



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director

Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director

Published April 15, 2022

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED NORTH FORK RANCH FROST PONDS PROJECT

Case No. 16CUP-00000-00005
County EIR# 21EIR-00000-00002
SCH# 2017061009

INTRODUCTION: Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) has revised the October, 2021, Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) prepared for the North Fork Ranch Frost Ponds Project (Project). A Revised Draft EIR has been prepared to include evaluations of the Project's potential impacts to **cultural and tribal cultural resources, geologic processes, and water quality**. These environmental issue areas were not included in the October, 2021, Draft EIR because the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration dated August 1, 2018, prepared for the Project determined that its potentially significant impacts related to cultural and tribal cultural resources, geologic processes, and water quality would be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures. The potentially significant environmental impacts identified by the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration have been added to the Revised Draft EIR so that the EIR evaluates each of the proposed Project's potentially significant impacts.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Revised Draft EIR, Case Number 21EIR-00000-00002. You may submit written or oral comments to the planner identified below prior to **the close of the public comment period on May 30, 2022 at 5 p.m.**

PROJECT DETAILS: The project is a request by Brodiaea, Inc. (property owner/applicant), to consider Case Number 16CUP-00000-00005 for approval of a Minor Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the construction and operation of three water reservoirs and associated piping for frost protection at the North Fork Vineyard. Each reservoir would have a storage capacity of approximately 44-acre feet and would occupy an area of approximately five acres. A total of approximately 257,945 cubic yards of cut and fill grading would be required to construct all three proposed reservoirs.

Frost protection would be achieved by applying spray irrigation to existing grape vines when frost has the potential to damage the plants. Frost protection would generally be required during the months of February, March and April. The proposed reservoirs would be maintained at full capacity between February and April, and approximately three feet of water would be stored in the reservoirs between May and January. Water above three feet contained in the reservoirs after May 1 would be distributed

for vineyard irrigation. Water to be stored in the reservoirs would be supplied by existing agricultural wells located on the north side of State Highway 166. Water from the wells would be conveyed to the reservoirs using existing vineyard irrigation pipelines and proposed pipelines. The existing vineyard irrigation pipelines extend beneath State Highway 166 and throughout the existing vineyard. The proposed pipelines would convey water from the existing irrigation pipelines to each of the reservoirs, and would have a combined length of approximately 1,350 linear feet. Additional pipelines are proposed to convey water from each of the reservoirs to the vineyard's existing spray irrigation system. These pipelines would have a total length of approximately 976 feet. In total, the project would construct approximately 2,326 feet of new pipelines.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed reservoirs would be located on the south side of State Highway 166, between Cottonwood Canyon Road and Schoolhouse Canyon Road, approximately nine miles west of the community of New Cuyama, in the 5th Supervisorial District. The project property is identified as Assessor Parcel Number 147-020-045, which is 6,565 acres in size and zoned AG-II.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D prepared a Draft EIR pursuant to requirements of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D prepared an EIR for the proposed project due to the potential for its construction and operation to result in significant adverse environmental effects. The Draft EIR for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements for identified environmental issue areas. No potentially significant and unavoidable (Class I) impacts were identified. Potentially significant but mitigable (Class II) impacts were identified in the issue areas of: **Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Geologic Processes, Frost Pond Reservoir Flooding, Frost Pond Reservoir Groundwater Use, and Water Quality.** If the project description changes, P&D will require a re-evaluation to consider the changes. The re-evaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the EIR is not attached, the Draft EIR may be obtained and all documents referenced in the EIR may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara **OR** 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria **AND** on our website at: <https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/o9fp2865sykaqn98s0702plaa96xj7t5/folder/100124433786>. The EIR is also available for review at the Cuyama Branch Public Library located at 4689 Highway 166, New Cuyama.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Travis Seawards, Deputy Director, Development Review Division, at Planning & Development, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101; tseawards@countyofsb.org; or (805) 568-2518 prior to the **close of public comment on May 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** Please limit comments to environmental issues such as biology, cultural resources, water resources, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.