

## **ADDENDUM TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 GRAVITY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FINAL INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This environmental document is an addendum to the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project (Approved Project) Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (dated September 2022), State Clearinghouse No. 2022070130, by the Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD). The IS/MND was adopted by the RVSD on September 21, 2022. Amendments to the Final IS/MND<sup>1</sup> for the Approved Project are necessary to address the addition of a sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo in need of imminent repair. These changes and additions to the Approved Project have necessitated further environmental review. As demonstrated in this addendum, the IS/MND continues to serve as the appropriate document addressing the environmental impacts of these improvements pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **Background of Approved Project**

The IS/MND was prepared to address construction-level impacts to the construction and rehabilitation of sanitary sewer mains and related appurtenances within the unincorporated community of Sleepy Hollow, the Town of San Anselmo, the unincorporated communities of Greenbrae and Kentfield, and the City of Larkspur, located within the County of Marin (see Figures 1-2a and 1-2b in the IS/MND). Components of the Approved Project include:

- Sleepy Hollow: Replacing approximately 1,554 linear ft of existing 6-inch (in.) vitrified clay pipe (VCP) with 8-in. high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe via pipe bursting methods. No work would occur on the bridge located at Deer Hollow Road. Work would include:
  - Baltus Lane segment: Removing one existing sanitary sewer cleanout and replacing it with a new sanitary sewer manhole.
  - Deer Hollow Road segment: Constructing one new manhole in order to pipe burst downstream of the Deer Hollow Bridge, towards Butterfield Road. No

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<sup>1</sup> Integral. 2022. Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project (#953), Various Communities in Marin County, CA. Prepared for Ross Valley Sanitary District, San Rafael, CA. Integral Consulting Inc., Santa Rosa, CA. September.

work would occur on the bridge, and pipe bursting would continue upstream of the bridge until the end of the segment. Additionally, one existing sanitary sewer cleanout would be removed and replaced with a new sanitary sewer manhole.

- San Anselmo: Replacing approximately 2,125 linear ft of existing 6-in. VCP with 8-in. HDPE pipe via pipe bursting methods. Additional work would include:
  - The Alameda segment: Removing five existing sanitary sewer cleanouts and replacing four of the cleanouts with new sanitary sewer manholes.
- Greenbrae: Replacing approximately 1,219 linear ft of existing 6-in. VCP with 8-in. HDPE pipe via pipe bursting methods.
- Kentfield: Replacing approximately 1,575 linear ft of existing 6-in. VCP with 8-in. HDPE pipe via pipe bursting methods. Additional work would include:
  - Oak Avenue segment: Removing two existing sanitary sewer cleanouts and replacing one of the cleanouts with a new sanitary sewer manhole.
- Larkspur: Replacing approximately 120 linear ft of existing 6-in. VCP with 6-in. HDPE pipe via pipe bursting methods.

The IS/MND evaluated potential environmental effects of the Approved Project on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. All potential impacts evaluated and identified in the IS/MND were considered to be less than significant through implementation of mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND.

The following sections outline the changes to the Approved Project description and provide an analysis of the adequacy of the existing IS/MND in light of the changes to the Approved Project description consistent with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a).

## **Purpose of Addendum to the IS/MND**

When a proposed project changes or if there are changes in environmental setting, a determination must be made by the lead agency as to whether an addendum or subsequent environmental impact report (EIR) or MND is prepared. CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164 set forth criteria to assess which environmental document is appropriate. The criteria for determining whether an addendum or subsequent MND is prepared are outlined below. If the criteria below are true, then an addendum is the appropriate document:

- No new significant impacts will result from the project or from new mitigation measures.
- No substantial increase in the severity of environmental impact will occur.
- No new feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would reduce impacts previously found not to be feasible have, in fact, been found to be feasible.

Based upon the analysis provided below in the Environmental Analysis section, the changes to the project will not result in new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of impacts previously identified in the IS/MND, and there are no previously infeasible alternatives that are now feasible. None of the other factors set forth in Section 15162(a)(3) are present. Therefore, an addendum is appropriate, and this addendum has been prepared to address the environmental effects of the changes to the project.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The RVSD proposes revisions to the Approved Project analyzed in the IS/MND to address the addition of a sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo in need of imminent repair. The project, inclusive of the revisions, is herein referred to as the “Modified Project.”

