

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

FROM: ANDREW WILT, ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION,
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN, AND
PROJECT APPROVAL OF THE ALIGNMENT FOR THE LOS
ALAMOS TRUNK SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND
SEGMENT 1 OF THE PROJECT

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Departments of Water and Transportation and Public Works that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution, 1) adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Los Alamos Trunk Sewer Replacement Project (Project); 2) approve the Project alignment and Segment 1 of the Project; 3) adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Project, including mitigation for Segment 1 of the Project; and 4) direct staff to file a Notice of Determination.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposed resolution will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), and approve the Project alignment and Segment 1 of the Project. The proposed resolution will direct City staff to file a Notice of Determination as required by the CEQA Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Rosa (City) is proposing to replace large portions of the existing Los Alamos trunk sewer identified by the 2014 Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan Update as it is both in poor condition and undersized to serve future demand. The new trunk alignment will be adjacent to the existing trunk system, with some portions being relocated within existing City right-of-way and other portions requiring modifications to existing easements. Replacement of the overall Los Alamos trunk sewer system will be delivered programmatically in four separate phases (segments), generally described as:

- Segment 1: Approximately 5,500 feet of 24-inch trunk sewer will be constructed from the downstream end at its connection point with an existing 24-inch sewer in Streamside Drive, traversing along the Santa Rosa Creek Trail corridor within private property and City streets (mostly Quigg Drive) to Elaine Drive. Segment 1 is shown on Attachment 3.
- Segment 2: Approximately 5,350 feet of 24 to 21-inch trunk sewer will be constructed from the end of Segment 1 traversing within private property and City streets to approximately 400 feet east of the Melita Road and Sharon Street intersection. The alignment will be crossing both Skyhawk Creek and an unnamed creek below existing culverts by either open cut trenching or by utilizing 'trenchless' technologies. This segment is subject to minor alternative alignments which will be assessed in subsequent environmental review. Segment 2 is shown on Attachment 4.
- Segment 3: Approximately 2,510 feet of 21 to 18-inch trunk sewer will be constructed from the intersection of Melita Road and Montgomery Drive southeasterly along Melita Road crossing Santa Rosa Creek to approximately 150 feet west of Melita Court where it will traverse south within private property and crossing Melita and Oakmont Creeks to the connection with the existing 18-inch sewer main servicing the community of Oakmont. "Trenchless" technologies will be utilized to minimize creek disturbances. Segment 3 is shown on Attachment 5.
- Segment 4: This Segment will intertie Segment 2 and Segment 3 with approximately 4,150 feet of 21-inch trunk sewer to be constructed from the upstream end of Segment 2 near the Melita Road and Sharon Street intersection, travel across Santa Rosa Creek and along the Brey Road and Montgomery Drive corridor to the connection with Segment 3 at the intersection of Montgomery Drive and Melita Road. The creek crossing will be installed by means of 'trenchless' technologies to minimize creek disturbance. The existing trunk sewer between Spring Lake Village and Santa Rosa Creek will also be abandoned and a new smaller collection sewer serving Spring Lake Village will be installed. This segment is also subject to minor alternative alignments which will be assessed in subsequent environmental review. Segment 4 is shown on Attachment 6.

After each segment is complete, the associated existing trunk sewer will be backfilled and abandoned in accordance with City standards.

An Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared and completed in 2018 for the Project to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS/MND reviewed the overall Project alignment at the program level of analysis to identify potential environmental issues impacting downstream alignment locations. Environmental review of Segment 1 of the overall alignment was done at the project level of analysis to allow Segment 1 to proceed to right of way acquisition and construction. Reviewing Segments 2 through 4 at the program level ensures that there

are no fatal flaws in the overall alignment that would be detrimental to completing the entire Project in the future since gravity sewers must maintain certain elevations along their alignment to ensure adequate flows of wastewater. This programmatic approach allows flexibility for the City to proceed with Segment 1 independent of Segments 2 through 4.

