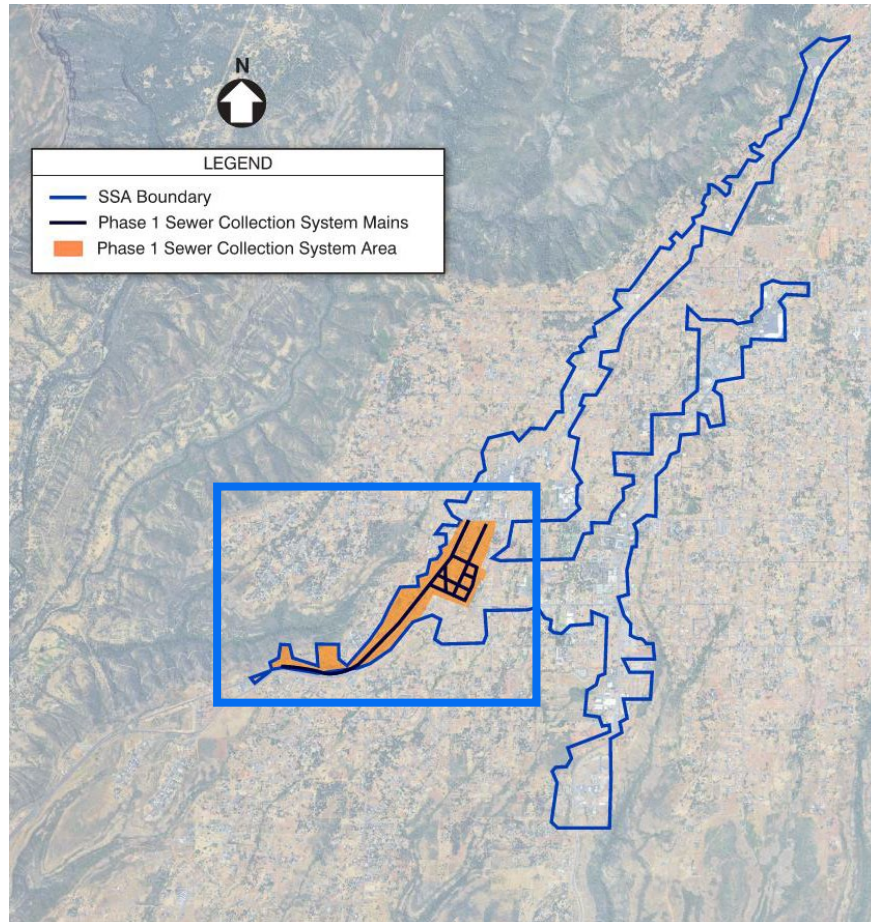
- Grind solids and pump a fine slurry waste to low pressure system.
- Package can have 1 or 2 pumps.
  - » Tank holds 150 gallons to 350 gallons.
  - » Dimension: 3' to 5' diameter x 5' deep.