The Modified Project is similar in nature to the Approved Project as described in the project description of the IS/MND, including the site setting, construction methods, construction staging, bypass pumping, site restoration, permits and project approvals, and control measures. The Modified Project entails the rehabilitation, within the existing alignment, of sanitary sewer mains and related appurtenances located within the Town of San Anselmo, which are in need of imminent repair. The Modified Project area encompasses approximately 0.04 acres. Approximately 1,922 linear ft of existing 6-in. VCP would be replaced 8-in. HDPE pipe via pipe bursting methods. Figures 1 and 2 show the location of the Modified Project.

Construction activities for the Modified Project are anticipated to be scheduled within the work duration discussed in the IS/MND. All construction activities are anticipated to be completed by March 2023. Work hours would generally be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; however, hours will be dependent on location-specific constraints.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The Modified Project does not significantly alter the findings within the IS/MND or require major revisions to the IS/MND. Therefore, the analysis of construction impacts has not changed from the information adopted in the IS/MND.

There are no changes to the impact analysis or findings in the IS/MND for any of the following environmental resource areas, based on the changes to the Modified Project described above:

- Aesthetics; agriculture and forestry; energy; geology and soils; greenhouse gas emissions; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; mineral resources; population and housing; public services; recreation; transportation; utilities and service systems; and wildfire.

Minor technical changes and revisions to the impact analyses in the IS/MND are necessary for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and tribal cultural resources to address the changes to the project description described above.

## **Air Quality**

The IS/MND identified less than significant impacts or no impacts due to air quality. However, due to the addition of the sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo, the significance criteria for air quality were re-evaluated.

Air quality attributable to construction associated with the Modified Project is similar to that described in Section 3 of the IS/MND. Construction activities of the Modified Project would result in temporary increases in air pollutant emissions through the rehabilitation and replacement of additional sewer line segments in San Anselmo. These emissions would be generated primarily from construction equipment exhaust, earth disturbance, and construction worker and other construction-related vehicle trips to and from the Project areas. The same types of sensitive receptors the Approved Project analyzed are present in the Modified Project area. During construction, the Modified Project would expose additional sensitive receptors (i.e., residences) to exposure to diesel emissions from diesel-powered construction equipment associated with Modified Project construction activities and diesel trucks while at the Modified Project site. However, the Modified Project is not expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations for the following reasons:

- Minor amounts of soil excavation would occur on a daily basis.
- A limited number of construction vehicles or equipment would operate at any time.
- The Modified Project activities are short-term and would occur within the same time frame as identified in the IS/MND (the entire project duration would last 5 months or less).
- Combustion emissions from vehicles and equipment are below the significance thresholds from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) guidelines. The same type of equipment and vehicle operations would be used, as described in the IS/MND. The estimated emissions for the Approved Project are

below significance thresholds listed in the BAAQMD guidelines. The average daily emissions of the Modified Project would not increase from the Approved Project.

Since emissions from gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment are below significance thresholds, and fugitive dust emissions would be controlled with Control Measures listed in Attachment D of the IS/MND under "Air Quality" and "Dust Control," which are consistent with BAAQMD-recommended control methods for particulate emissions, the Modified Project would not result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.

## Biological Resources

The IS/MND identified less than significant impacts with mitigation or no impacts for biological resources. However, due to the addition of the sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo, the significance criteria for biological resources were re-evaluated.

The biological resources associated with the Modified Project are similar to those described in Section 4 of the IS/MND. Vegetation communities present in the Modified Project study area were classified based on existing plant community descriptions described in the California Native Plant Society Online Manual of California Vegetation. These communities are detailed below:

- Urban/Developed: The Modified Project site consists largely of urban and developed areas that are mostly composed of hardscape associated with paved roadways, driveways, and buildings often in association with a vegetation cover of tree grove, street strip, shade tree/lawn, lawn, and shrub cover that consist primarily of non-native landscape species. These vegetative communities are frequented by humans and pets and offer very little food, shelter, and breeding habitat for terrestrial wildlife species other than generalist species adapted to living in urban environments such as striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and racoon (*Procyon lotor*).
- Mixed Oak Woodland: The Modified Project site also includes limited areas containing mixed mature oak woodlands characterized by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and occasional valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) among other non-oak tree species. The understory is composed of annual grassland species with few shrubs. This community includes a few snags and mostly mature oaks. The Modified Project segment is in close proximity to residences, depending on the density of houses, and has urban/developed vegetation communities intermixed with mixed oak woodland.

