

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

August 4 2023

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Co/Rt/Pm: SON/116/R12.118

Jeff Church, Senior Environmental Specialist
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Russian River County Sanitation District Headworks, Lift Stations, and Force mains Project – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Jeff Church:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system.

The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the June 2023 IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would include repairing and replacing existing components of the headworks at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), repairing and replacing existing components at the 11 lift stations, and replacing or rehabilitating sections of three existing force mains. Part of the project area is close to State Route (SR)-116.

Structure

Since Guerneville Bridge is a Registered Historic property, Caltrans should be contacted for review as needed. As-Builts and Inspection reports should be reviewed to evaluate any concerns and potential impact of this project on the Guerneville Bridge. Due to safety and environmental concerns, please identify if the bridge has lead paint. Specify how the pipes would be installed and their potential impacts on the bridge. Potential impacts due to construction loads should be evaluated,

including scaffolding, equipment, construction vehicles, boom truck, staging and stockpile. The applicant should evaluate if the bridge can support vehicles loads generated from this project and if the boom truck intended for personnel shown in Figure 11 could provide sufficient access on the bridge. Any corrosion issues on the bottom flange of girders should be identified.

As for the highway viaduct mentioned in page 24, please provide more information and/or graphics for this structure in the IS/MND. As-Builts and Inspection reports should be reviewed to evaluate any concerns and potential impact of this project on this structure. Two sewer pipes are supported on brackets/supports attached to columns. Please clarify if the supports need to be replaced and where the temporary pipes would be installed. Any potential access impacts on this structure should be identified. Potential impacts due to construction loads on the highway viaduct should be evaluated.

Please clarify if the Advanced Planning Study (APS) will be prepared in the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase and if any constructability review has been planned.

Construction-Related Impacts

Potential impacts to the State Right-of-Way (ROW) from project-related temporary access points should be analyzed. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)).

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Utilities

Any utilities that are proposed, moved or modified within Caltrans' ROW shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, Sonoma County Water Agency is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Encroachment Permit

This project may need to go through the Design Engineering Evaluation Report (DEER) process. Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. Any staging areas proposed within Caltrans' ROW may require a ROW Use Agreement and payment of fair market value. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating Caltrans' ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov. To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



YUNSHENG LUO
Acting District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse