

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: CITYWIDE CREEK MASTER PLAN UPDATE
STAFF PRESENTER: ERIN MORRIS, SENIOR PLANNER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA ACTION: ADOPT RESOLUTION

ISSUE(S)

Shall the City Council:

- Hold a public hearing to receive public comments on the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan?
- Consider the Addendum to the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report?
- Adopt the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan by resolution?



COUNCIL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Updating the Citywide Creek Master Plan supports City Council Goal 3: Provide Leadership in Environmental Initiatives and Objective 3: Review Urban Open Space Plans and Improve Creeks and Other Watersheds.

BACKGROUND

1. On March 27, 2007, the City Council certified the Citywide Creek Master Plan Environmental Impact Report and adopted the Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP). The 2007 CCMP incorporated previous creek planning efforts including the 1993 Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan and the 2004 Creek Dreams community visioning process and covered more than 90 miles of creeks in Santa Rosa.
2. Work on the CCMP update began in September 2012. The updated CCMP is comprised of the plan text and 16 maps. Text changes are highlighted in the original CCMP document using “strikeout” to show text recommended for deletion. Proposed new text is underlined. In some cases, tables and figures

have been replaced without utilizing strikeout/underline; these changes are noted in the plan.

3. The CCMP update included the following goals:
 - Re-affirm and clarify CCMP goals and policies;
 - Ensure that CCMP is consistent with the General Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and other policy documents;
 - Document and update creek maps and text to recognize changed conditions along waterways;
 - Incorporate and plan for waterways not previously included;
 - Update plan to reflect new planned paths;
 - Acknowledge completed projects on maps and in text;
 - Prioritize Creek Master Plan projects;
 - Work with County staff and Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) staff to ensure that the document is adopted and implemented by SCWA and the County of Sonoma in addition to the City of Santa Rosa;
 - Revise the final plan to be more user-friendly and include an interactive GIS component.
4. The updated CCMP presents a set of creek-related policies and recommendations for site-specific improvements to the nearly 100 miles of creeks that flow through Santa Rosa. This reflects almost 10 miles of newly recognized creeks.
5. The CCMP text and maps have been updated to be consistent with General Plan 2035, the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit's low impact development storm water requirements.
6. One of the goals of the CCMP update is to make the plan more user-friendly. Should the updated plan be adopted, the CCMP map layers will be available on the City's web site through the City's Geographic Information System to make it easy for members of the public and staff to view the information.
7. Development of the 2007 CCMP involved significant public outreach over several years and a large and diverse group of stakeholders, citizens, and interest groups. Everyone who previously participated in the 2007 CCMP, plus other community groups, were invited to attend a Community Meeting held on December 12, 2012 to learn about the plan update and provide input on how projects should be prioritized. The meeting was also advertised on the City web page, in the Press Democrat's events calendar, and by posting the meeting notice at various City facilities. Approximately 40 people attended the first community meeting. A second community meeting was held on June 12, 2013 to share the revised CCMP with interested members of the public. Eleven

people attended the second community meeting. At both community meetings, attendees expressed support for the plan and its implementation.

8. Revisions to the CCMP have been coordinated with various City departments including Transportation and Public Works and Recreation and Parks to help ensure that the revised CCMP is consistent with other City policy documents. City staff also coordinated with County staff from the Regional Parks and Permit and Resource Management Departments and the Sonoma County Water Agency.
9. The draft CCMP was presented to the Board of Public Utilities and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board on June 20, 2013 and the Waterways Advisory Committee and Design Review Board on June 27, 2013.
10. On July 11, 2013, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and reviewed the draft updated CCMP and Addendum to the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR.
11. On July 24, 2013, the Board of Community Services reviewed the CCMP and provided comments.
12. Project Description

The focused update to the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP) revises the plan to be consistent with General Plan 2035 and the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and incorporates additional creeks. The updated CCMP acknowledges 12 creeks that were not previously included and depicts connections to Sonoma County Regional Parks facilities including trails and parks.

The updated CCMP includes revised maps that show existing and proposed recreation, access, and transportation amenities near creeks such as bicycle and pedestrian paths, pedestrian bridges, future parks, potential public plazas and gathering places, and trail entry points and updated text that describes the creeks and existing and proposed features. The plan also identifies proposed restoration areas, including projects that are already in progress such as the Colgan Creek restoration project, and identifies other areas that could be the subject of future creek restoration projects.

Summary of Plan Changes by Chapter

The following section provides an overview of the main changes proposed to the CCMP by chapter:

Chapter 2: Goals, Policies, and Objectives

This chapter of the plan provides 11 goals supported by policies and objectives that represent a complete vision for an integrated and healthy creek system that provides benefits to the community. The goals are unchanged from 2007 but the objectives and policies have been updated for clarity and consistency with other City plans and policies.

- Park-related goals and policies are updated to be consistent with General Plan 2035. The Recreation goals were revised to be consistent with current park policies by identifying Community and Neighborhood Parks and potential public plazas and gathering places.
- A new policy is added to encourage creek restoration projects at City-owned public parks and other publicly owned parcels to improve water quality, flood control, and natural habitat. Creek restoration projects in City parks would also provide opportunities for public education about the benefits creeks provide the community.
- The new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (2010) and associated Low Impact Development storm water management requirements are recognized in the text. New language has been added to recognize the potential for CCMP projects to be implemented as storm water offset projects to fulfill hydromodification requirements from the NPDES permit.
- Policy language is updated to comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Acknowledgement is made that alternative paving materials may be considered provided that paths comply with ADA.
- Health and Safety policies are amended to reference the connection between trail use and public health.

Chapter 3: Plan Concepts

This chapter describes in general the categories of physical modification that can be expected with Master Plan implementation, including habitat restoration concepts and recreation concepts such as paths, bridge undercrossings, and trailheads.

- Additional details are provided regarding stream maintenance including

- sediment and vegetation management and bank stabilization.
- Additional information is provided about how creek restoration activities improve the health of local creeks.
 - New table is added to identify the differences and similarities between creek preservation, enhancement, and restoration projects.
 - Updated creek cross-section diagrams depict various types of creek channels including natural, modified natural, and modified.
 - Flooding discussion includes information from the recently completed flood hazard studies and provides more detail about how certain creeks function as flood control channels.
 - Design standards for intersections of trails and streets are revised to cite current sources for design guidance for these features and to emphasize the role of the Transportation and Public Works Department in the final design. Trail crossing diagrams were eliminated because they are not consistent with current standards.
 - The maps and plan text were updated to retain all existing Sonoma County Water Agency maintenance access roads while still proposing restoration activities in the same areas, recognizing that maintenance access and restoration are not mutually exclusive.

Chapter 4: Watershed Specific Recommendations (and Related Maps)

This chapter of the updated CCMP includes a description of each watershed planning area followed by descriptions of each creek reach and recommended Recreation, Access, and Transportation Concepts. The 16 watershed planning area maps were updated to be consistent with the updated text in this section. Table 4-1 provides a list of creeks that are discussed in each of the nine Watershed Planning Areas.

- Adds two new watershed planning areas, Oakmont (part of Santa Rosa in 2007 plan) and Western (previously Southern).
- Recognizes additional creeks in Oakmont including Laurel, Badger, Melita, Hood Mountain, Charlotte, Coney, and Anella, Progress and Promissory in Rincon Valley, Nagasawa Creek in Fountaingrove, and Finley and Riccas in west Santa Rosa.
- Depicts connections to County Regional Parks amenities located outside of the City's Urban Growth Boundary including the Colgan Creek, Hunter Creek,

- and Roseland Creek trails and Taylor Mountain Regional Park to ensure connections to these facilities by providing continuous paths for public use.
- Depicts existing bike facilities and planned facilities near creeks consistent with the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
 - Clarifies existing conditions and planned improvements where previous text was unclear or inaccurate, and where conditions changed.
 - Vocabulary for parks and open spaces (Community Park, Neighborhood Park, and public plaza and gathering place) is made consistent with the General Plan.
 - The Community and Neighborhood Parks are shown on the maps consistent with the General Plan land use diagram. Existing parks are shown in green; proposed parks are indicated by either large red trees (Community Park) or small red trees (Neighborhood Park).
 - Potential public plazas and gathering places are identified using a leaf symbol.
 - Maps and text reflect the future location of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) path in areas where the precise location of the SMART path is known. In areas where the path location has not yet been determined, the CCMP maps show a conceptual alignment following the Northwest Pacific railroad tracks.

Chapter 5: Implementation Strategy

This Chapter describes how the plan would be implemented in the short and long term. Appendix F is referenced in this chapter because it includes a list of all site-specific creek projects. This section acknowledges that there are several main factors to consider when prioritizing projects, and within each specific project type there are additional factors. This section has been revised to allow prioritization by project type rather than by watershed planning area.

ANALYSIS

1. General Plan

Recreation and Parks Policies

The CCMP has been updated to be consistent with General Plan 2035, especially park policies. After the original Citywide Creek Master Plan was adopted in 2007, the City Council adopted the Recreation and Parks Business and Strategic Action Plan in April 2008. The Plan assessed Santa Rosa's

current and future parks and recreation needs and recommended changes to City parks and recreation policies to identify different types of parks to serve the City's current and future residents and to support connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, and open space.

Based on the recommendations of the adopted Recreation and Parks Business and Strategic Action Plan, Recreation and Parks staff initiated a General Plan amendment in 2008 to change General Plan policies regarding park types, sizes, and locations. In November 2008, the City Council adopted the General Plan Amendment. The amended General Plan redefined the Neighborhood Park and Community Park parkland categories, introduced two new parkland categories (Citywide Parks and Special Purpose Facilities), and encouraged the development of "public plazas and gathering places" and "open spaces" to connect residents and visitors to the wider network of parks, creek trails and bike trails.

One of the key elements of the General Plan amendment was establishing a minimum size of two acres for Neighborhood Parks and creating the "public plazas and gathering places" category to acknowledge the value of smaller, privately owned and publicly accessible open spaces throughout the City. The General Plan defines public plazas and gathering places¹ as follows:

Generally less than two acres in size; they contain vegetation (trees, grass, greenery) when possible and are generally pursued when there is not adequate space for a neighborhood park. They provide connectivity to pathways and trails or commercial centers. They can take the form of a trailhead that is improved as a small plaza, a small area with special amenities for relaxation or public art, or areas that are sometimes referred to as "pocket" parks where benches and/or a tot lot may be available. The city aims to provide access to public plazas and gathering places within one-quarter mile of residential neighborhoods.