No additional sensitive vegetation communities or special-status species plants or wildlife species were identified in the Modified Project area. The mitigation measures listed below and Control Measures described in Appendix D of the IS/MND under "Site Management

Practices” and “Stormwater and Erosion Control” along with Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will continue to be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts from the Modified Project. No new mitigation is required.

### **Mitigation Measure BIO-1**

Adequate measures shall be taken to avoid inadvertent take of bird nests protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and California Fish and Game Code when in active use. This shall be accomplished by taking the following steps:

- If initial construction is proposed during the nesting season (March 1 to August 31), a focused survey for nesting raptors and other migratory birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to the onset of construction in order to determine whether any active nests are present in the Project site and surrounding area within 250 ft of proposed construction. The survey shall be re-conducted any time construction has been delayed or curtailed for more than 7 days during the nesting season.
- If no active nests are identified during the construction survey period, or development is initiated during the non-breeding season (September 1 to January 31), construction may proceed with no restrictions.
- If bird nests are found, an adequate setback shall be established around the nest location and construction activities restricted within this no-disturbance zone until the qualified biologist has confirmed that any young birds have fledged and are able to function outside the nest location. The size of the no-disturbance zone may be determined by the biologist based on species and proximity to activities, but should generally be between 50 ft for songbirds and up to 250 ft for nesting raptors. As necessary, the no-disturbance zone shall be delineated if construction is to be initiated elsewhere in the Project site to make it clear that the area should not be disturbed.
- A report of findings shall be prepared by the qualified biologist and submitted to the RVSD or designated agent for review and approval prior to initiation of construction during the nesting season (March 1 to August 31). The report shall either confirm absence of any active nests or confirm that any young are located within a designated no-disturbance zone and construction can proceed. No report of findings is required if construction is initiated during the non-breeding season (September 1 to January 31) and continues uninterrupted according to the above criteria.

### **Cultural Resources**

The IS/MND identified less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated for cultural resources. Due to the addition of the sewer line segment in the Town of San

Anselmo, the significance criteria for cultural resources were re-evaluated. Cultural Resources are discussed in Section 5 of the IS/MND.

An addendum to the Cultural Resources Inventory report for the Project was prepared by Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. (Far Western) in December 2022<sup>2</sup>. Because the report contains confidential information about the locations and characteristics of archaeological sites and tribal cultural resources, the technical report is not included in this addendum for public review, but can be made available to agencies and other professionals for review as necessary.

The Cultural Resources Inventory Addendum included a cultural resources records search, consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR), outreach with a local historical society, buried site sensitivity assessment, and a pedestrian survey of the Modified Project site. The results of the cultural study are summarized below:

- No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the Modified Project area as a result of the records search.
- No cultural resources were identified within the Modified Project area during the pedestrian survey, though ground surface visibility was generally poor, as the survey area is characterized as residential areas that have been drastically altered by residential development, road construction, and landscaping.
- The results of the buried site sensitivity assessment for the Modified Project area indicate that there may be moderate sensitivity for buried sites within the Modified Project area.

Due to the sensitivity of the Modified Project area for subsurface precontact archaeological resources and based on consultation with FIGR on November 16, 2022, the mitigation measures listed below (CUL-1, CUL-3, and CUL-4) will continue to be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts from the Modified Project. No new mitigation is required.

### **Mitigation Measure CUL-1**

Prior to project implementation, a Cultural and Tribal Resources Monitoring Plan (Plan) will be prepared by a qualified archaeological consultant. The Plan will discuss monitoring procedures, field methods, communication protocols, and inadvertent discovery actions to be taken in the event cultural resources are identified during monitoring and/or any project activities. The Plan will be developed in coordination with FIGR. Archaeological and tribal

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<sup>2</sup> Far Western. 2022. Cultural Resources Inventory Addendum for the Ross Valley Sanitary District 22-23 Gravity Sewer Projects, Marin County, California. Prepared for Integral Consulting Inc., San Francisco, CA. Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. December 6.

monitors will be present during project implementation to oversee and observe the activities during ground disturbances.

