

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

**TO:**

Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**FROM:**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 I Street 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:** 2022060566

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 4410010-003C

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant Facility Improvements Project (Project)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project is located throughout the City of Santa Cruz, within Santa Cruz County.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is a Responsible Agency for the Project. The State Water Board is funding the Project referred to internally as Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant Facility Improvements Project. The Project would replace and substantially upgrade the majority of the existing water treatment processes at the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant (GHWTP) and associated infrastructure. The Project would include solids dewatering to allow for more efficient separation and disposal of solids that are removed from the raw water during the treatment process. Upgrades to the chemical feed systems would also be included as well as a replacement wash water supply tank, a new ozone contactor, pre-treatment processes, granular activated carbon contactors, and recycled water clarifiers.

The Project includes demolition of the operation and filter building, water treatment facilities (e.g., sedimentation basins), and infrastructure, as needed to address facilities beyond their useful life or to accommodate new facilities.

Also, the Project involves new and upgraded buildings including a new administration building and/or operations building, new maintenance building, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements, replacement or upgrade of the filter gallery building, and new ozone, solids dewatering, and chemical storage facilities. These activities would occur on the GHWTP parcel.

The Project includes infrastructure and site improvements including piping and storm water management improvements; electrical, and Supervisory Control and Data

Acquisition (SCADA) improvements; vehicular access improvements; landscaping improvements; and may include fencing and site security. These activities would occur within the utility corridor, Graham Hill Road right-of-way and the alternate sanitary sewer lateral improvement area.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT AND CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** The State Water Board has considered the Environmental Impact Report as prepared by the Lead Agency. The State Water Board has approved funding for the Project described above on February 14, 2025. The City of Santa Cruz will be carrying out the Project. The State Water Board has made the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determinations regarding the Project:

1. The Project will have a significant effect on the environment. The Project will not have a significant effect on water quality impacts. This determination is limited to effects on water quality under the State Water Board's jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared and certified for the Project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of approval of the Project.
4. A mitigation monitoring and reporting plan/program was adopted for the Project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the Project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15091.

**LEAD AGENCY:** City of Santa Cruz

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Sarah Easley Perez

**PHONE NUMBER:** (831) 420-5327

Records of the financing approval and an analysis of environmental alternatives for the Project are available to the general public upon request at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. The Environmental Impact Report is available from the Lead Agency.

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Environmental Scientist  
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