

# PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

## City of Watsonville

### **Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) Zone 2 Water Reservoir and Booster Pump Station Modification Project**

The City of Watsonville (City) is releasing a Public Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) on the City's Proposed Zone 2 Water Reservoir and Booster Pump Station Modification Project (Project/Proposed Project). A copy of the IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at <https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/833/Projects>.

**Project Location, Purpose, and Description:** The City is located along the Monterey Bay between the City of Santa Cruz and the City of Monterey, in the County of Santa Cruz. The City lies in the heart of the Pajaro Valley, surrounded by prime agricultural land and wetlands. The Proposed Project is located adjacent to the City's Existing Zone 2 Water Storage Tank and the City of Watsonville Airport. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to construct a new tank for redundant storage for the City's Zone 2 area to help the City maintain and continue to provide its existing customers with safe and reliable water supply.

The City's Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a new up to 3 million-gallon (MG) 36.5-foot high and up to 121-foot diameter concrete above ground water storage tank at the site of the Watsonville Municipal Airport. The new tank will be sited next and adjacent to the City's existing 3 (MG) water storage tank and will provide the necessary back-up and emergency storage in the event of a catastrophic event such as an earthquake, drought or failure of the existing tank. The City's existing approximately 32-foot high 150-foot diameter steel tank is nearing the end of its useful life and based on 2014 and 2019 inspections is suffering from internal corrosion. As a result, the existing storage tank will soon need to be rehabilitated and/or replaced and the City cannot risk taking the existing tank out of service until a/the new tank is constructed. As a result, this Proposed Project is not to provide water supply for growth, but instead to continue to provide the City's existing customers with safe and reliable water supply.

**Significant Environmental Impacts:** Potentially significant environmental effects that were addressed in the Public Draft IS/MND include, but not limited to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology/water quality, and traffic and transportation, among others. All of the potential significant environmental impacts were found to be avoided or result in less than significant impacts with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Reviewers should focus on the content and accuracy of the Draft IS/MND in discussing potential impacts upon the environment and the mitigation measures.

**Public Review Period:** The Public Draft IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day review period, starting from **March 7 through April 7, 2023**. Persons responding are urged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments need to be delivered to the City, at the address listed below or by e-mail, by **no later than 5 p.m. on April 7, 2023**.

Beau Kayser, Water Division Manager  
City of Watsonville  
250 Main Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Beau.Kayser@cityofwatsonville.org  
Phone: (831) 768-3193

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Beau Kayser. Copies of the IS/MND are also available for review at the addresses below:

City of Watsonville  
250 Main Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076

City of Watsonville Library  
275 Main St., Suite 100  
Watsonville, CA 95076