

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2019029001

Project Title: Supplemental IS/MND for the Shady Lane Sewer Removal Project +

Lead Agency: Ross Valley Sanitary District

Contact Name: Steve Moore

Email: smoore@rvsd.org

Phone Number: (415) 259-2949 x217

Project Location: Town of Ross
City

Marin
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

See Attachment A.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

See Attachment A.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

None.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Town of Ross

ATTACHMENT A

Project Description

Project Background

In March 2019, the Ross Valley Sanitary District (District) adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Large Diameter Gravity Sewer (LDGS) Rehabilitation Project II-3 (Original Project). The Original Project planned to rehabilitate or replace approximately 4,100 ft of existing trunk mains with diameters ranging from 12 in. to 28 in. and 450 ft of 8-in. branch lines. The primary objective of the Original Project was to relieve hydraulic and structural deficiencies with aging District infrastructure within the Town of Ross. The LDGS Rehabilitation Project II-3 project was complete in 2019 following two phases of work:

- Phase 1 of the Original Project planned to replace approximately 1,550 lineal ft of 21-in.-diameter sanitary sewer mains with 28-in.-outside-diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe using a combination of pipe bursting and open cut construction. The construction, removal, and/or replacement of sanitary sewer manholes and reconnection of side sewers (laterals) to new sewers was also completed.
- Phase 2 of the Original Project proposed open cut construction of approximately 1,200 lineal ft of 16-in.-diameter sanitary sewer main in Kent Avenue and Poplar Avenue, and 1,200 lineal ft of 24-in.-diameter and 110 lineal ft of 8-in.-diameter sanitary sewer mains in Shady Lane. Approximately 200 lineal ft of 8-in.-diameter sanitary sewer main was installed in Ross Common using horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Rehabilitation of approximately 1,520 lineal ft of 21-in.-diameter sanitary sewer mains was implemented using either the cured-in-place pipe method (CIPP; steam or UV cure) or foldable thermoplastic pipe (FP; “fold-and-form”) method. In addition, the Original Project also proposed the construction of a double-barrel inverted siphon in Shady Lane under Ross Creek, which entails installation of 6-in.- and 18-in.-diameter HDPE sewer mains inside a 36-in.-diameter steel casing installed by jack and bore, to connect the siphon pipes to existing sewers, and open cut construction of a short 20-in.-diameter air jumper. The construction, removal, and/or replacement of sanitary sewer manholes and reconnection of side sewers (laterals) to new sewers was also completed.

Modified Project Overview and Purpose

The Shady Lane Sewer Removal Project (Modified Project) addresses the Shady Lane portion of the Original Project (Phase 2) at Ross Creek under the Shady Lane Bridge. The District is undertaking voluntary action to remove the abandoned sewer pipe and concrete casing that traverses Ross Creek. The primary pipe rehabilitation method was CIPP, and the replacement/upsized method was pipe bursting. A steel casing was installed underneath Ross Creek just upstream of the Shady Lane Bridge using bore-and-jack method, with no direct disturbance to the creek bed or banks. This segment of the new sewer line replaced an exposed 21-in. reinforced concrete sewer line that was then abandoned in place within the Ross Creek channel, which remains in place today. The abandoned sewer pipe and concrete casing is a partial barrier to juvenile Coho salmon migration. The Ross Creek channel bed will be restored and will be replaced with a constructed riffle comprised of engineering stream bed material.

The total area disturbed is 0.06 acres. Approximately 30 cubic yards of abandoned 21-in. reinforced concrete pipe and will be removed from the channel bed. Excavation depth at the sewer line will be approximately 4 ft. Approximately 620 ft² of existing channel bed materials will be excavated to prepare for the constructed riffle. Excavation depth at the channel bed will be approximately 3 ft. Native channel bed materials will be excavated and stockpiled for use in the constructed riffle. Any non-natural materials, such as asphalt, will be removed from the stockpile.

Following the demolition, engineered stream bed material (including boulders and cobbles) will be imported and staged under the bridge and below the former sewer crossing. The exposed subgrade will be compacted prior to the installation of the engineered stream bed materials. Imported rock will be installed along with the native bed materials stockpiled onsite. The Contractor, under the direction of the design team, will construct the riffle in layers using the stockpiled boulders, cobbles, and salvaged bed materials.

The area adjacent to the sewer line, and the construction access corridor, will be cleared and grubbed of invasive species. Existing streambank vegetation is currently dominated by English ivy and will be replaced by locally sourced box elder, California buckeye, western thimbleberry, and red flowering currant. A total of 775 ft² of planted banks will receive 4 in. of mulch. All exposed soil surfaces outside of the active channel will be covered with a 100 percent biodegradable erosion control fabric and stapled in place, and two rows of wattles will be installed on the slope revegetated slopes.

Following the completion of the constructed riffle, the equipment will be removed from the channel bed. The access route will be restored with trees and shrubs and covered with erosion control fabric.