In November 2009, Santa Rosa General Plan 2035 was adopted. This focused update to the General Plan carried forward the recreation and parks-related policies from the 2008 General Plan Amendment and also incorporated the goals and policies of the CCMP. The update to the CCMP is intended to incorporate parks and recreation policy direction from the updated General Plan into the CCMP to provide a consistent vision for parks and open spaces near creeks.

Staff determined that the following General Plan policies are the most relevant to the review of the Citywide Creek Master Plan for General Plan consistency related to recreation and parks:

¹ The draft CCMP incorrectly refers to public plazas and gathering **spaces** rather than **places**. This will be corrected in the adopted plan.

- PSF-A-4 Continue planning efforts to acquire and develop parklands for all Santa Rosa residents, families, and neighborhoods that promote and encourage access by a variety of alternative methods such as biking and walking, and connect public spaces using the following guidelines:
- Provide access to public plazas and gathering places within one-quarter mile of residential neighborhoods.
 - Provide access to neighborhood parks within one-half mile of residential neighborhoods.
 - Provide access to community parks within one mile of residential neighborhoods.
- PSF-A-18 Develop multi-use pathways and linear parks along creeks designated by the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan. Create a system of interconnected linear parks that provide access to parks used for active recreation as well as to open space preserve areas that are used primarily for more passive recreation such as hiking and wildlife viewing.
- PSF-A-19 Provide recreational opportunities and establish bike and pedestrian paths along Santa Rosa Creek through implementation of the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan outlines future bikeway improvements and includes prioritization criteria for pedestrian and bikeway projects. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was reflected in General Plan 2035 in 2009 and updated in 2011. The CCMP has been updated to be consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to help implement the following General Plan policy:

- UD-E-1 Provide for new open space opportunities throughout the city, especially in neighborhoods that have less access to open spaces. *This includes exploring potential for creek corridors, bicycle and pedestrian ways, as well as new public plazas, gathering places, and conservation areas.*

General Plan Policies

The update to the Citywide Creek Master Plan and subsequent implementation is consistent with the following additional General Plan policies:

- PSF-A-8 Integrate the bicycle and pedestrian path networks envisioned in both the Citywide Creek Master Plan and updated Bicycle and

Pedestrian Master Plan with regional park plans, so that users can safely and comfortably access the full range of public open spaces.

- PSF-I-4 Require measures to maintain and improve the storm drainage system, consistent with goals of the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan, to preserve natural conditions of waterways and minimize paving of creek channels.
- PSF-I-9 Consider installation of creekside pathways, consistent with the Citywide Creek Master Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, when possible as part of storm water improvement projects along the city's creek corridors.
- OSC-E Ensure local creeks and riparian corridors are preserved, enhanced, and restored as habitat for fish, birds, mammals and other wildlife.
- OSC-E-2 Plan and perform stream maintenance activities that respect the balance of flood protection and environmental protection.
- OSC-E-3 Continue to support efforts towards healthy, clean, and safe creeks.
- OSC-F Construct trail corridors and other recreational opportunities along local waterways.
- OSC-F-1 Accommodate connections to regional trail systems that enhance or support the creek trail systems network.
- OSC-F-2 Cooperate with various public and private entities to create new public access trails along creeks to parks and open spaces within the Urban Growth Boundary, as well as connections to regional trail systems.
- OSC-G Provide educational opportunities along the waterways in the city.

2. Zoning

The CCMP notes that the Zoning Code includes specific creekside development regulations that projects must implement. These regulations, found in Section 20-30.040, provide minimum setback distances between new development and the creek.

3. Environmental Review

The Citywide Creek Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the City Council on March 27, 2007. An Addendum to the EIR was prepared pursuant to Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act for the updated plan.

The Addendum documents that the project involves minor technical changes and additions and that none of the conditions described in Section 15162, which would require a subsequent EIR, have occurred because the CCMP update does not involve substantial changes to the project or the circumstances under which the project has been undertaken. Based on this analysis, staff finds that it is appropriate to rely on the EIR.

4. Comments by Other Review Boards

The updated Citywide Creek Master Plan has been reviewed by various Boards and the Waterways Advisory Committee. Each is listed below followed by a summary of comments provided by these bodies:

Board of Public Utilities (June 20)

A staff briefing was provided. A Board member expressed appreciation for the plan's regional approach.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (June 20)

Board members expressed support for the CCMP and provided the following comments:

- New creek trails are especially important in underserved areas of the City.
- Additional creek trails should be considered outside of City limits near existing elementary schools, such as Taylor Mountain Elementary in southeast Santa Rosa.
- The City should strive to plan and build as many connections as possible.
- Pedestrian bridges are important. A Board member commented that the planned bridge near Place to Play is welcome.
- Consider adding policy language generally supporting creek trails near schools to allow students to walk and bike to school.
- Consider amending language to acknowledge that creek trails provide a comfortable environment for pedestrians and cyclists due to shade trees and separation from roadways.

Waterways Advisory Committee (June 27)

- Consider potential for public lands to accommodate aquifer recharge projects.
- New trail maps should be publicized so that more members of the public utilize the trails. This will generate more interest and support for creeks. Consider placing trail maps at the Visitor Center.
- Consider stronger language that supports the use of porous pavement for new trails.
- The Santa Rosa Creek Design Guidelines, which were created in 1997 and are included in the CCMP Appendix, should be updated to reflect current design policies and practices.

Design Review Board (June 27)

- Clarification is needed about whether features such as trails, public plazas, or gathering places can be located within the creek setback.
- The Board agreed with the Waterways Advisory Committee that the Santa Rosa Creek Design Guidelines should be updated to reflect current design policies and practices.

Board of Community Services (July 24)

Board members expressed support for the CCMP and provided the following comments:

- Integration of creek restoration projects at parks is positive.
- Porous pavement should be used for new trails.

5. Planning Commission Action

On July 11, 2013, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered the CCMP update and the associated Addendum. Three members of the public spoke about creeks, including volunteer work at the future park along Roseland Creek near Burbank Avenue, questions about maintenance of private and publicly owned creeks, and flood protection. In response to questions from the Planning Commission, staff explained that creeks owned by public agencies such as the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County Water Agency are maintained by those agencies; privately owned creeks are the responsibility of the property owner. The City has a successful volunteer creek steward program that involves many community volunteers in creek maintenance projects. Work near creeks on public or private land may require environmental review and permits from regulatory agencies such as California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Planning Commissioners commented that they support the updated CCMP's

regional approach and flexible prioritization criteria, and support the Design Review Board and Waterways Advisory Committee's request for an update to the Santa Rosa Creek Design Guidelines. The Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend that the Council adopt the updated CCMP.

6. Comments/Actions by Other Agencies

City staff worked closely with Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, Sonoma County Regional Parks, and Sonoma County Water Agency staff in developing the updated plan. City staff met with each agency to understand their adopted policies, plans, and practices regarding creeks.

Sonoma County Regional Parks

Regional Parks staff reviewed the draft Watershed Planning Area maps, and plan text, to ensure consistency with adopted County plans. Based on their input, the plan includes references to alternative paving materials and depicts how trails in City limits would connect to County parks and trails. Regional Parks staff requested depiction of planned bicycle facilities that are not located near creeks such as the planned Sonoma Valley Trail along Highway 12 that would connect Santa Rosa to Sonoma. City staff elected not to depict these trails on the CCMP maps but the trails are acknowledged in the text.

Sonoma County Water Agency

The 2007 CCMP called for removal of maintenance access roads from one side of several creeks on Sonoma County Water Agency property located along sections of Piner, Roseland, Colgan, and Todd Creeks. SCWA expressed a preference to retain all existing maintenance access roads to ensure adequate access for stream maintenance activities. The CCMP was revised to retain the access roads while still proposing restoration activities in the same areas, recognizing that maintenance access and restoration are not mutually exclusive. SCWA staff also requested that the CCMP provide more explanation of stream maintenance activities, and additional acknowledgement of how creeks function as flood control channels. The CCMP was updated to include additional language in these topic areas.

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

PRMD reviewed the CCMP and found that it was consistent with the County's General Plan.

7. Public Comments

Two Community Meetings have been held to share the plan update with the public. At the first community meeting held on December 12, 2012, approximately 40 meeting participants reviewed the 2007 creek maps and provide comments. Staff reviewed and considered all comments while working on the text and map updates. The second community meeting held on June 12, 2013 was attended by 11 people. Meeting attendees asked questions and were able to view the updated creek maps and plans.

Staff has received one comment letter (attached to this staff report) requesting some changes to the text associated with Spring Creek. Staff is recommending three of these suggested changes to the CCMP to correct the plan text to note a potential restoration project at Spring Creek Elementary School, consistent with the CCMP Matanzas map, to add text describing how sidewalks connect Yulupa and Franquette Avenues parallel to Spring Creek, and to note that steelhead were observed in Spring Creek Reach 3. Staff found that most of the comments were addressed generally in the CCMP or provide detailed suggestions for future restoration projects that have not yet been prioritized or designed.

8. Issues

Recommended Changes to the CCMP

Following release of the draft CCMP, staff identified some recommended minor changes to the CCMP, outlined in attached Exhibit A. The proposed changes were reviewed by the Planning Commission and recommended for inclusion in the final draft of the plan. Staff is also requesting that the Council allow for minor text corrections to the final CCMP for editorial or typographical changes.

Santa Rosa Creek Design Guidelines

Members of the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission, and the Waterways Advisory Committee requested that the Santa Rosa Creek Design Guidelines, which are included as Appendix A of the updated CCMP, be updated. The guidelines were adopted in 1997 and have not been updated since that time. The CCMP notes that although the guidelines were developed for Santa Rosa Creek, they can be used as a design resource for all creek projects. Staff reviewed the design guidelines and finds that while some elements are out of date, on a whole the guidelines continue to serve as a useful design resource.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Community Development and Utilities Departments, and the Planning Commission, that the City Council, by four resolutions, adopt the Citywide Creek Master Plan update.

Author: Erin Morris, Senior Planner

Attachments:

- Draft Citywide Creek Master Plan:
http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/doclib/Documents/CDP_DraftCitywideCreekMasterPlan.pdf
- Exhibit A – List of Recommended Changes to the draft Citywide Creek Master Plan
- Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan Environmental Impact Report, certified by the City Council on March 27, 2007:
<http://web1.ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/pworks/other/SW/EIRcreekMP.pdf>
- Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR Addendum
- Planning Commission Resolution 11648 and Draft Minutes of the July 11, 2013 Planning Commission meeting
- Public Correspondence

Exhibit A

Recommended Changes to the Citywide Creek Master Plan

Overall

1. Correct the text to reference “public plazas and gathering places” throughout the document and on the maps.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies (Pages 23 – 24)

2. Revise description of Storm Water (SW) policies in first SW paragraph on Page 23 as follows:

The Storm Water Low Impact Development Technical Design Manual developed by the City of Santa Rosa and County of Sonoma provides technical guidance for projects that require implementation of permanent storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of compliance with the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for municipal storm water.

3. Revise description of implementation of Low Impact Development storm water requirements in the last paragraph of Page 24 as follows:

Development projects within the City of Santa Rosa that are subject to storm water BMP requirements are submitted to the Community Development or Transportation and Public Works Department for review and approval.

Plan Concepts (Page 69, first paragraph)

4. Revise text as follows:

The creek trail system is much more than a recreational facility; it is intended to support walking and bicycling as viable alternative modes of transportation to the automobile. This will reduce roadway congestion, improve air quality, provide convenient and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle access, help conserve increasingly scarce and expensive fossil fuel resources, improve public health, increase social interaction, and impart a sense of community identity and pride.

Matanzas Watershed Planning Area (Page 127, second paragraph)

5. Add reference to Lake Ilsanjo as follows:

The largest tributary to Matanzas Creek is Spring Creek, which begins in Annadel State Park near Lake Ilsanjo.

Matanzas Creek Reach 3 (Page 128, Natural Resources paragraph)

6. Revise text as follows:

Steelhead/Rainbow Trout have been ~~seen~~ observed within this reach (considered to be rainbow trout, since they could be resident fish). They could be resident fish (rainbow trout) or potentially Steelhead (anadromous) who have migrated through the culvert above the confluence of Santa Rosa and Matanzas Creeks.

Spring Creek Reach 2

7. Revise text on Page 130, Natural Resources, second paragraph, as follows:

This reach is recommended for preservation, due to habitat value for fish and wildlife. Habitat enhancement involving invasive species removal and replacement with native vegetation is also recommended. Restoration of natural stream meanders and native vegetation may be possible through the Caltrans right of way between Hoen Avenue and Mayette Avenue. Sediment deposits in the Caltrans right of way prevent low flow water from flowing down the creek and instead directs it into the bypass conduit. Sediment removal should be considered within the right of way to address this condition. Restoration is also recommended from Summerfield Road along the boundary of Spring Creek Elementary School.

8. Revise text on Page 131, Recreation Access and Transportation paragraph, sixth sentence as follows:

From Yulupa Avenue until the end of the reach at Franquette Avenue, there is no public creek access. Existing sidewalks on Spring Creek and Princeton Drives parallel to Spring Creek provide a pedestrian connection between Yulupa and Franquette Avenues.

Spring Creek Reach 3

9. Revise text on Page 131, Natural Resources paragraph, by adding a sentence:

Steelhead have been observed between Farmers Lane and Doyle Park.

Requested July 10, 2013

Goals, Objectives, and Policies (Page 25-26)

Policy SW-3-3. Maintain the channel by performance, not schedule.

Sonoma County Water Agency has established stream maintenance guidelines (described in Chapter 3) for balancing environmental protection with the flood carrying capacity on more than 80 miles of improved flood protection channels countywide. On a regular basis, an inventory ~~, including flow models,~~ compares each site's estimated water-carrying capacity against its design capacity. Based on the results, streams are prioritized for maintenance activities.

EIR Addendum

(SCH #: 2006072103)

for the

Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan



Prepared for:

**City of Santa Rosa
Utilities Department**

July 2013

EIR Addendum

(SCH #: 2006072103)

for the

Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan

Prepared for:

**City of Santa Rosa
Utilities Department**

Prepared by:

Nancy Dakin Woltering, Environmental Planning Consultant

In association with:

Ken Wells, Guiding Sustainability

July 2013

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Figure 1-1: Watershed Planning Areas Map

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1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Overview

The proposed project consists of updating Santa Rosa's Citywide Creek Master Plan for protecting, enhancing and restoring the city's network of waterways and associated riparian vegetation. It also consists of developing a network of creekside trails that connect many creeks and parks throughout the city and provide viable alternate transportation routes. This Project Description summarizes key features of the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan (July 2013).

1.2 CEQA Compliance for the Proposed Project

An EIR Addendum is being prepared for the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An addendum is appropriate when technical changes are made to a project following certification of the EIR, but such changes do not have the potential to result in new significant impacts that have not previously been evaluated, or in new or changed information that substantially changes the findings of the project. The updated CCMP proposes refinements in policy language, text and maps; but, changes would not result in potential new significant impacts. Mitigation in the existing certified EIR adequately addresses potential impacts (Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR, SCH# 2006072103).

1.3 Project Location

The CCMP area includes the portions of the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed that are within the 45.5 square-mile Urban Boundary of the City of Santa Rosa, in Sonoma County, California. The CCMP addresses the nearly 100 miles of creeks that flow through Santa Rosa. Generally, creeks begin in the eastern foothills, drop down to the urban area, and make their way across the Santa Rosa Plain to join the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and ultimately the Russian River and Pacific Ocean. Notable exceptions are the creeks that drain the eastern portion of the Oakmont neighborhood and drain to the Sonoma Creek Watershed, and eventually into San Francisco Bay (See Figure 1-1, Watershed Planning Areas Map).¹

1.4 Project Need and Objectives

Project Need

The Citywide Creek Master Plan adopted in 2007 provides guidance for the restoration and enhancement of all of the City's creeks. It also assists the City and Resource Agencies in establishing priorities among projects. Further, it

provides greater consistency for the way in which policies related to creeks are applied to development along the creeks—simplifying the process of conditioning projects along creeks for governing bodies such as the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission and the City Council. The CCMP assists these bodies in building on existing resources so that opportunities are not lost as projects are developed along the creeks.

The Open Space and Conservation Element of Santa Rosa General Plan 2035, adopted by the City Council in 2009, incorporated key policies and supports implementation of the CCMP.

Project Purpose

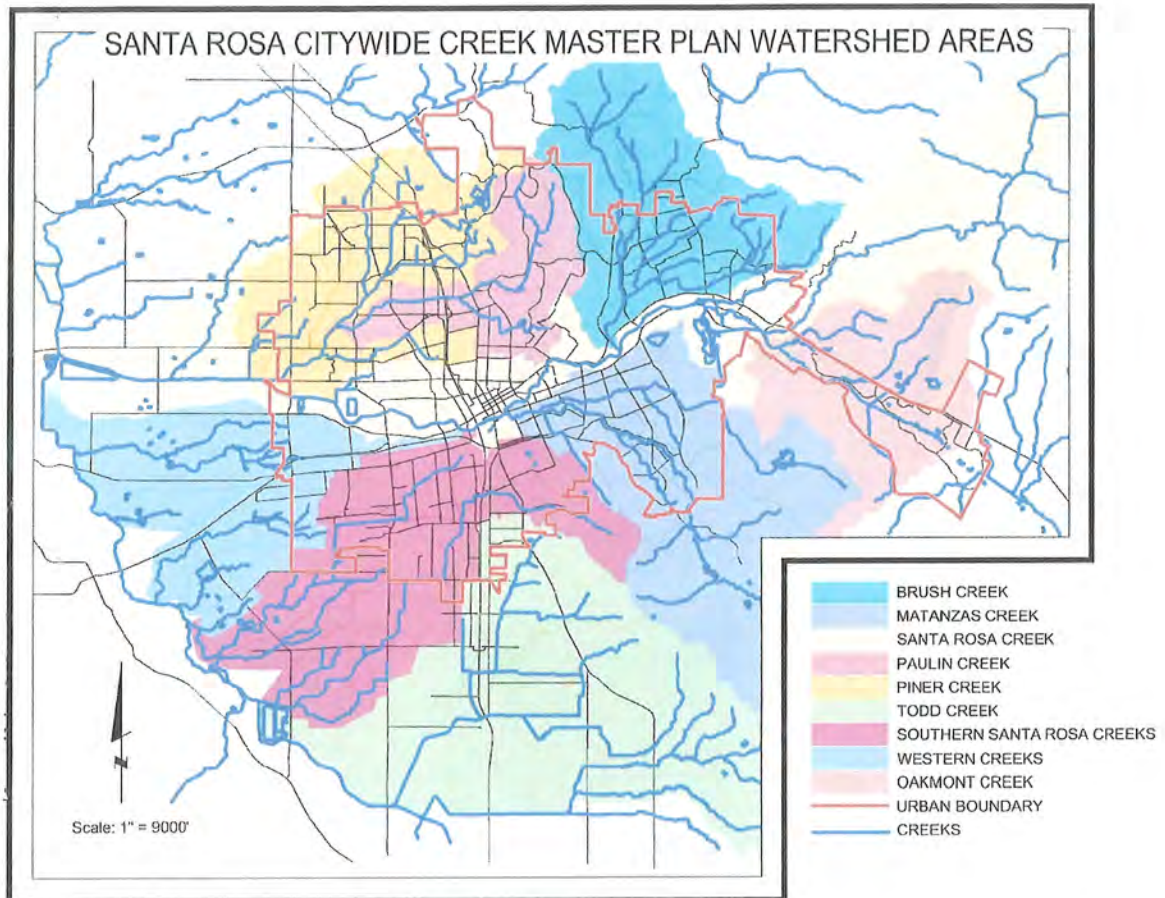
“The purpose of the Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP) is to implement the General Plan and to provide guidelines, policies, and criteria for the protection, care, management, restoration, and enhancement of waterways in Santa Rosa. This document and the Santa Rosa Design Guidelines should be consulted any time a question of protecting, restoring, or enhancing waterways arises, and whenever development is proposed adjacent to a waterway. The Citywide Creek Master Plan superseded the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan (1993), and the Santa Rosa Waterways Plan (1996) when it was initially adopted in 2007. The purpose of the 2013 update was to recognize completed projects and changed conditions along creeks, incorporate additional creeks and rename certain existing creeks for consistency with other agencies, and to establish a new prioritization system for creek projects to ensure that the CCMP continues to be consistent with and implement the General Plan 2035, and effectively guide development activities adjacent to creeks.”²

This CCMP update embraces the concept that waterways are important for multiple uses: drainage and flood control, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational and educational opportunities, and open space and alternative transportation routes. It also acknowledges that many waterways are located on private property, and that private landowner rights must be respected.³

Framework of Goals

The following eleven CCMP goals were developed as part of the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan and represent a complete vision for an integrated and healthy creek system that provides many benefits to the community. While the goals have not changed, supportive policies have been slightly modified as part of the 2013 update.

