



WATER DEPARTMENT

212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ♦ 831-420-5200

City of Santa Cruz Water Department NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: Newell Creek Pipeline Improvement Project

The City of Santa Cruz as the Lead Agency has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Newell Creek Pipeline (NCP) Improvement Project (Proposed Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Proposed Project is located within Santa Cruz County along Graham Hill Road and within the San Lorenzo Valley area of Santa Cruz County east of Highway 9. The Proposed Project is located in the unincorporated area of the County, except for the southern portion of the NCP that extends onto the City's Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant (GHWTP) property, which is located within the City of Santa Cruz, but is surrounded by unincorporated lands. Both the existing NCP and the Proposed Project extend approximately 9 miles between GHWTP on the south and Newell Creek Dam, a City facility that impounds Loch Lomond Reservoir, on the north.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project consists of replacement of 8.75 miles of the existing NCP with a new 24-inch pipeline to address identified deficiencies in pipeline conditions and provide improved access for repairs and maintenance. The new pipeline generally would be installed within existing road pavement, road right-of-way (ROW), which includes road pavement and unpaved shoulders adjacent to the paved road, and/or City easements. The proposed northern NCP segment extends from the Newell Creek Access Road Bridge just south of Newell Creek Dam to the Felton Booster Pump Station (FBPS) at the intersection of Graham Hill Road and East Zayante Road, and generally follows the existing NCP alignment with a few minor realignments. The proposed southern NCP segment from the FBPS to the GHWTP generally includes a new pipeline alignment along Graham Hill Road, where the existing pipe in Pipeline Road in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park will be realigned into the public ROW. Other components of the Proposed Project include minor appurtenances, such as air release valves and isolation valves. Once the new pipeline is installed, the existing NCP generally would be abandoned in place.

Three pipeline sections have been identified for replacement in the near term: two sections along Graham Hill Road, comprising the entire southern segment that would replace the existing pipe through Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and a pipe section between Brackney Road and Glen Arbor Road in the northern segment. The engineering design phase for these pipe sections is underway, and construction is scheduled to commence in late 2022/early 2023 with an estimated construction schedule of about 24 months for the Graham Hill Road pipe sections and approximately 9 months for the Brackney pipe section. The remainder of the pipeline sections are expected to be constructed by 2032.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR found that construction of the Proposed Project may result in potentially significant environmental impacts in the following resource areas: biological resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; and noise and vibration, which would be reduced to less than significant with the

incorporation of mitigation measures, except that construction of the Proposed Project may result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to temporary construction noise.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS: One public information meeting regarding the Proposed Project and Draft EIR will be held at the following time:

- **Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM.**

To minimize exposure to COVID-19 and comply with social distancing guidelines, the meeting may be viewed remotely using the following sources:

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/SantaCruzWaterDepartment>

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83129055509>

To participate in the meeting via phone, please dial any of the following numbers: (346) 248-7799; (720) 707-2699; (253) 215-8782; (312) 626-6799; (646) 558-8656; (301) 715-8592.

Enter the Meeting ID (831 2905 5509) when prompted. When prompted for a participant ID, press #. If you wish to ask a question, press *9 on your phone to “raise your hand” when the meeting organizer calls for public participation. It will be your turn to speak when the meeting organizer unmutes you. You will hear an announcement that you have been unmuted.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the CEQA review process at the end of the meeting. Written comments on the Draft EIR can be submitted during the public review period per the instructions below.

REVIEW AND COMMENT: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is November 22, 2021 through January 5, 2022.

Comments on the Draft EIR must be received in writing by email or mail to the contact listed below by 5:00 PM on January 5, 2022. **Please include a return address and contact name.**

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Online review of the Draft EIR is encouraged. The Draft EIR and information on how to comment are available for review online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/waterenvdocs>.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR may be reviewed at the City of Santa Cruz Water Department Engineering Counter (212 Locust Street, Suite C in Santa Cruz) by appointment. Please email waterengineering@cityofsantacruz.com or call (831) 420-5210 to schedule an appointment.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR is also available at the libraries below; check with <https://www.santacruzpl.org/> or call (831) 427-7713 for library hours and document access information:

- Santa Cruz Public Library, located at 224 Church Street, in Santa Cruz
- Felton Branch Library, located at 6121 Gushee Street, in Felton