### **Mitigation Measure CUL-3**

Construction crews shall be trained in “basic archaeological identification” and have access to an Alert Sheet. The Alert Sheet shall photographically depict shell midden and associated indicators of prehistoric archaeological sites, and clearly outline the procedures in the event of new archaeological discovery. These procedures include temporary work stoppage (Stop Work Order) of all ground disturbance, short-term physical protection of artifacts and their context, and immediate advisement of the archaeological team and RVSD representatives. Any Stop Work Order would contain a description of the work to be stopped, special instructions or requests for the Contractor, suggestions for efficient mitigation, and a time estimate for the work stoppage. The archaeologist shall notify the tribal representative, examine the findings and assess their significance, and offer recommendations for any procedures deemed appropriate to further investigate and/or mitigate adverse impacts to those cultural resources that have been encountered.

### **Mitigation Measure CUL-4**

Upon discovery, the Coroner Division of the Marin County Sheriff’s Office will be contacted for identification of human remains. The Coroner has 2 working days to examine the remains after being notified.

If the remains are Native American, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) of the discovery within 24 hours. The NAHC will then identify and contact a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD may make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the remains and grave goods. Once proper consultation has occurred, a procedure that may include the preservation, excavation, analysis, and curation of artifacts and/or reburial of those remains and associated artifacts will be formulated and implemented.

If the remains are not Native American, the Coroner will consult with the archaeological research team and the lead agency to develop a procedure for the proper study, documentation, and ultimate disposition of the remains. If a determination can be made as to the likely identity—either as an individual or as a member of a group—of the remains, an attempt should be made to identify and contact any living descendants or representatives of the descendant community. As interested parties, these descendants may make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the remains and grave goods. Final disposition of any human remains or associated funerary objects will be determined in consultation between RVSD and FIGR.



## **Noise**

The IS/MND identified less than significant impacts or no impacts due to noise. However, due to the addition of the sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo, the significance criteria for noise were re-evaluated.

Noise attributable to construction associated with the Modified Project is similar to that described in Section 13 of the IS/MND. Construction activities of the Modified Project would generate noise and vibration through the rehabilitation and replacement of additional sewer line segments in San Anselmo. The same types of sensitive receptors the Approved Project analyzed are present in the Modified Project area. During construction, the Modified Project would expose additional sensitive receptors (i.e., residences) than described for the Approved Project in the IS/MND. Although affecting a greater number of sensitive receptors, the amount of noise generated by construction activities would be the same as described in the IS/MND for the Approved Project.

An encroachment permit will be required before the start of Modified Project activities and the Contractor will be required to comply with all conditions set forth in the permit and RVSD standards, including notification of nearby residents. Contractors will adhere to the Town of San Anselmo noise regulations, Chapter 7, Article 2, Section 4-7.203 Construction and Demolition, as stated in the IS/MND. Construction noise may result in a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Modified Project vicinity as well as groundbourne vibration or groundbourne noise levels above levels existing without the Project. However, this impact would be considered less than significant with the implementation of the Control Measures listed in Attachment D of the IS/MND under “Noise” and “Ground Movement Monitoring.”

## **Tribal Cultural Resources**

The IS/MND identified less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated for tribal cultural resources. Due to the addition of the sewer line segment in the Town of San Anselmo, the significance criteria for tribal cultural resources were re-evaluated. Tribal cultural resources are discussed in Section 18 of the IS/MND.

As discussed above under “Cultural Resources,” an addendum to the Cultural Resources Inventory report for the Project was prepared by Far Western in December 2022.

The Cultural Resources Inventory Addendum included a cultural resources records search, consultation with the FIGR, outreach with a local historical society, buried site sensitivity assessment, and a pedestrian survey of the Modified Project site.