HABITAT (HA) - Local creeks and riparian corridors are preserved, enhanced, and restored as habitat for fish, birds, mammals, and other wildlife.



Source: Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan (July 2013)

**Figure 1-1
Watershed Planning Areas Map**

STORM WATER (SW) - The ability of waterways to carry storm water runoff and surface drainage is protected and improved to alleviate flood risk.

ECONOMIC (EC) - The economic value of areas adjacent to creeks is enhanced.

OPEN SPACE (OS) - The urban environment is enhanced with natural and open space features.

RECREATION (RT) - Trail corridors and other recreational opportunities are provided along some waterways.

EDUCATION (ED) - Educational opportunities are provided along some waterways.

AESTHETICS (AE) - Aesthetic qualities of creeks are enhanced.

WATER QUALITY (WQ) - Water quality of creeks is protected and enhanced.

PRIVATE PROPERTY (PR) - Private property rights are respected.

HEALTH AND SAFETY (HS) - Public health and safety is protected.

CULTURAL RESOURCES (CR) - Cultural and archaeological resources are protected.

Objectives and supporting policies are presented for each CCMP goal.

1.5 Existing Conditions

"The creeks that flow through the CCMP area are predominantly classified as either riparian woodland or riverine habitat. Riparian woodland occurs where the creeks are more natural, with a dense canopy cover comprised of large, mature native trees such as big-leaf maple, cottonwood, willows, box elder, and alder. These areas provide resting and rearing habitat for steelhead trout, and support other native fish and wildlife. Riverine habitat occurs in channelized reaches, which are for the most part located west of Highway 101. The viable creek ecosystem in these reaches has been confined to the aquatic environment in the channel bottom – basically, flowing water with unvegetated shores or fringe marshes. Where intensive channel maintenance has not occurred, riparian vegetation has grown in along the toe of each bank. In many areas, the tree canopy remains sparse due to the immaturity of the vegetation. Beyond the channel banks, adjacent habitats are largely urban within town, changing to cropland, pasture, and seasonal wetlands outside of the Urban Boundary. Native fish diversity is low in these reaches, but a number of introduced species have adapted to the warm water."⁴

"Some creeks within the CCMP area are considered 'impaired' by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and are included on the 2010 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments, approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2011. Santa Rosa Creek is listed for indicator bacteria, sedimentation/siltation, and temperature. The latter two listings cover almost the entire Russian River watershed, including all the creeks in the CCMP area. The Laguna de Santa Rosa (downstream of the CCMP area) is listed for indicator bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, mercury, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, sedimentation, and high water temperature. Today, despite the channelization, local creeks still support abundant life. Pockets of undisturbed habitat remain, and channelized reaches that have been left alone or carefully maintained have started to recover. River otters, egrets and herons, and steelhead trout are all found living along local waterways."⁵

Access: Access roads occur along most of the approximately 35 miles of creeks within the project area maintained for flood control by the Sonoma County Water Agency. The primary purpose of the access roads is for the Agency's stream maintenance activities. However, many of these access roads are open to the public and serve as pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, some creek reaches have soft paths that wind along some portions of the creeks.⁶

Surrounding Land Uses in the Project Vicinity: Land uses bordering the City's creeks consist of a full range of uses including residential, commercial, industrial, mixed use, agricultural land, parkland and open space uses. Near the City's core, land uses are urban in scale. Much of the City consists of residential development, historically, backing onto the creek. Toward the periphery, outside of the city limits, but within the urban boundary, creeks extend through land that continues to be used for agriculture, rural residential development and open space.

1.6 Project Characteristics

Focus of the Master Plan Update: The proposed project consists of an update of the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan. The basic structure and components of the CCMP do not change, but the CCMP is updated to depict projects that have already been completed; to update text so that it is consistent with the 2035 General Plan and other planning documents; and to further address issues such as compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The maps have also been revised to cover larger areas. A total of 16 maps cover nine watershed planning areas. Similar to the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan, existing conditions and recommendations resulting from the Natural Resources Assessment and Recreation, Access, and Transportation Component are included for each reach.

Updated Information: The CCMP incorporates updated information such as the new flood hazard maps that became effective in Southwestern Santa Rosa within the Naval, Gravenstein, Roseland and Colgan Creek watersheds and provides a good foundation from which to make key decisions for future development and for CCMP projects.⁷ Guidance on stream maintenance is also updated. In addition, the CCMP clarifies intended use of the trail system along creeks: "The creek trail system is intended to be multi-use, accommodating bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchair users, runners, rollerbladers, and at least in rural areas, mountain bicyclists and equestrians. The CCMP does not determine the type of users that would be allowed in any particular location. The goal is to accommodate as many users as possible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)."⁸

The updated CCMP includes additional discussion and details of the steps that can be taken to improve the health of local creeks including preservation,

enhancement, and restoration. Depending on the existing condition of a particular reach, varying levels of treatment are recommended. Each has a specific purpose when included as part of a habitat improvement project, and application of one concept does not necessarily exclude the use of another.⁹

Preservation: Preservation means that no physical changes are proposed, and the reach would be protected through an adequate creek setback or ultimately a conservation easement. Regular stream maintenance and management tasks would be conducted as needed in a preservation reach.

Enhancement: Enhancement would include removal of invasive species and replanting with natives, including understory sedges, grasses, and shrubs, as well as tree species to form a stream canopy. Enhancement could also include minor bank repair or erosion control using 'soft' nonstructural methods, including willow plantings.

Restoration: Restoration requires changing the physical characteristics of the channel in some way to return it to a past condition, ideally an ecologically healthier and self-sustaining state. This may involve removal of concrete and riprap, relocation of access roads, channel recontouring to restore meanders, installation of instream habitat structures such as rock or log weirs or anchored rootwads, bank stabilization with willows and other plants, and other plantings of native species. Also included may be removal or replacement of culverts to improve passage of fish and wildlife species through riparian corridors.¹⁰

For the purposes of revegetation projects, the riparian zone can be divided into upper bank, mid-bank, low bank, and instream areas. Each riparian species is adapted to one or more of these areas.

When possible, plant material originating from the same watershed should be used to maintain the genetic integrity of each watershed. Species appropriate for projects located in foothill areas will differ slightly from species appropriate for projects located on the Santa Rosa Plain.

Citywide Creek Master Plan Changes include the following:

- Updates park-related goals, policies, and planned improvements to be consistent with General Plan 2035.
- Depicts existing bike facilities consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and ensures that planned facilities near creeks are also consistent.
- Adds two new watershed planning areas, Oakmont (previously part of Santa Rosa in the 2007 Plan) and Western (previously Southern).
- Recognizes additional creeks in Oakmont including Laurel, Badger, Melita, Hood Mountain, Charlotte, Coney, and Anella, Progress and Promissory in Rincon Valley, Nagasawa Creek in Fountaingrove, and Finley and Riccas in west Santa Rosa. Also recognizes tributaries of Todd Creek and Old Colgan Creek.
- Depicts connections to County Regional Parks amenities located outside of the City's Urban Growth Boundary including the Colgan Creek, Peterson Creek and Hunter Creek trails.
- Recognizes the City's current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and associated Low Impact Development (LID) storm water management requirements including potential off-set projects.
- Ensures that the Citywide Creek Master Plan is consistent with the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Provides additional details regarding stream maintenance and creek restoration activities.
- Incorporates information from recently completed flood hazard studies.
- Identifies potential future restoration projects on City and SCWA-owned property.
- Changes the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan policy direction to retain maintenance access roads as part of restoration projects along SCWA-owned channels rather than eliminate them.
- Eliminates specific standards for the design of the intersection of trails and streets because the diagrams and tables included in the 2007 Plan are not consistent with current guidelines and designs of these features are always evolving. Instead, the Citywide Creek Master Plan cites the sources for design guidance for these features and recognizes that the

final design of a trail crossing will be reviewed and determined by the City's engineers.

- Replaces 60 creek maps with 16 creek maps. Once the plan is adopted, creek maps will be accessed from the City's interactive Geographic Information System (GIS).

1.7 Alternatives Considered For the Proposed Action

- **No Project Alternative:** The No Project Alternative consists of the implementation of the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan.

1.8 Agency Coordination and Permitting

The CCMP was developed in association with the project partners from the *Creek Dreams*¹¹ effort including the following agencies and groups:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation – Office of Transit and Community Planning.
- California Native Plant Society
- Coastal Conservancy
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- LandPaths
- Madrone Audubon Society
- Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District
- NOAA Fisheries
- National Park Service
- Santa Rosa Cycling Club
- Sierra Club
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
- Sonoma County Permit Resource and Management Department
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Department
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- State Office of Historic Preservation
- Trout Unlimited
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

These agencies and groups were contacted as part of the focused update and invited to participate. As an update to an approved Master Plan, the project would not result in physical impacts at this stage. As described in section 1.2,

subsequent environmental review and permitting would be conducted for specific projects developed in accordance with the updated CCMP.

1.9 Project Funding

The project would be funded through grants, storm water utility fees, private development, and through partnerships.

1.10 Timeline for Project Implementation

It is anticipated that the update would be approved in August 2013 and that projects identified in the updated plan would be implemented over the next several years and decades.

1.11 Other Projects Proposed in the Vicinity

A wide variety of projects are proposed adjacent to the City's Creeks. Two of the most active watersheds are the Roseland and Colgan Creek watersheds that cover most of the Southwest Area of Santa Rosa. Projects in the planning area vicinity include but are not limited to the following:

- Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) Train
- The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department trail improvements along Peterson, Roseland and Hunter Creeks, and,
- The Laguna de Santa Rosa Restoration and Management Plan.

¹ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 10.

² City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 9.

³ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 10.

⁴ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 11.

⁵ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 12.

⁶ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 12.

⁷ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 62.

⁸ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 68.

⁹ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 40.

¹⁰ City of Santa Rosa, *Citywide Creek Master Plan*, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 40-41.

¹¹ The *Creek Dreams* Report was prepared by the City of Santa Rosa Public Works staff in 2004. It summarizes the findings from a series of public workshops conducted in watersheds throughout the City.

