



404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
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www.sonomawater.org

Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the SONOMA VALLEY COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT SYSTEM PROTECTION PLAN AT KOHLER & SONOMA CREEK CROSSINGS PROJECT

Posted: July 17, 2023

Public Review Period: July 18 to August 16, 2023

Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (District) is the Lead Agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District System Protection Plan at Kohler & Sonoma Creek Crossings Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is a sanitary sewer protection and streambank stabilization project. Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) manages the District. The District has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Proposed 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 is located primarily on residential private property at 13965 Arnold Drive, south of the town of Glen Ellen at the confluence of Sonoma Creek and Kohler Creek. Construction work would occur within and along the banks of Kohler and Sonoma creeks. Temporary construction, maintenance, and monitoring easements and new perpetual sewer easements would be required on private parcels surrounding the construction area.

Project Description: The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District System Protection Plan at Kohler & Sonoma Creek Crossings Project would implement permanent repairs along Kohler and Sonoma creeks and establish new and expanded easements to provide access along the pipeline routes for repair and maintenance purposes. Streambank erosion and downcutting at the site has exposed pipeline segments, and streambank erosion is migrating towards existing maintenance holes in both Kohler and Sonoma creeks. The District implemented emergency repairs at the project site in 2019 to prevent further bank erosion that could expose the sewer pipeline and cause sewage spills. These emergency repairs were considered a temporary means to slow the progression of streambank erosion until a permanent repair could be completed. The Proposed Project would implement the permanent repair.

The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District System Protection Plan at Kohler & Sonoma Creek Crossings Project would stabilize streambanks and channel beds along Kohler and Sonoma creeks using a combination of rock slope protection, fabric reinforced fill material (FREF),



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log/rootwad revetments, brush mattress, and native vegetation. In addition, the existing siphon across Sonoma Creek would be armored with large boulders to protect against scour. Site improvements would also include revegetation with native plants and installation of habitat improvement elements for California freshwater shrimp, steelhead, Chinook salmon, and other aquatic species in Sonoma Creek. Implementation would require new temporary and permanent sewer pipeline easements.

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

Public Review: The 30-day public review on the IS/MND runs from July 18, 2023 to August 16, 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 August 16, 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 Draft IS/MND public review period, the District's Board of Directors will consider adoption of the IS/MND. The project is scheduled for consideration and adoption by the District'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.