

**Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the LAGUNA-MARK WEST CREEK WATERSHED MASTER RESTORATION PLANNING
PROJECT – HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT****Posted: February 22, 2023****Public Review Period: February 23, 2023, to March 27, 2023**

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Laguna-Mark West Creek Watershed Master Restoration Planning Project – High Priority Project (Proposed Project). Sonoma Water has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and Sonoma Water’s Procedures for Implementation of CEQA. This notice is to announce that the IS/MND is available for review by the public, agencies, and interested parties. Instructions for submitting comments on the document are included in this notice.

Project Location: The Proposed Project site encompasses approximately 119.43 acres along a 3,200-foot-long reach of the Laguna de Santa Rosa (Laguna) between the confluences of Santa Rosa and Mark West creeks, approximately five miles west of the City of Santa Rosa, in Sonoma County, California.

Project Description: The Proposed Project would restore a 3,200-foot-long reach of the Laguna and freshwater marsh, wet meadow, and riparian forest habitats on 119.43 acres along the Laguna. The Proposed Project site historically supported these habitat types prior to agricultural development. By realigning the Laguna channel to its historical path, the Proposed Project site would inundate more gradually during floods and drain slowly as floodwaters recede than under current conditions.

The restoration actions would consist of reestablishing the historic alignment of the Laguna, converting the existing engineered channel to a backwater, connecting two small east-west flowing tributary drainages to the new channel, and revegetation with native plants. The new channel and tributary connections would form a meandering stream configuration representative of the historic channel at the project site. The new channel and floodplain would be graded to inundate newly established wetland habitat types and to connect existing tributaries traversing the site. The Proposed Project would also include an access path to allow for trash and debris removal.

Materials: A copy of the IS/MND and supporting materials are available at the Sonoma Water administrative office at 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, California. The IS/MND is available online at: <https://www.sonomawater.org/environmental-documents>

Public Review: The 30-day public review on the IS/MND runs from February 23, 2023 to

March 27, 2023. Please include a name, address, and email address of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on March 27, 2023. Written comments may be addressed to: David Cook, Senior Environmental Specialist, Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019; or emailed to david.cook@scwa.ca.gov.

ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Tentative Adoption Schedule: Following the close of the IS/MND public review period, Sonoma Water's Board of Directors will consider adoption of the IS/MND. The project is scheduled for consideration and adoption by Sonoma Water's Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting beginning at **8:30 am on May 16, 2023**. Comments submitted during the IS/MND review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors.

Laguna-Mark West Master Restoration Plan, High Priority Project Site



Sonoma
Water



Project Area