2. Evaluation of Environmental Issue Areas

This section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan (July 2013). The update encompasses revisions to goals and policies, general approaches to implementing creek restoration and providing access, and the map changes. While most of these changes are anticipated to result in beneficial conditions within the creek network, this evaluation considers the potential for changes to inadvertently result in additional environmental impacts.

2.1 Visual Quality and Aesthetics

The updated Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP) would not result in additional impacts to visual resources and aesthetics beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). CCMP refinements include a policy to consider 'daylighting' some creek reaches, which over the long term would result in beneficial visual impacts. Tree plantings as part of restoration projects provide a visual benefit. In addition, constructing Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and public plazas and gathering places in the vicinity of creeks, where feasible, would preserve environmental resources and other amenities, and provide greater public access to the City's network of creeks. For example, Flat Rock Neighborhood Park near the confluence of Brush Creek and Santa Rosa Creek is an aesthetic amenity that remains generally hidden from the public view.¹

No new impacts related to visual quality and aesthetics would result from the updated CCMP. In addition to work conducted by City and Water Agency staff, the Creek Stewardship Program would continue to conduct maintenance throughout the City's creek network to help maintain the beauty of the creeks. No additional mitigation is required.

2.2 Agricultural Resources

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts to prime agricultural lands or lands subject to Williamson Act contracts beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007).

Creek restoration projects that extend beyond the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in the updated CCMP are generally within community separators and other open space areas,² such as along Peterson Creek, extending southwest of Youth Community Park;³ Santa Rosa Creek extending out to Delta Pond;⁴ and Roseland and Colgan Creeks extending southwest of Santa Rosa.⁵ These lands are generally used for agriculture and grazing; creek restoration would be consistent with and would enhance these uses. Reestablishment of riparian vegetation would result in beneficial impacts to agricultural land by helping to prevent loss of topsoil during the rainy season. Riparian corridors extending

through agricultural lands also serve as wind breaks that reduce soil loss during windy conditions. In addition, riparian corridors provide shade for livestock. No additional impacts would result from the project and no further mitigation is required.

2.3 Air Quality

The updated CCMP enhances connectivity between creeks, parks, schools, and other places of special interest for residents and visitors. The updated CCMP is integrated with the City's *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* to provide on- and off-street routes and pedestrian bridges across creeks for alternative transportation, thereby potentially reducing automobile travel and associated air pollutants.

The updated CCMP encourages the development of public plazas and gathering places along creeks, where feasible, thereby improving public access and enjoyment of these facilities. The updated CCMP also moves away from discussions pertaining to providing parking near parks and trails, and instead focuses on providing connections for non-motorized transportation.

Enhancing routes for non-motorized travel in the City of Santa Rosa, consistent with the General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, should positively affect air quality. No additional mitigation is required.

2.4 Biological Resources

Biological resources in the CCMP area can be roughly divided between those located in the uplands to the east and those found on the plain west of the City, with connections formed by the creeks that drain westward from the uplands. Sensitive upland resources to the east include hillside grassland and chaparral areas; resources within the Santa Rosa plain include numerous vernal pools and their associated species and surrounding grasslands. In addition to linking the uplands and the plain, the City's creek network provides substantial riparian habitat, particularly along Santa Rosa Creek and Matanzas Creek, east of E Street on the east side of Santa Rosa.⁶

Revisions to the CCMP focus on more general special status species protection, rather than on a single species such as steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). This focus is more comprehensive and allows for additional species to be listed, or existing special status species to be delisted, depending on the health of the populations. This more comprehensive approach anticipates that there will be changes in the location and ranges within which species are found as a result of climate change.

The CCMP contains some new areas of focus. For example, Policy HA-3-2 supports consideration of "daylighting" underground creeks where feasible to

restore the biological and ecological function of the creek.⁷ Daylighting of creeks would enhance habitat and improve connectivity of the resource, resulting in beneficial impacts to vegetation and wildlife. Daylighting projects would be subject to subsequent environmental review in compliance with CEQA.

Some recommendations in the CCMP have been changed. For example, the provision that “Planting in the active channel (instream area) is not recommended” has been removed, to allow for flexibility with the design of individual projects. The CCMP retains existing maintenance access roads rather than remove them to allow space for restoration projects but explains how restoration can still occur while allowing maintenance access. The definition of “Paved Trail” includes upgrades of informally created footpaths to formally improved paved trails. Depending on whether riparian vegetation already grows along the existing footpath(s), paving the trails could result in additional impacts to biological resources; however, these individual projects would be subject to subsequent environmental review. Similarly, constructing new paths or retrofitting existing paths so that they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may result in some impacts to biological resources in the short-term, but would be addressed through approved mitigation.

Revisions to the policy framework and approach to restoration would not result in additional environmental impacts to biological resources. Individual projects could affect some biological resources, for example, during construction. These projects would be subject to subsequent environmental review in compliance with CEQA.

2.5 Cultural Resources

The updated CCMP would not result in additional impacts to cultural resources beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). As described in the 2007 EIR, creeks are sensitive locations with respect to cultural resources. However, site specific archaeological studies would be required for specific projects to ensure that archaeological resources are not inadvertently disturbed.

Developing public plazas and gathering places in the vicinity of creeks provides an opportunity to preserve sensitive archaeological resources and historic structures, while also providing public access to these facilities. No additional impacts to cultural resources would result from the updated CCMP. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required.

2.6 Geology, Soils and Seismicity

The updated CCMP would not result in additional impacts related to geology, soils and seismicity beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). Preservation and restoration of creeks, and the development of

public plazas and gathering places in the vicinity of creeks would generally serve to protect resources. The root structure and leaf litter of riparian vegetation help to stabilize soil, thereby reducing erosion and sedimentation. The CCMP provides some additional focus on bank stabilization: "The repair and stabilization of stream or reservoir banks is undertaken when a bank is weakened, unstable, or failing. Bank stabilization activities are generally conducted June 15th to October 31st when streams are at their driest."⁸ The updated CCMP may result in additional excavation to install or retrofit paths to comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) or to relocate maintenance access roads; mitigation is already in place to ensure project impacts would be less-than-significant. No additional mitigation is required.

2.7 Greenhouse Gases

Subsequent to the adoption of the Citywide Creek Master Plan in 2007, and as required by SB 97, CEQA Guidelines Amendments, the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act documents were amended to include evaluation of impacts from greenhouse gas emissions.

To address this change in regulations, the CCMP EIR Addendum adds information about the regulatory framework and standards of significance for analysis of impacts from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Regulatory Framework and Standards of Significance

The amended State CEQA Guidelines include Section 15064.4 which states that, when making a determination of the significance of GHG emissions, a lead agency shall have discretion to determine whether to: (1) Use a model or methodology to quantify greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project, and which model or methodology to use; and/or (2) Rely on a qualitative analysis or performance based standards.

Section 15064.4 also states that a lead agency should consider the following factors when assessing the significance of GHG emissions on the environment: (1) The extent to which the project may increase or reduce greenhouse gas emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting; (2) Whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project; and (3) The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

City of Santa Rosa General Plan 2035

General Plan 2035 includes numerous policies that support implementation of the Citywide Creek Master Plan and would result in reductions to greenhouse gas emissions.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| LUL-S | Develop an attractive, safe, and extensive network for pedestrian and bicyclist movements. |
| T-H | Expand the existing transit network to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide convenient and efficient public transportation to workplaces, shopping, SMART stations, and other destinations. |
| PSF-A-8 | Integrate the bicycle and pedestrian path networks envisioned in both the Citywide Creek Master Plan and updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan with regional park plans, so that users can safely and comfortably access the full range of public open spaces. |
| PSF-A-18 | Develop multi-use pathways and linear parks along creeks designated by the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan. Create a system of interconnected linear parks that provide access to parks used for active recreation as well as to open space preserve areas that are used primarily for more passive recreation such as hiking and wildlife viewing. |
| PSF-A-19 | Provide recreational opportunities and establish bike and pedestrian paths along Santa Rosa Creek through implementation of the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan. |
| PSF-I-9 | Consider installation of creekside pathways, consistent with the Citywide Creek Master Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, when possible as part of stormwater improvement projects along the city's creek corridors. |
| OSC-M | Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions. |
| OSC-M-1 | Meet local, regional and state targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through implementation of the Climate Action Plan. |

City of Santa Rosa Climate Action Plans

In June 2012, the City Council adopted the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP examines community-wide sources of GHG emissions and outlines strategies for reducing these emissions. The City of Santa Rosa's CCAP is the City's road map to becoming a more

sustainable community. Measures, policies, and projects that reduce community-wide GHGs presented in the CCAP are aligned with the goals and policies of the Santa Rosa General Plan 2035.

Following the CCAP, a draft Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP) has been developed as a companion document to address GHG emissions from the City's municipal operations. The MCAP identifies projects, practices, and programs that will enable the City to cost-effectively and efficiently reduce GHG emissions from municipal operations and activities. The MCAP includes measures to reduce emissions from the City's fleet of vehicles, some of which are used to provide maintenance on the creeks and associated infrastructure and paths. The MCAP is expected to be adopted during the summer of 2013.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Consistent with the State CEQA Guidelines, this assessment relies on a qualitative analysis for greenhouse gas emissions associated with adoption of the updated CCMP. The updated CCMP endeavors to continue the policies of the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan to extend the city's pedestrian and bicycle network, connect that network to the larger county network, and to preserve, enhance, and restore creek habitats. The proposed changes to the CCMP, described previously, build on the 2007 plan and expand to recognize additional creeks and to depict how existing and planned creek trails in the City of Santa Rosa connect to regional facilities, which expands recreation and restoration possibilities.

Many of the objectives of the CCMP improve the possibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, rather than increasing them. The vision of a connected network of trails supports the use of non-motorized means of transportation, the increased use of which will reduce vehicle miles travelled, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions. This aspect of the updated CCMP is consistent with the Climate Action Plan measure to improve the bicycle and pedestrian network.

Restoration projects and associated planting and enhancement of natural vegetation is anticipated to add trees in riparian creek corridors. Tree planting and urban forestry practices can increase absorption of carbon dioxide. The addition of trees through implementation of the CCMP will aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and is consistent with Climate Action Plan measures.

All future creek-related projects will require subsequent environmental review. No mitigation is required at this time.