The Modified Project is anticipated to be begin in summer of 2021 completed by mid-October 2021.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

Adequate measures shall be taken to avoid inadvertent take of bird nests protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and State Fish and Game Code when in active use. This shall be accomplished by taking the following steps:

- If initial construction is proposed during the nesting season (March 1 to August 31), a focused survey for nesting raptors and other migratory birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to the onset of construction in order to determine whether any active nests are present in the area of potential effects (APEs) and surrounding area within 100 ft of proposed construction. The survey shall be re-conducted any time construction has been delayed or curtailed for more than 7 days during the nesting season.
- If no active nests are identified during the construction survey period, or development is initiated during the non-breeding season (September 1 to January 31), construction may proceed with no restrictions.
- If bird nests are found, an adequate setback shall be established around the nest location and construction activities restricted within this no-disturbance zone until the qualified biologist has confirmed that any young birds have fledged and are able to function outside the nest location. Required setback distances for the no-disturbance zone shall be based on input received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and may vary depending on species and sensitivity to disturbance. As necessary, the no-disturbance zone shall be delineated if construction is to be initiated elsewhere in the APEs to make it clear that the area should not be disturbed.
- A report of findings shall be prepared by the qualified biologist and submitted to the RVSD or designated agent for review and approval prior to initiation of construction during the nesting season (March 1 to August 31). The report shall either confirm absence of any active nests or should confirm that any young are located within a designated no-disturbance zone and construction can proceed. No report of findings is required if construction is initiated during the non-nesting season (September 1 to January 31) and continues uninterrupted according to the above criteria.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (New)

Adequate measures shall be taken to avoid inadvertent take of steelhead, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, giant salamander, and any other aquatic special-status animal species that could use the project reach of Ross Creek. This shall be accomplished by taking the following steps:

- A qualified biologist shall be retained by the applicant to oversee construction and ensure that no inadvertent take of steelhead and other aquatic-dependent special-status animal species occurs as a result of project construction.
- Construction shall be restricted to the dry season, with no construction equipment allowed into the project reach until surface waters are no longer present, sometime during the period of June 15 to October 15.
- Prior to any grading or grubbing of the study area, the qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey to confirm that surface water is no longer present in the project reach and that individual aquatic-dependent special-status animal species are absent.
- All construction workers shall be trained by the qualified biologist regarding the potential presence of steelhead and other aquatic-dependent special-status species prior to initiating any construction, and instructed that these species be avoided, that the foreman must be notified if any individuals are seen, and that construction shall be halted until the qualified biologist arrives and makes a determination on possible presence. If any listed species are observed or suspected, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW shall be consulted prior to proceeding with construction, and additional appropriate protocols for species protection shall be developed and implemented.
- The qualified biologist shall train an onsite monitor (such as the construction foreman) in how to identify steelhead and other aquatic-dependent special-status animal species and the procedures to follow as part of construction monitoring. The qualified biologist shall visit the site at least once a week during construction and confer with the trained onsite monitor.
- During construction, any man-made holes or trenches greater than 6 in. in the project reach shall be covered with plywood or similar non-heat conductive materials and ramp installed in larger trenches that cannot be readily covered at end of each work day to allow escape of any animals.
- Use of monofilament plastic for erosion control or other practices shall be prohibited on the site to prevent possible entrainment.
- All food waste shall be removed daily from the site to avoid attracting predators.

Any subsequent recommendations made by the USFWS and CDFW shall be followed. Only an agency-approved biologist is allowed to handle or otherwise direct movement of State or federally listed species, and all others shall not handle or otherwise harass the animal. The qualified biologist and the onsite monitor shall be aware of all terms and conditions set by USFWS and CDFW on the project.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1

Prior to project implementation a Cultural and Tribal Monitoring Plan (Plan) will be prepared by a qualified archaeological consultant. The Plan will discuss the monitoring procedures, field methods, communication protocols, and inadvertent discovery actions to be taken in the event cultural resources are identified during monitoring and/or any project activities. The Plan will be developed in coordination with FIGR.

Monitoring is recommended in work areas where native soils will be disturbed in work planned in the Ross Creek Channel.

In addition, the creek banks and adjacent flats will be re-surveyed by representatives of FIGR and the archaeological consultants following pre-construction vegetation removal.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2

Construction crews shall be trained in “basic archaeological identification” and have access to an Alert Sheet. The Alert Sheet shall photographically depict shell midden and associated indicators of prehistoric archaeological sites, and clearly outline the procedures in the event of new archaeological discovery. These procedures include temporary work stoppage (Stop Work Order) of all ground disturbance, short-term physical protection of artifacts and their context, and immediate advisement of the archaeological team and RVSD representatives. Any Stop Work Order will contain a description of the work to be stopped, special instructions or requests for the Contractor, suggestions for efficient mitigation, and a time estimate for the work stoppage. The archaeologist shall notify the FIGR, examine the findings and assess their significance, and offer recommendations for any procedures deemed appropriate to further investigate and/or mitigate adverse impacts to those cultural resources that have been encountered.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3

Upon discovery, the Coroner Division of the Marin County Sheriff’s Office will be contacted for identification of human remains. The Coroner has 2 working days to examine the remains after being notified.

If the remains are Native American, the Coroner must notify the NAHC of the discovery within 24 hours. The NAHC will then identify and contact a Most Likely Descendant

(MLD). The MLD may make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the remains and grave goods. Once proper consultation has occurred, a procedure that may include the preservation, excavation, analysis, and curation of artifacts and/or reburial of those remains and associated artifacts will be formulated and implemented.

If the remains are not Native American, the Coroner will consult with the archaeological research team and the lead agency to develop a procedure for the proper study, documentation, and ultimate disposition of the remains. If a determination can be made as to the likely identity—either as an individual or as a member of a group—of the remains, an attempt should be made to identify and contact any living descendants or representatives of the descendant community. As interested parties, these descendants may make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the remains and grave goods. Final disposition of any human remains or associated funerary objects will be determined in consultation between RVSD and FIGR.