Consultation with the FIGR for the Approved Project occurred on August 8, 2022, and was concluded in agreement with the RVSD. A follow-up meeting was held on November 16,

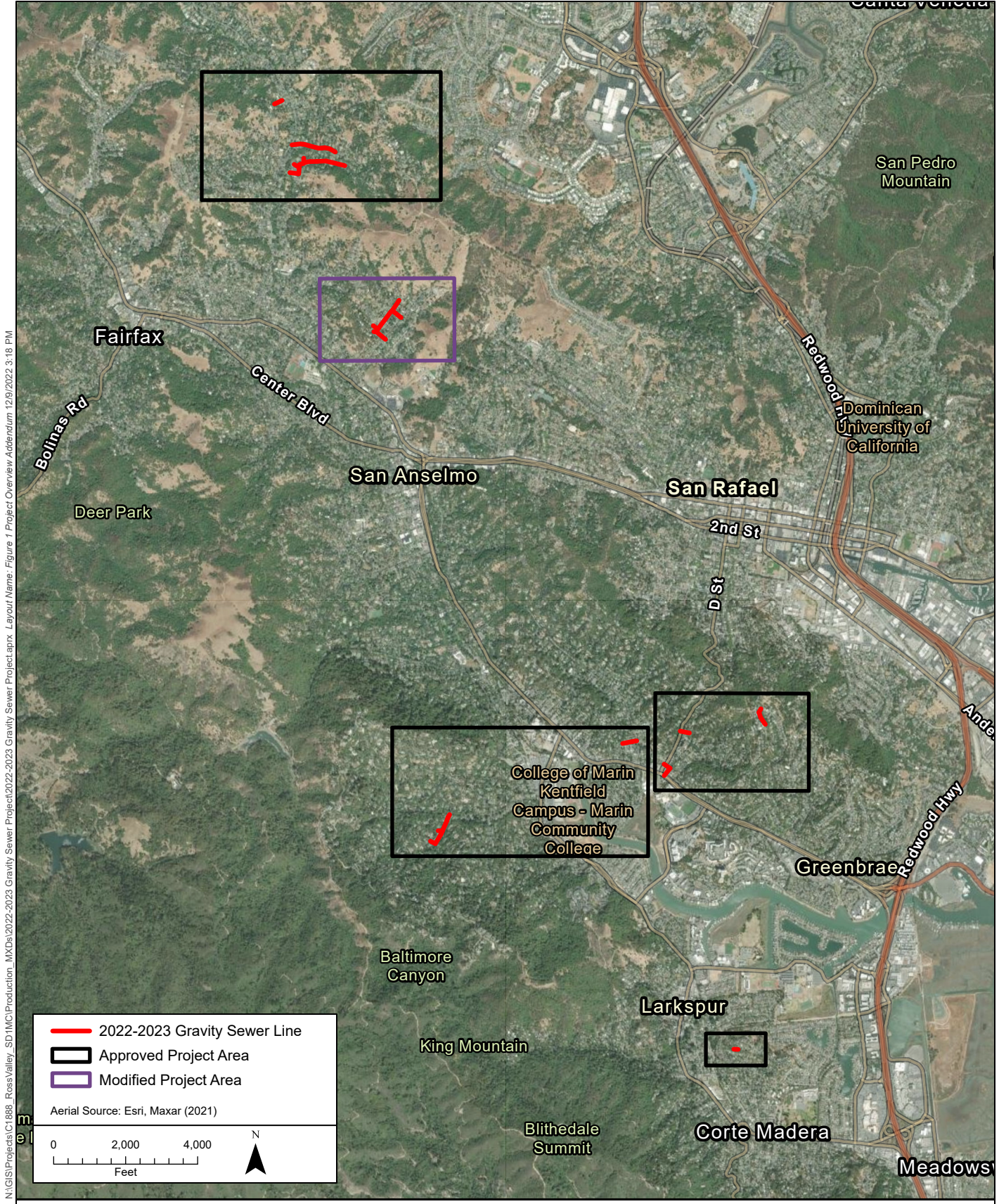
2022, between FIGR, Integral, and Far Western to discuss the Modified Project. As a result of this meeting, mitigation measures CUL-1, CUL-3, and CUL-4 will continue to be implemented to reduce significant impacts to a less than significant level. Any changes to the segment design would be discussed in advance with Far Western, RVSD, and FIGR.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The minor technical changes and additions described above do not affect the mandatory findings of significance presented in the IS/MND. The RVSD will implement the mitigation measures for biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources presented in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to ensure that the project's impacts remain below levels considered significant. The impact determinations would remain consistent with those presented in the IS/MND. None of the factors listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) are present; therefore, this addendum to the IS/MND is an appropriate level of environmental review for the proposed project changes, as identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