2.8 Hazardous Materials and Waste

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts to hazardous materials and waste beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). All projects involving excavation have the potential to encounter contaminated soils, particularly in areas of Santa Rosa that have a history of industrial uses. The updated Plan still anticipates some daylighting of creeks, such as the eventual redevelopment of the City's administrative offices at City Hall and in the vicinity. Hydrocarbon-affected soils have been encountered in many locations within the downtown, such as in the vicinity of 3rd Street and Santa Rosa Avenue. Polynuclear aromatic compounds (PNAs) and hydrocarbons (PHAs)¹ have been found west of Santa Rosa Avenue on the north side of Santa Rosa Creek. Mitigation is identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR to ensure that the potential impacts associated with encountering contaminated soils are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Policy WQ-2-1 was revised to include "Continue implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Program"⁹, which reduces chemicals entering the City's waterways. Some projects identified in the Plan will be subject to subsequent environmental review under CEQA. No further mitigation is required.

2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts to hydrology and water quality beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). The updated Plan includes two additional watershed planning areas for a total of nine. The Oakmont Creek and Western Creeks Watershed Planning Areas were added to this Plan (See Figure 1-1 in the Project Description). The Plan also updates the list of waterway impairments in accordance with Clean Water Act Section 303(d). In addition, the updated Plan provides additional information regarding updated FEMA maps, showing preliminary flood hazard zones for Naval, Roseland and Colgan Creek; these updated maps provide guidance for subsequent restoration and development of projects along those creeks. Further, the Plan notes that "daylighting" of creek reaches would be considered, particularly as project areas redevelop. These improvements would generally result in beneficial impacts related to hydrology and water quality, particularly over the long-term.

The updated CCMP would require that subsequent projects adhere to the requirements in the Low Impact Development (LID) Technical Design Manual. This manual provides technical guidance for projects that require implementation of permanent storm water best management processes as part of compliance with the City's NPDES permit. The focus of the LID Manual is on storm water

¹ Any of a class of carcinogenic organic molecules that consist of three or more benzene rings and are commonly produced by fossil fuel combustion.

treatment measures, as directed by Policy SW-2-2,¹⁰ that involve small scale landscape-based infiltration Best Management Practices (BMPs) that treat storm water as close to the source as possible. The Manual provides design guidance to mitigate or reduce the negative water quality impacts from development. "Polluted storm water entering creeks is a significant concern to public health as well as a threat to plant and animal life that inhabit waterways. Additionally, land development typically increases flow rate and decreases the duration of runoff from land, causing hydromodification, which contributes to erosion, flooding, and loss of habitat and decreased aquatic biodiversity".¹¹ The CCMP is intended to complement but not to duplicate or replace the Storm Water Low Impact Technical Design Manual and other existing programs to protect water quality.

Focusing Plan improvements on retaining and filtering water on-site would reduce the rate and amount of runoff. The 2007 EIR already has mitigation in place to ensure no net loss of flood capacity for channels. Implementation of the LID Manual requirements as part of complying with the City's NPDES permit will further reduce flooding, by reducing and slowing down runoff. Policy SW-2-3 is also included indicating, "Future storm water offset projects which fulfill City NPDES storm water permit hydromodification requirements shall implement projects identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan where feasible."¹² Plan policies have also been refined to allow use of pervious materials: Policy RT-1-1: "...Pervious and/or alternative paving material may be considered provided the pathways meet City standards and comply with ADA."¹³ No further mitigation is required.

2.10 Land Use and Planning

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts related to land use and planning beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). The updated Plan results in refinements in the approach to restoration and priorities for selecting projects, but does not change the basic objectives of the original Plan. Examples of refinements include: (1) prioritizing creek restoration projects on City-owned land (where the City has more control over implementation and where there are opportunities for public education); and, (2) encouraging development of public plazas and gathering places in the vicinity of creeks to provide access to the network of creeks, and also provide "eyes on the creek" to enhance safety and the comfort of those using the creek paths and trails. The public plazas and gathering spaces would generally be privately built and maintained and publicly accessible. The potential locations for the public plazas and gathering places along the creeks are depicted on maps 1-16 that replace the 2007 Plan maps.

The updated Plan illustrates connections to facilities outside the Urban Growth Boundary, and strengthens partnerships with other organizations such as the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to connect the City's creek network to the greater region—

and creek trail destinations such as the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Taylor Mountain, Spring Lake Park, and Annadel State Park. The updated CCMP would result in an improved, integrated system of paths, sidewalks, and on-street bike lanes, reflecting the policy direction of the General Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The updated CCMP would result in beneficial land use and planning impacts by enhancing connectivity of neighborhoods, districts, parks, schools, commercial areas, and public buildings throughout the City and wider region.

The updated Plan maps also identify development that has occurred since the original Master Plan was adopted in 2007. For example, in the vicinity of Taylor Mountain, the Southern Santa Rosa Map (Map 3 of 3) identifies Sonoma Academy and the neighborhood that has grown up in the vicinity of Taylor Mountain Regional Park, to bring planning conditions up to date. CCMP Appendix F also includes an updated list of site specific projects to be implemented as part of the Plan.

2.11 Mineral Resources

There are no State designated or locally important mineral deposits in the Citywide Creek Master Plan area.¹⁴ Therefore, similar to the 2007 Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR, the updated Citywide Creek Master Plan would not result in significant impacts or require mitigation related to mineral resources.

2.12 Noise

Noise impacts resulting from implementation of the updated CCMP would be comparable to those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). Projects listed in the updated Plan would result in comparable types of noise as those included in the original 2007 Plan. Policies are identified to reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. Mitigation measures have already been adopted to address both construction impacts and ongoing operational impacts. Individual projects implemented as part of the Plan would require subsequent environmental review in compliance with CEQA. No additional mitigation is required.

2.13 Population and Housing

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts related to population or housing. Development of public plazas and gathering places might result in changes in the location of units along creeks, but would not affect overall density or number of housing units. No mitigation is required.

2.14 Public Services

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts related to public services, beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creeks Master Plan EIR (2007). The updated Plan adds a fourth category of signs to the initial list: (1) directional; (2) interpretive; (3) locational (for emergency personnel), and (4) locational signage identifying the presence of creeks in the community through the “*Ours to Protect*” signs that have been placed where roadways cross over creeks.¹⁵ The Plan also indicates that new types of crossings may be considered such as the “pedestrian hybrid beacon”. These improvements in signage would result in beneficial impacts related to public services. Parking facilities and restroom facilities are no longer identified on the maps. No additional mitigation is required.

2.15 Recreation and Parks

The updated CCMP includes some refinements that relate to recreation and parks, consistent with the General Plan 2035, which calls for a network of parks and open spaces in Santa Rosa.¹⁶ One of the primary changes is the inclusion of the park symbols for proposed Community and Neighborhood Parks (large and small tree symbols) on the CCMP maps, consistent with the General Plan map. Potential public plazas and gathering places and open space areas are also depicted on the maps. These have been proposed as access points to the creek network in locations where there are notable environmental resources and/or amenities. Development of these parks would generally be accomplished through the private development of adjacent parcels. Plans for the public plazas and gathering places would be subject to subsequent environmental review as part of the related development applications, in compliance with CEQA.

2.16 Traffic and Circulation

The updated CCMP would not result in additional impacts related to traffic and circulation beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007).

Making the CCMP consistent with the Santa Rosa General Plan 2035, the Climate Action Plan and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan would ensure an integrated system that functions to improve access to Santa Rosa’s network of creeks. Greater connection between creek trails and bicycle lanes and routes would support greater use of non-motorized transportation, potentially minimizing impacts to traffic and circulation.

The updated Plan provides greater focus on “trail connections” some of which include sidewalks. The Plan recognizes that there are trail segments where Class 1 bicycle paths are not feasible: “Policy RT-1-4: Construct new on-street pedestrian and bicycle facilities such as sidewalks and bicycle lanes to connect creekside trail segments where Class 1 bicycle paths are not feasible”.¹⁷

“Multi-Use” in the Plan envisions the full range of users: “The creek trail system is intended to be multi-use, accommodating bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchair users, runners, rollerbladers, and at least in rural areas, mountain bicyclists and equestrians.”¹⁸ The Plan aims to enhance and improve access to trails for all of these users.

The updated Plan also addresses compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) more comprehensively. The Plan assumes that upgrades to existing trails and the construction of new trails must be designed to meet current ADA standards. The updated Plan notes, however, that while new and upgraded pathways must comply with ADA requirements for accessibility, which typically involves a hard, paved surface, soft paths adjacent or near ADA-compliant paths provide an additional amenity favored by equestrians, all terrain bicyclists and some pedestrians. The updated Plan also shifts away from discussion of parking, assuming that users of the creek network would generally be walking or using non-motorized bicycles, scooters or strollers, and would generally reach creeks by way of the City’s on-street bicycle and pedestrian network. No additional mitigation would be required.

2.17 Utilities

The updated CCMP would not result in impacts to utilities beyond those already identified in the Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR (2007). The Plan notes that “the latest scientific evidence shows that protecting and restoring creeks and adjacent riparian areas are cost-effective methods to provide many ecosystem services that benefit society.”¹⁹ Enhancing the network of creeks in the planning area, reduces the need to install “hard” engineering solutions such as culverts. Project designs now require infiltration of water at its source to reduce rapid down stream runoff. Utility projects are therefore largely focused on creating detention and retention basins for holding, filtering and allowing the infiltration of water on site, at its source. The focus of the updated Plan is to utilize bio-engineering rather than pipes and concrete-lined ditches, in conformance with the City’s NPDES permit. “Enhancement could also include minor bank repair or erosion control using ‘soft’ non-structural methods including willow plantings.”²⁰ These features result in some short-term excavation and removal of habitat, but over the long-term, they enhance the hydrological cycle and ecological function of waterways in the planning area.

- ¹ CCMP Maps, Planning Watershed Area (PWA): Santa Rosa Creek, (Map 3 of 5).
- ² *Santa Rosa General Plan 2035 EIR*, Figure 4.L-1, Community Separators and Open Space.
- ³ CCMP Maps, Paulin and Piner Creeks, (Map 1 of 3)
- ⁴ CCMP Maps, PWA: Santa Rosa Creek (Map 1 of 5).
- ⁵ CCMP Maps, PWA: Southern Santa Rosa (Map 2 of 3).
- ⁶ CCMP Maps, PWAs: Santa Rosa Creek (Map 3 of 5) and Matanzas Creek
- ⁷ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 22.
- ⁸ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 66.
- ⁹ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 32.
- ¹⁰ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 25.
- ¹¹ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 24.
- ¹² CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 25.
- ¹³ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 28.
- ¹⁴ http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/doclib/Documents/Santa_Rosa_GP_2035_DEIR.pdf
- ¹⁵ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 87.
- ¹⁶ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 27.
- ¹⁷ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 28.
- ¹⁸ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 69.
- ¹⁹ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 39.
- ²⁰ CCMP, Public Draft, July 2013, p. 40.