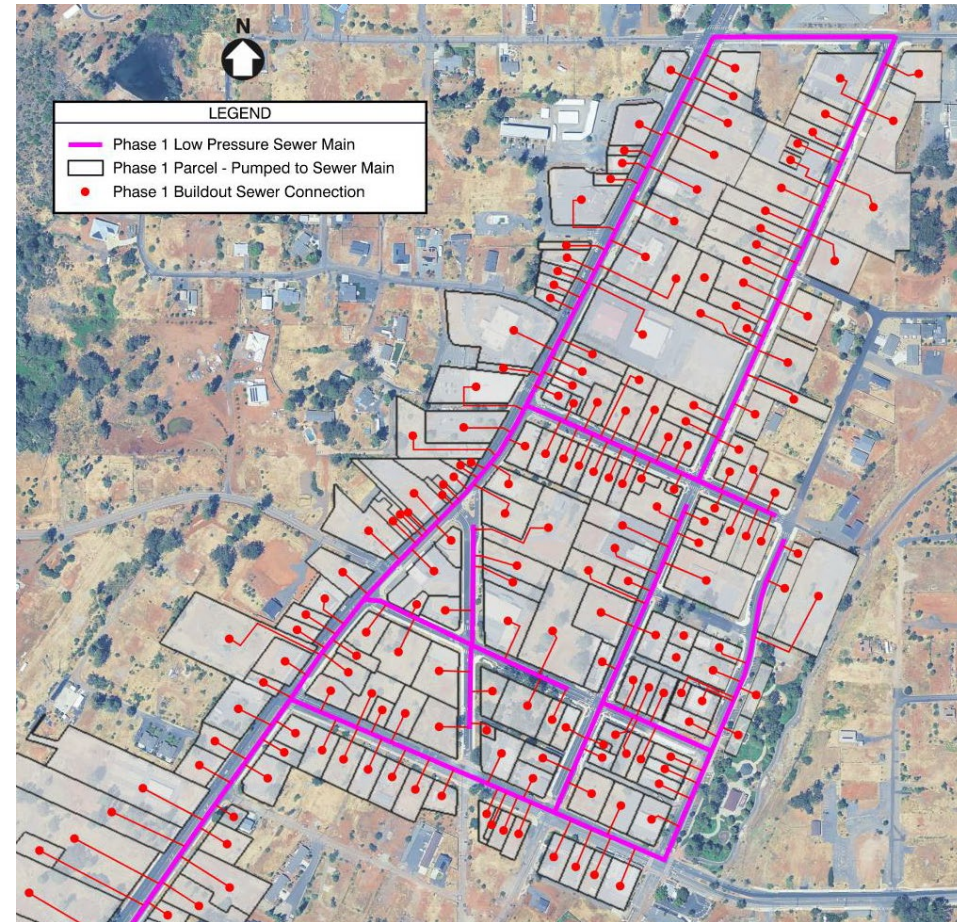
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Summary of  
technical evaluation

Full low-pressure system is hydraulically interconnected (STEP or Grinder PS)