It was not possible to assess Segments 2 through 4 at the project level at this time because preliminary design has not been completed (specifically, it would not be possible to conduct the necessary site-specific biological and cultural resources assessments). Additionally, funding for Segments 2 through 4 is not available at this time and design and construction could be delayed for several years to as much as ten years. This delay would stretch the typically recognized lifetime of the CEQA approval, potentially requiring a new analysis. The delay would also make results of the biological resources inadequate since new special status species could enter the area or new species could be added to protected lists in the intervening time. For these reasons, project-level analysis of Sections 2 through 4 will occur at a later date. The IS/MND contains a level of analysis adequate to the City to consider and approve the Project alignment. Only the general alignment of the Project and Segment 1 are subject to approval by this resolution. Because the preliminary design for later Segments has not been completed, minor deviations from the overall Project alignment may occur to accommodate constructability or to avoid environmental issues.

The IS/MND further describes why the Project is being proposed and the potential impacts to the existing environment.

The City must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "Project". CEQA is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the potentially significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

The IS/MND identifies that the proposed Project could potentially have a significant effect on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards/hazardous materials, noise, and transportation/traffic. With implementation of mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND, those impacts will be reduced to a level considered less than significant.

Per CEQA requirements, the MND was issued for public notice and review for 30 days, beginning on February 28, 2018, and ending March 30, 2018. The IS/MND documents were sent to the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day public review period and for distribution to pertinent state agencies. The IS/MND was sent to local resource agencies and posted on the City's Transportation & Public Works Department website. A public notice was also sent to landowners in the vicinity of the Project and posted in the local newspaper. Noticing exceeded CEQA requirements and was consistent with typical City noticing procedures. Comments from the public notice and review have been addressed and are included in the attached Response to Comments document, no substantial revisions to the IS/MND have been identified.

After the close of the public review period and after considering comments received, the City, as the CEQA lead agency, can make a decision regarding approval of the Project. The City must adopt the MND for the Project, approve the Project, and adopt a MMRP for the Project in order to proceed with the next steps in implementing the Project. An MMRP has been written and incorporated into the MND. The MMRP will be used by City staff, contractors, agencies, and monitoring personnel during and after the project to ensure effective implementation of the adopted mitigation measures outlined in the MND.

The City should adopt the MND because no potentially significant effects have been identified that are not mitigated by the MMRP. Responses have been prepared for all submitted comments, which are presented in the final IS/MND documents. A lead agency cannot approve a project until it adopts the MND. The MND itself comprises the agency's finding that there are no significant impacts. All mitigation measures that are the lead agency's responsibility must be made conditions of approval or otherwise imposed. This is accomplished by approval of the MMRP.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

N/A

ANALYSIS

This proposed action will adopt the MND and the MMRP, approve the Project alignment and Segment 1 of the Project.

The IS/MND determined that Segment 1 of the Project would not result in any significant impacts to the environment with the incorporation and implementation of mitigation measures.

The City's adoption of the MND and the MMRP would allow the City to take action on Segment 1 of the Project, and complete improvements from Streamside Drive to Elaine Drive.

Upon adoption of the MND and approval of the Project alignment and Segment 1 of the Project by the Board, a Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the Sonoma County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse, completing the environmental review process for Segment 1.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. Funds for this project are identified in the fiscal year 2018-19, Capital Improvement Program budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to CEQA, an IS/MND was prepared for the project and circulated for 30 days starting on February 28, 2018. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a MND was posted and mailed on February 28, 2018, and was published in the Press Democrat on March 13, 2018, in accordance with the CEQA requirements.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – IS/MND
- Attachment 2 - Response to Comments, Revisions to the IS, and Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Attachment 3 – Segment 1 Plan
- Attachment 4 – Segment 2 Plan
- Attachment 5 – Segment 3 Plan
- Attachment 6 – Segment 4 Plan
- Resolution

CONTACT

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