## **Figures**

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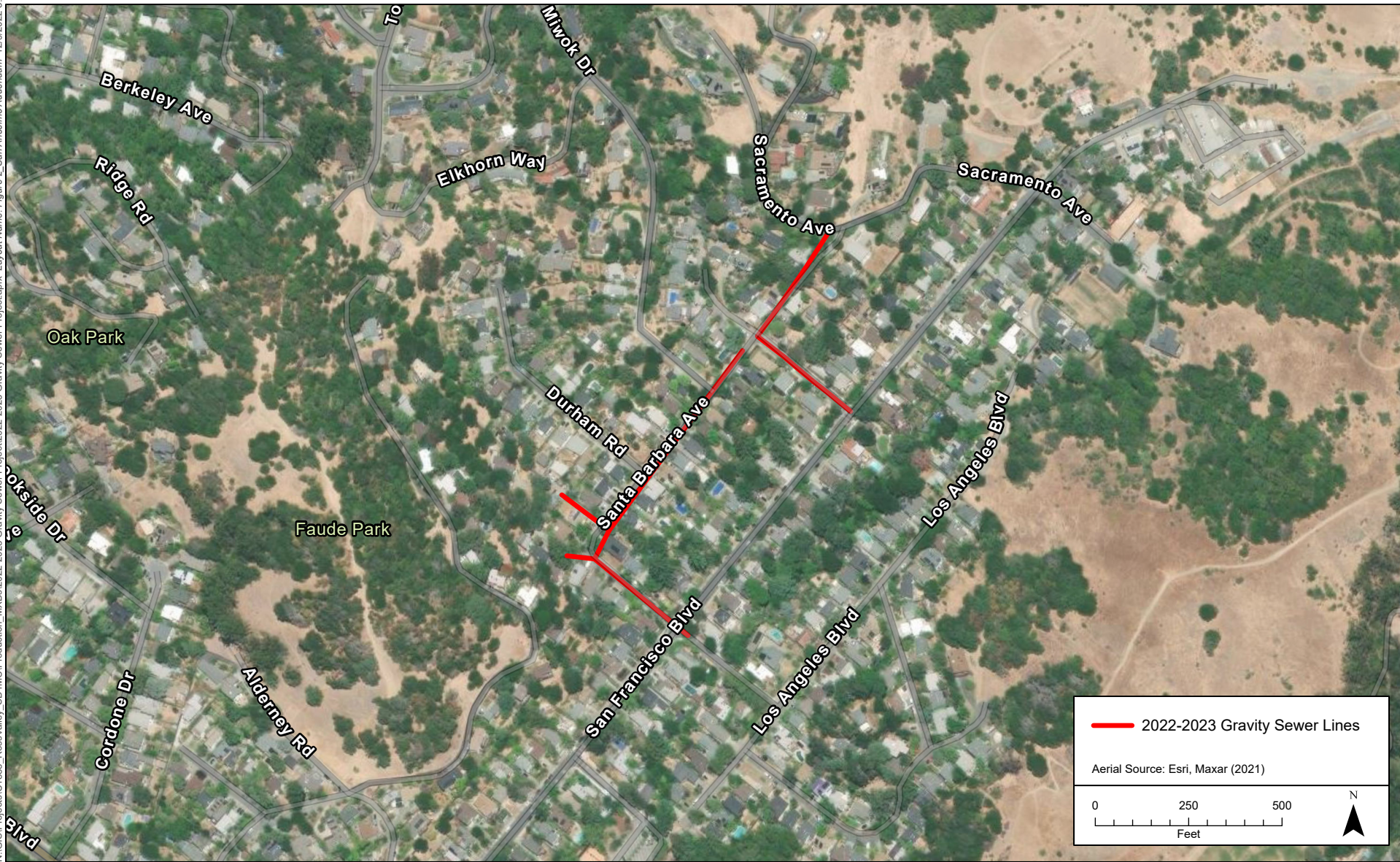


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**Figure 1.**  
 Project Location Map Overview  
 Addendum to the 2022-2023 Gravity Sewer Improvements  
 Project  
 Ross Valley Sanitary District

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**Figure 2.**  
Project Location Map – San Anselmo  
Addendum to the 2022-2023 Gravity Sewer Improvements  
Project  
Ross Valley Sanitary District