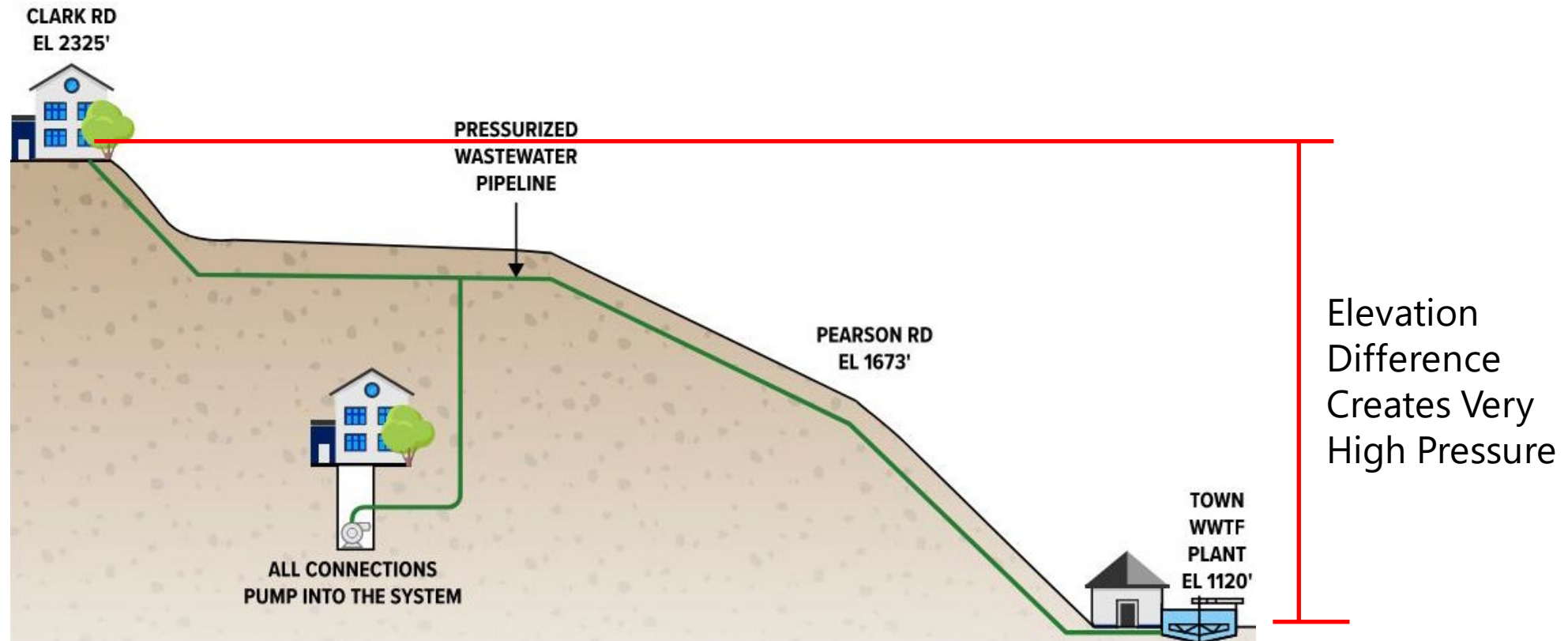


*Collection system at buildout*



*Phase 1 of Collection System*

Full low-pressure system develops high pressure due to elevation difference (STEP or Grinder PS)



PROFILE VIEW

# Full low-pressure system has technical fatal flaws due to high system pressure

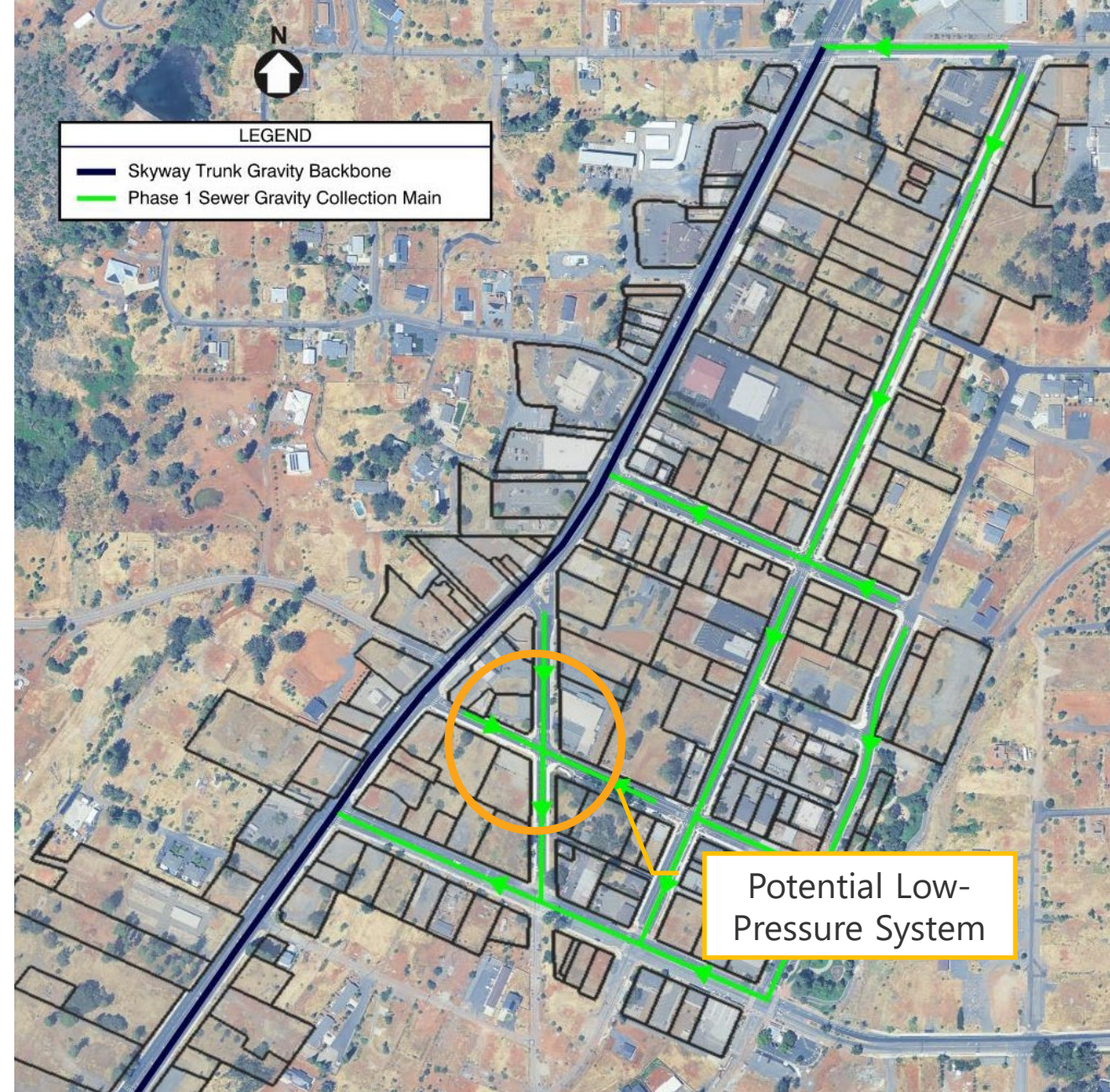
- Phase 1:
  - » 635-feet of elevation change from high point in system (near Almond and Elliot) to WWTF (assumed Skyway South for this analysis).
  - » 276 psi at WWTF.
- Buildout:
  - » 1205-feet of elevation change from high point in system (along Skyway between Clark Road and Pentz Road) to WWTF (assumed Skyway South for this analysis).
  - » 523 psi at WWTF.
- Extremely high pressure.
- Confirmed with Low-Pressure Grinder Pump Station manufacturer that the elevation difference in Town is a fatal flaw.
- HDR identified the high pressure technical fatal flaw in 2025.