3. Report Preparation

City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department

David Guhin, Director
Rita Miller, Supervising Engineer
Steve Brady, Senior Environmental Specialist
Alistair Bleifuss, Environmental Specialist

City of Santa Rosa Community Development Department

Charles J. Regalia, Director
Lisa Kranz, Supervising Planner
Erin Morris, Senior Planner

Environmental Consultants

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RESOLUTION NO. 11648

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA
RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE CITYWIDE CREEK
MASTER PLAN UPDATE – FILE NUMBER ST10-004

WHEREAS, the Citywide Creek Master Plan (CCMP) and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were adopted by the City Council by Resolutions 26803 and 26804 on March 27, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the CCMP has been updated to re-affirm and clarify CCMP goals and policies, ensure that CCMP is consistent with the General Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and other policy documents, update creek maps and text to recognize changed conditions along waterways including completed projects, incorporate and plan for waterways not previously included, reflect new planned paths, establish prioritization criteria for CCMP projects, and to make the CCMP more user-friendly; and

WHEREAS, an Addendum to the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared pursuant to Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. The Addendum documents that the CCMP update involves minor technical changes and additions and that none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 have occurred. It is therefore appropriate to rely on the 2007 EIR in the adoption of the CCMP update; and

WHEREAS, the Design Review Board, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, and Waterways Advisory Committee has reviewed the CCMP update and provided comments and support for the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the draft CCMP update on July 11, 2013 at which all those wishing to be heard were allowed to speak or present written comments and other materials; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered the public comments, the oral and written staff report, and the draft CCMP update and associated Addendum to the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan EIR; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Citywide Creek Master Plan update will further the following General Plan goals:

- PSF-A-8 Integrate the bicycle and pedestrian path networks envisioned in both the Citywide Creek Master Plan and updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan with regional park plans, so that users can safely and comfortably access the full range of public open spaces.
- PSF-A-18 Develop multi-use pathways and linear parks along creeks designated by the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan. Create a system of

interconnected linear parks that provide access to parks used for active recreation as well as to open space preserve areas that are used primarily for more passive recreation such as hiking and wildlife viewing.

- PSF-A-19 Provide recreational opportunities and establish bike and pedestrian paths along Santa Rosa Creek through implementation of the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan.
- PSF-I-4 Require measures to maintain and improve the storm drainage system, consistent with goals of the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan, to preserve natural conditions of waterways and minimize paving of creek channels.
- PSF-I-9 Consider installation of creekside pathways, consistent with the Citywide Creek Master Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, when possible as part of stormwater improvement projects along the city's creek corridors.
- OSC-E Ensure local creeks and riparian corridors are preserved, enhanced, and restored as habitat for fish, birds, mammals and other wildlife.
- OSC-E-2 Plan and perform stream maintenance activities that respect the balance of flood protection and environmental protection.
- OSC-E-3 Continue to support efforts towards healthy, clean, and safe creeks.
- OSC-F Construct trail corridors and other recreational opportunities along local waterways.
- OSC-F-1 Accommodate connections to regional trail systems that enhance or support the creek trail systems network.
- OSC-F-2 Cooperate with various public and private entities to create new public access trails along creeks to parks and open spaces within the Urban Growth Boundary, as well as connections to regional trail systems.
- OSC-G Provide educational opportunities along the waterways in the city.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed a list of staff recommended changes to the draft Citywide Creek Master Plan update, set forth in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission finds that the Citywide Creek Master Plan update is consistent with the Santa Rosa General Plan in that:

- A. The proposed changes ensures and maintain internal consistency with the goals and policies of all elements of the Citywide Creek Master Plan and the Santa Rosa General Plan;
- B. The proposed changes would not be detrimental to the public health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the City;
- C. The proposed changes have been reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the Citywide Creek Master Plan update with the changes identified in Exhibit A.

REGULARLY PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Rosa on the 11th day of July, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: (7) Chair Cisco, Commissioners Byrd, Duggan, Groninga, Karsten, Minton and Stanley.

NOES: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

APPROVED: /s/ CHAIR

ATTEST: /s/ EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Exhibit A

Recommended Changes to the Citywide Creek Master Plan

Overall

1. Correct the text to reference “public plazas and gathering places” throughout the document and on the maps.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies (Pages 23 – 24)

2. Revise description of Storm Water (SW) policies in first SW paragraph on Page 23 as follows:

The Storm Water Low Impact Development Technical Design Manual developed by the City of Santa Rosa and County of Sonoma provides technical guidance for projects that require implementation of permanent storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of compliance with the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for municipal storm water.

3. Revise description of implementation of Low Impact Development storm water requirements in the last paragraph of Page 24 as follows:

Development projects within the City of Santa Rosa that are subject to storm water BMP requirements are submitted to the Community Development or Transportation and Public Works Department for review and approval.

Plan Concepts (Page 69, first paragraph)

4. Revise text as follows:

The creek trail system is much more than a recreational facility; it is intended to support walking and bicycling as viable alternative modes of transportation to the automobile. This will reduce roadway congestion, improve air quality, provide convenient and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle access, help conserve increasingly scarce and expensive fossil fuel resources, improve public health, increase social interaction, and impart a sense of community identity and pride.

Matanzas Watershed Planning Area (Page 127, second paragraph)

5. Add reference to Lake Ilsanjo as follows:

The largest tributary to Matanzas Creek is Spring Creek, which begins in Annadel State Park near Lake Ilsanjo.

Matanzas Creek Reach 3 (Page 128, Natural Resources paragraph)

6. Revise text as follows:

Steelhead/Rainbow Trout have been ~~seen~~ observed within this reach (considered to be rainbow trout, since they could be resident fish). They could be resident fish (rainbow trout) or potentially Steelhead (anadromous) who have migrated through the culvert above the confluence of Santa Rosa and Matanzas Creeks.

Spring Creek Reach 2

7. Revise text on Page 130, Natural Resources, second paragraph, as follows:

This reach is recommended for preservation, due to habitat value for fish and wildlife. Habitat enhancement involving invasive species removal and replacement with native vegetation is also recommended. Restoration of natural stream meanders and native vegetation may be possible through the Caltrans right of way between Hoen Avenue and Mayette Avenue. Sediment deposits in the Caltrans right of way prevent low flow water from flowing down the creek and instead directs it into the bypass conduit. Sediment removal should be considered within the right of way to address this condition. Restoration is also recommended from Summerfield Road along the boundary of Spring Creek Elementary School.

8. Revise text on Page 131, Recreation Access and Transportation paragraph, sixth sentence as follows:

From Yulupa Avenue until the end of the reach at Franquette Avenue, there is no public creek access. Existing sidewalks on Spring Creek and Princeton Drives parallel to Spring Creek provide a pedestrian connection between Yulupa and Franquette Avenues.

Spring Creek Reach 3

9. Revise text on Page 131, Natural Resources paragraph, by adding a sentence:

Steelhead have been observed between Farmers Lane and Doyle Park.

Requested July 10, 2013

Goals, Objectives, and Policies (Page 25-26)

Policy SW-3-3. Maintain the channel by performance, not schedule.

Sonoma County Water Agency has established stream maintenance guidelines (described in Chapter 3) for balancing environmental protection with the flood carrying capacity on more than 80 miles of improved flood protection channels countywide. On a regular basis, an inventory ~~, including flow models,~~ compares each site's estimated water-carrying capacity against its design capacity. Based on the results, streams are prioritized for maintenance activities.

**CITY OF SANTA ROSA PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cisco called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Byrd, Chair Cisco, Duggan, Groninga, Karsten, Minton, and Vice Chair Stanley.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the June 13, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted.

4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Duane Dewitt, spoke regarding paving and bicycle safety on Boyd Street.

5. PLANNING COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS -

The Chair and members of the Commission made announcements and reports of interest to the Commission.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Bill Rose, Senior Planner, reported that there aren't any items currently scheduled for the August Planning Commission meeting.

7. STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY COMMISSIONERS - NONE

8. CONSENT - NONE

9. PUBLIC HEARING – CITYWIDE CREEK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Focused update to the Citywide Creek Master Plan, adopted by the City Council on March 27, 2007. Recommended habitat preservation, enhancement, and restoration projects, and improvements to the creekside trail system are presented conceptually and specifically by watershed planning area. CEQA: Addendum to the Citywide Creek Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, certified by the City Council on March 27, 2007. File No. - ST10-004.

Erin Morris, Senior Planner, provided the staff report and responded to questions from the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Cisco opened the public hearing at 4:31

Duane DeWitt, spoke regarding volunteers at the Roseland Creek Community Park.

Kathleen Emery, spoke regarding culvert cleanouts on Poppy Creek and reinforcing the banks of the Poppy Creek, a portion of which runs through her property.

Frances Dias, former Planning Commissioner spoke regarding care of Oakmont creeks.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Chair Cisco closed the public hearing at 4:42 p.m.

Steve Brady, Senior Environmental Specialist, and Molly Dillon, Assistant City Attorney, responded to questions from the Commission.

MOVED by Vice-Chair Stanley and seconded by Commissioner Byrd and **CARRIED** unanimously to waive reading of the text and adopt:

RESOLUTION NO. 11648 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE CITYWIDE CREEK MASTER PLAN UPDATE – FILE NUMBER ST10-004

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cisco adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting to be held on Thursday, August 8, 2013, at a time to be set by the Chair.

Approved on:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Executive Secretary

Chair



Erin Morris, Senior Planner
Community Development Department
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Southeast Greenway Campaign
P.O. Box 9122
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

BY EMAIL to: emorris@srcity.org

June 20, 2013

Dear Ms Morris,

Re: Draft Creek Master Plan Update 2013 Comments

Formed in 2009, the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Campaign is a community effort consisting of a volunteer steering committee, a circle of advisors, and over 1,200 supporters. We are committed to bringing the community together to acquire, develop and steward the Southeast Greenway on 52 acres of Caltrans right of way previously planned for a freeway.

Our vision for the Southeast Greenway includes restored creeks, wetlands and natural habitat, in addition to bicycle and pedestrian trails.

We have reviewed the draft Citywide Creek Master Plan Update and are delighted to see so many elements of our vision incorporated within this draft document. It would be greatly appreciated if our comments could be included in the packet to be distributed at public hearings between now and the time the draft plan update goes to the City Council in August. We may have further comments before the public comment period closes.

We appreciate that there are few major changes to specific plans for individual creeks in this update. Changes made in this draft would bring the Plan into compliance with ADA and into conformity with the City General Plan 2035, the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan 2010, and other planning documents. Linkage to the Regional Parks trails network is a valuable enhancement to the Plan.

General Comments:

The updated Plan goes further than the 2007 Plan in placing individual creeks and creek reaches within their watershed context. In that respect, there are opportunities to suggest land use

changes that may improve watershed function. For example, if more oak trees or other native vegetation were to be planted on the City-owned hillside between the Veterans' Trail and the homes to the east of Summerfield Road, this would slow the movement of storm water downstream and attenuate peak flows in Sierra Park Creek. We are confident that neighborhood groups could handle planting, maintenance and ongoing stewardship of these trees.

Riparian areas along creeks have specific functions in keeping creeks and groundwater healthy. There are various places in the Plan where there are references to 'paved' trails. In appropriate cases, where pedestrian and bikes traffic is not expected to be heavy, it would be wise to ensure that such trails do not add more impervious surfaces. We have been informed that 'hard' trails can be constructed that are ADA compliant without being impervious.

Specific Comments:

Our comments on Watershed-Specific Recommendations in Chapter 4 from page 127 to page 133 follow in page number sequence. Most of the proposed additions and changes in these pages of this chapter of the draft document are very welcome and indicate an intimate understanding of these creeks by City staff.

Page 127: Matanzas Creek Reach 1:

This section mentions planting native vegetation to replace invasive species, but does not mention creek temperature and the need for shade.

Comment: The City's recent Storm Water Annual Report (page 18) reported increased maximum weekly average temperature in Matanzas Creek at the Bennett Valley Golf Course. Planting of more riparian trees and/or appropriate vegetation upstream of that area would restore creek canopy and provide cooling shade for the creek.

Page 128: Matanzas Creek Reach 2:

'Trout have been seen within this reach (considered to be rainbow trout, since they could be resident fish)'

Comment: They could also be anadromous steelhead which have managed to get up the Matanzas culvert under Sonoma Avenue near the confluence with Santa Rosa Creek.

Page 129: Matanzas Creek Reach 4:

'...a fish ladder could be constructed...'

Comment: The 2007 Plan in this section read 'should'. That original reading would be preferred. All fish habitat restoration upstream of this culvert in Matanzas Creek and Spring Creek is dependent upon fish passage here.

Page 130: Spring Creek Reach 1:

Comment: There should be mention here that the headwaters of Spring Creek are in the hills surrounding Lake Ilsanjo in Annadel Park. It should also be mentioned that Lake Ilsanjo was constructed in the mid 20th century with no provision for by-pass flows. Lake Ilsanjo therefore now increases the number of months that Spring Creek is dry.

Comment: It should also be mentioned that the Spring Creek Dam and Diversion at the upstream end of this reach constitute an absolute fish barrier with no feasible fish ladder retrofit.

Page 130: Spring Creek Tributary:

East of Summerfield Road across from the upper end of Sumner Lane in the Southeast Greenway (aka the Caltrans right of way) is a small year-round freshwater marsh. This should be delineated, studied and restored. The marsh may be one of the most valuable natural features of the Spring Creek watershed.

Page 130: Spring Creek Reach 2:

This section mentions restoration of native vegetation where Spring Creek crosses the Southeast Greenway (aka the Caltrans right of way).

Comment: This restoration should include riparian trees to restore creek canopy and provide cooling shade for the creek.

Page 131: Spring Creek Reach 2:

‘Sediment removal should be considered within the right of way to address this condition’

Comment: The malfunctioning of the Sonoma County Water Agency Spring Creek Bypass diversion structure may be rectified by the sediment removal suggested. However, since high flows will continue to be diverted into the Bypass conduit, lack of sediment transport may cause this reach to fill with sediment again in the near future. A qualified hydrologic engineer should therefore analyze the situation and recommend the most appropriate remedy. Meanwhile, additional wording should be inserted into this sentence as follows:

‘Sediment removal within the right of way, or an engineered modification of the Bypass structure weir, should be considered to address this condition’

Page 131: Spring Creek Reach 2:

Comment: There may be an opportunity here in the future for a detention basin within the Southeast Greenway (aka Caltrans right of way) to help restore the hydraulic capacity of Spring Creek in accordance with Policy CW-1-3 (page 24), and to create seasonal habitat.

Page 131: Spring Creek Reach 2:

This section does not mention the need for riparian restoration downstream of Mayette Avenue alongside Spring Creek Elementary school.

Comment: Restoration downstream of Mayette Avenue alongside Spring Creek Elementary school should include riparian trees to restore creek canopy and provide cooling shade for the creek.

Page 131: Spring Creek Reach 2:

“From Yulupa Avenue until the end of the reach at Franquette Avenue, there is no public creek access”

Comment: The following text may be added here:

‘Existing sidewalks along Princeton Avenue provide a connection from Yulupa Avenue to Franquette Avenue parallel to Spring Creek’

Page 131: Spring Creek Reach 3:

Comment: Steelhead have been observed in Spring Creek between Farmers Lane and Doyle Park. This may be another indication that anadromous steelhead may be succeeding in getting up the Matanzas culvert under Sonoma Avenue near the confluence with Santa Rosa Creek.

Page 133: Sierra Park Creek Reach 1:

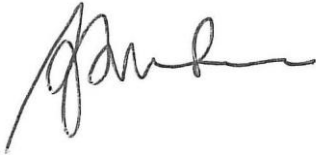
Comment: This section correctly concludes that the large concrete structure downstream of Hoen Avenue is a barrier to fish migration. National Marine Fisheries Service staff who have examined drawings of this Sonoma County Water Agency owned structure are of the opinion that it could be re-engineered to create a weir. A weir could be designed to allow all but high storm flows to remain in the creek channel, without affecting the water-carrying capacity or function of the Bypass conduit itself. This should be further researched by a qualified hydrologic engineer when access and potential funding are available.

Page 133: Sierra Park Creek Reach 1:

Comment: There may be an opportunity here in the future for a detention basin in the Southeast Greenway (aka the Caltrans right of way) downstream of the diversion structure to help restore the hydraulic capacity of Sierra Park Creek in accordance with Policy CW-1-3 (page 24), and to create seasonal habitat.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document so early in the planning process. It is to be hoped that many of our comments will be incorporated into the final approved Plan. To conclude, we would like to say that we share the spirit of the Plan as expressed in the Executive Summary: **Our local creeks have the potential to enhance our hearts, our minds, our health, our connections to each other and with the natural world. It is up to all of us who live, work, and play in Santa Rosa to each do our part to help make the vision expressed in this Plan become a reality.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SFR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Fuller-Rowell
Southeast Greenway Campaign
Campaign Committee Member



Sonoma County Water Coalition

55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95401
707-494-5769

Erin Morris, Senior Planner
Community Development Department
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

BY EMAIL to: emorris@srcity.org

August 2, 2013

Dear Ms Morris,

Re: Draft Creek Master Plan Update 2013 Comments

The Sonoma County Water Coalition (SCWC) includes 31 organizations, representing more than 24,000 concerned citizens. SCWC is especially concerned about the preservation of a safe, economical and reliable water supply for all living things. SCWC also works to preserve healthy ecosystems, supports watershed restoration and protection, and careful oversight of all public trust resources, including surface and groundwater quality and quantity.

Endorsement of Southeast Greenway Campaign Comments:

We have reviewed the draft Citywide Creek Master Plan Update and wish to go on record as endorsing comments submitted in June by the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Campaign.

Impaired Waterways & MS4 NPDES Nexus:

We would also point out that Santa Rosa Creek and its tributaries are listed as impaired by various pollutants including bacteria, sedimentation/siltation, pathogens (point and non-point source), and temperature. All stream maintenance and recovery actions should therefore be considered in the context of pollutant control to meet Water Quality Standards. The Master Plan should also nexus with the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) NPDES implementation.

Oversight by Biologist:

Whatever agency undertakes channel maintenance in the City, we would also strongly recommend that in-stream manipulation, including removal of large woody debris (LWD) and/or other debris, should be accomplished only when a qualified biologist is

Members: * Atascadero/Green Valley Watershed Council * Community Clean Water Institute * Friends of Mark West Watershed * California River Watch * O.W.L. Foundation * Russian River Watershed Protection Committee * Sonoma Coast Surfrider * Sonoma County Conservation Action * SWiG (Sebastopol Water information Group) * Valley of the Moon Alliance * **Supporting Organizations:** Bellevue Township * Coalition for a Better Sonoma County * Coast Action Group * Community Alliance with Family Farmers (North Coast Chapter) * Forest Unlimited * Forestville Citizens for Sensible Growth * Friends of the Gualala River * Graton Community Projects * Laguna Lovers * Madrone Audubon Society * New-Old Ways Wholistically Emerging * Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Water Institute * Petaluma River Council * Russian River Chamber of Commerce * Sierra Club (Sonoma County Group) * Town Hall Coalition * Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance *

present to supervise removal operations. In many cases, debris removal is effectively habitat removal.

Tree Planting:

We concur with the Southeast Greenway Campaign that there are land use changes that may improve watershed function. For example, tree planting and restoration of oak woodlands in the headwaters of City creeks would slow the movement of storm water downstream and attenuate peak flows in creeks.

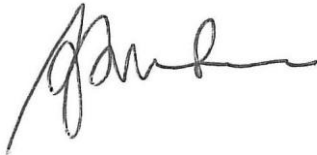
Minimization of Impervious Surfaces on Creek Banks:

Riparian areas along creeks have specific functions in keeping creeks and groundwater healthy. There are various places in the draft Plan where there are references to 'paved' trails adjacent to creeks. In appropriate cases, where pedestrian and bikes traffic is not expected to be heavy, we agree that it would be wise to ensure that such trails do not add more impervious surfaces. 'Hard' trails can be constructed that are ADA compliant without being impervious.

Conclusion:

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Creek Master Plan Update 2013 and hope that our comments will be incorporated into the final approved Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Fuller-Rowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen Fuller-Rowell
Sonoma County Water Coalition