



Water and Resource Conservation

Kamie Loeser, Director

308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.538.4343
F: 530.538.3807

buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation
bcwater@buttecounty.net

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PALERMO CLEAN WATER CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation
Kamie Loeser, Director
308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965-3302
(530) 552-3590

PROJECT TITLE: Palermo Clean Water Consolidation Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Palermo, Butte County, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The unincorporated community of Palermo is located approximately five miles south of the City of Oroville. Palermo consists of approximately 490 parcels and a population of 5,000 residents and qualifies as a severely disadvantaged community. The proposed Palermo Clean Water Consolidation Project would allow Butte County to address the drinking water quality issues faced by the Palermo community. The County and South Feather Water and Power Agency (SFWPA) are pursuing 100% grant funding for the Palermo Clean Water Consolidation Project.

The majority of the parcels within the Palermo community are served by individual water wells for their potable water supply. In addition, all parcels are served by on-site septic systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. Flooding, high groundwater levels and continued septic system failures have resulted in cross contamination of the existing wells and possibly contamination of the groundwater aquifer.

The County would like to resolve these drinking water quality issues by reorganizing the remainder of the community of Palermo into the South Feather Water and Power Agency (SFWPA) surface water treated system. There are a total of 490 parcels within the Palermo Clean Water Consolidation project footprint of which 110 parcels currently receive treated surface water from the SFWPA. The remainder of the community within the proposed project limits relies on groundwater for residential use. The consolidation project would bring all parcels Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliant clean treated potable water to the community and eliminate any future potential health and safety issues. The Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation (BCDWRC) is the Lead Agency for this project.

FINDINGS/DETERMINATION: The County has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, with substantial

supporting evidence provided in the 2021 Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration. The County hereby prepares, and proposes to adopt, a Negative Declaration for this project.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A minimum 30-day public review period for the proposed Negative Declaration will commence no later than December 23, 2021 and end no earlier than January 21, 2022 for interested and concerned individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be received at the above address within the public review period. Copies of the proposed Negative Declaration are available for review at the County Department of Water & Resource Conservation (at the address below). The Draft Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration is also available on the Butte County website at: https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Palermo_Clean_Water

The Draft Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration will also be available for review at the following location: Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation, 308 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965 (Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:00PM).

PUBLIC HEARINGS: The proposed project will require approval from the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors' review of the proposed project is scheduled for February 8, 2022 at 9:00 am. The Board of Supervisors normally meets at the Butte County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:00AM. The Board's review of the proposed project will appear on the February 8, 2022 meeting agenda.