



404 Aviation Boulevard
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Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the SANTA ROSA CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Posted: June 28, 2023

Public Review Period: June 29, 2023, to July 28, 2023

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Santa Rosa Creek Fish Passage Improvements Project (Proposed Project). Sonoma Water has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project in accordance with the 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 is located on Santa Rosa Creek at two locations in the City of Santa Rosa:

- The E Street Bridge Fishway Extension site is located at the intersection of E Street between Sonoma Avenue and Second Street within a developed commercial and residential area.
- The Melita Road Dam site is adjacent to Montgomery Drive at Melita Road.

Project Description: There are barriers to fish passage along Santa Rosa Creek at the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension and Melita Road Dam sites due to non-functioning structures and erosion. Additionally, site conditions limit regular maintenance at the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to improve fish passage, primarily for steelhead, over a broader range of flows at the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension and Melita Road Dam sites, address ongoing erosion to the right bank at the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension site, and improve access for and reduce the frequency and extent of channel maintenance needs to maintain fish passage through the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension site.

Proposed Project construction activities would include replacing and structurally improving the fishway extension, removing the existing trash rack and installing a system of improved trash racks installing grouted rock upstream of the fishway extension to

support the grouted rock weirs and fishway extension infrastructure, enhancing the right bank to address erosion, and constructing an access road for maintenance activities at the E Street Bridge Fishway Extension site. At the Melita Road Dam site, a series of non-grouted rock weir step pools would be installed below the dam site to facilitate fish passage.

Materials: A copy of the IS/MND and supporting materials is available at the Sonoma Water administrative office at 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403. 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 June 29 to July 28, 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 July 28, 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 a.m. on October 3, 2023**. Comments submitted during the Initial Study review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors.