

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: FLANNERY BANKS, SUPERVISING ENGINEER, PLANNING AND
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SERVICES, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE REVISED
PUBLIC STORM DRAIN STANDARDS AND DELEGATE
APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR FUTURE REVISIONS TO THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water and the Planning and Economic Development Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, recommend that the Santa Rosa City (City) Council adopt, by resolution, the revised Public Storm Drain Standards as presented with an effective date 30 days from the date of adoption and delegate authority to the Board of Public Utilities to adopt future revisions to the standards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Storm Drain Standards (Standards) set forth the design policies and construction methods associated with additions and modifications to the public storm drain infrastructure. The standards, details, and specifications require routine revisions to ensure that new installations and modifications are consistent with various regulations, references, industry best practices, industry needs, and operational needs to serve the community's urban environment. The delegation of approval authority is consistent with the general policy and management authority over the public storm drain infrastructure granted to the Board under Section 25 of the Charter of the City of Santa Rosa (City) and City Council Resolution RES-2017-177, which delegated approval authority of the Potable Water, Recycled Water, and Sewer Design Standards, Construction Standards, and Construction Specifications to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

BACKGROUND

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The Standards set forth the design guidelines and construction procedures that apply to all additions and modifications to the City's public storm drain infrastructure for both private development and capital improvement projects. The City's current Standards were last adopted in April 2005 by resolution 26247. The Standards govern design and construction of over 350 miles and counting of publicly owned and maintained storm drainpipes. The proposed revisions align the Standards with various regulations, references, industry standard practices, industry needs, operational needs, and will help ensure that storm drain infrastructure adequately serves the community's modern urban environment.

The City routed the proposed revisions for public comment, including to the American Council of Engineering Companies – North Coast Chapter (ACEC), the Northern California Engineering Contractors Association (ECA), and the American Society of Civil Engineers – Redwood Empire Branch (ASCE). The City included Sonoma Water and Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District in the public comment process. City staff responded in writing to the commenting parties, and where staff agreed with a comment, adjusted the Standards to account for the substance of the comments.

Pursuant to Santa Rosa City Code §18-04.070, the City Council may, by resolution, adopt City standard plans and specifications.

The amendment to Section 25 of the City's charter delegating authority of the City's stormwater systems from City Council to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) was ratified by the voters of Santa Rosa on November 8, 2022. The amendment was accepted and filed by the Secretary of State on July 25, 2023, becoming effective on the same date. Delegating authority to adopt future revisions to the Standards from the City Council to the BPU aligns with City Council resolution RES-2017-177, which delegated the same authorities to the BPU for the potable water, recycled water, and sanitary sewer systems.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

None.

ANALYSIS

The Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department regularly meets with ECA and ACEC to discuss challenges meeting existing Standards. They have requested changes to the Standards, including clarifications to specific requirements and additional standard details.

The PED and Water Departments have recognized the need to revise the Standards due to outdated guidelines, changes in regulation, operation and maintenance needs,

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changes in materials and products, a desire to increase transparency, and changes in design policies.

The proposed revisions to the Standards were developed through a collaborative approach involving input and participation from City staff in the PED, Water, and Transportation and Public Works Departments; ACEC; ECA; ASCE; Sonoma Water; and Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District.

To support more timely processing of future revisions, it is recommended that the authority to approve future revisions of the Standards be recommended for delegation to the BPU. The recommended action is consistent with authorities granted under Section 25 of the City's Charter and City Council resolution RES-2017-177, which delegated the authority to approve revisions in standards to the BPU for potable water, recycled water, and sanitary sewer.

It is also recommended the revised Standards become effective 30 days from the date of adoption by the City Council and only apply to new public improvement plans and encroachment permits submitted on or after the effective date. Delaying the effective date and applying the revised Standards to newly submitted applications avoids any redesign requirements for existing projects currently in review with the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adopting the revised Standards will affect existing design policies, construction practices, and allowed construction materials. Although the Standards are typically designed to reduce long-term maintenance costs associated with the storm drain infrastructure, the additional requirements may increase the design and construction costs associated with capital improvement projects. Additional costs will be determined through the scoping and design phases of capital projects and will be addressed through future budgetary discussions.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, the proposed action is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not have a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. In the alternative, the proposed action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

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NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Redlined Version – Draft Revised Public Storm Drain Standards
- Attachment 2 – Simplified Redlined Version – Draft Revised Public Storm Drain Standards
- Attachment 3 – Proposed Storm Drain Standard Details
- Attachment 4 – Clean - Draft Revised Public Storm Drain Standards

PRESENTER

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