

Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration



A Notice of Intent (NOI) for a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Freedom Bridge Removal Project was distributed on April 4, 2022, which started a 30-day public review and comment period. This notice is to announce that the comment period, which was initially set to end on May 3, 2022, has been extended to conclude at 5 p.m. on May 10, 2022.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.), an Initial Study of the Freedom Bridge Removal Project was prepared to evaluate environmental impacts. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a MND is the appropriate level of review. This is a NOI to adopt an MND for this project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15072.

Project Title: Freedom Bridge Removal Project

Project Description: The Freedom Bridge Removal Project (Project) involves removal of an existing pedestrian bridge across San Tomas Aquino Creek and associated structures. Valley Water and Intel's lease agreement was extended to October 2022 to allow Intel to remove the Freedom Bridge. Project implementation has been divided into two phases: Phase I, which includes the removal of the existing bridge structure and Phase II, which includes the removal of bridge abutments and associated re-grading and re-paving of the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail and the Valley Water levee maintenance road in the vicinity of the abutments. The Freedom Bridge is an approximately 125-foot long steel beam span bridge resting on concrete abutments built on constructed levee slopes. The paved San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail is located on the western side of the bridge, and a Valley Water levee maintenance road is located on the eastern side.

Project Location: The Project is located on San Tomas Aquino Creek in the City of Santa Clara, between Mission College Boulevard and Highway 101.

Public Review: The Draft MND will be available for public review from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** weekdays at the Valley Water Headquarters Building (5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118) starting April 4, 2022. A copy of the Draft MND will also be available at the Central Park Library reference desk (2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051). The Draft MND can also be accessed online at: **<https://www.valleywater.org/public-review-documents>**. The public comment period on the Draft MND closes at 5 p.m. on May 10, 2022.

Contact: Comments on the Draft MND should be submitted via mail or electronically, by **5 p.m. on May 10, 2022 (extended from May 3, 2022)** to:

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attention: Abby Annicchiarico
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
aannicchiarico@valleywater.org

For further information, please contact **Abby Annicchiarico** at **408-630-2456**, or by email at **aannicchiarico@valleywater.org**.