# — Full low-pressure system has technical fatal flaws due to high system pressure

- Common operating pressure for low pressure collection systems is approx. 20-80 psi
- 276-523 psi is beyond the pressure rating of common pipes, pumps, valves and other wastewater system components
- Multiple pressure zones in a full STEP system may be possible, but require highly specialized valves and control systems not commonly used in the wastewater industry

# Hybrid gravity and low-pressure system is feasible

- Gravity backbone on Skyway and other key streets.
- Low pressure system could be used to pump to gravity pipelines.
- Carollo is evaluating where low-pressure system might be beneficial.
- Hybrid approach is a typical intended use.



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Agency Outreach  
and Case Studies

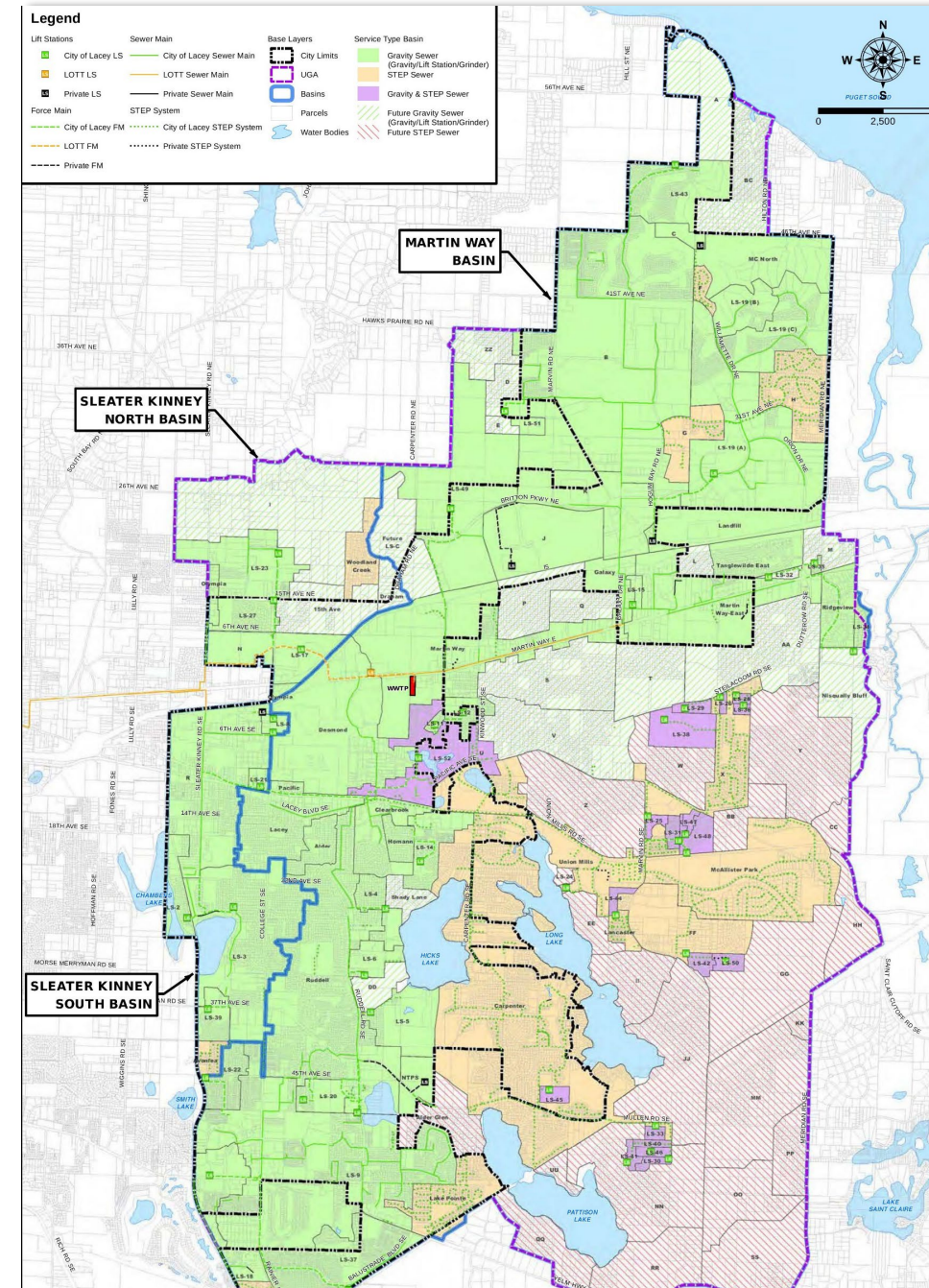
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Carollo interviewed 9 agencies that operate low pressure (STEP and grinder pump station systems)

- **Summary of findings:**

- » Most agencies have a hybrid gravity and low pressure system – gravity for most of the system with low-lying areas pumped to the main gravity system
- » Ownership and maintenance responsibilities must be clearly defined early - most agencies owned and maintained on-lot equipment
- » Disposal of solids from STEP tanks needs to be planned

# Case Study - City of Lacey, WA

- Gravity hybrid system with gravity pipes, pump stations, STEP systems, and grinder PS's that convey sewage to WWTF
- Elevation change across the City is ~50 feet
- Gravity system backbone
  - » 743,000 LF of gravity lines
  - » 27 lift stations
  - » 80,000 LF of force mains
- STEP system in low lying areas
  - » 275,000 LF of low-pressure mains
  - » 4,200 STEP connections
- 300 grinder pump stations



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Summary and  
recommendations

# Summary and recommendations

- The full Low-Pressure System (STEP or grinder pump station) is not technically feasible due to high system pressure.
- Since the Town is planning to pursue a single WWTF site, breaking head at multiple WWTF sites is not realistic due to:
  - Site availability with suitable discharge location(s)
  - Permitability (with or without beneficial reuse)
  - Cost for capital and O&M (no economies of scale)
- We do not recommend performing a cost comparison between the Hybrid Gravity and Low-Pressure Collection System vs. Full Low Pressure System alternatives

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Questions and answers