

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
for the Bonita Elementary School Drinking Water Improvements Project**

DATE: January 26, 2024

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: Santa Maria-Bonita School District

PROJECT TITLE: Bonita Elementary School Drinking Water Improvements Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed above pursuant to the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period from January 26, 2024, through 5:00 p.m. on February 26, 2024.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project site is located in an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County approximately 2.9 miles west of Santa Maria, California. The project site includes an approximately 8,100-linear-foot pipeline alignment that would extend from the terminus of a planned water main in Black Road located at the northeast corner of the City of Santa Maria's (City) Wastewater Treatment Plant (601 Black Road, Santa Maria), proceed north along Black Road, proceed west along State Route 166 (also known as West Main Street), proceed north on Bonita School Road, and connect to Bonita Elementary School at 2715 West Main Street, Santa Maria on Assessor's Parcel Number 113-050-007. The project site also includes portions of Bonita Elementary School that would be modified as part of the proposed project. See Figure 1 for a map of project components. No hazardous waste sites identified on lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 are present on the project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project consists of the connection of the City's water system to Bonita Elementary School via approximately 8,100 linear feet of a two-inch diameter service line from the planned terminus of the City's water system near the northeast corner of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to Bonita Elementary School. (The City is currently in the design phase of extending City water service to the Wastewater Treatment Plant separately from the proposed project.) To meet peak demand, fire flow requirements, and irrigation demand, the project would also include repurposing the existing on-site 10,000-gallon storage tank and wells at Bonita School and potentially adding a hydropneumatic tank (with a capacity up to approximately 1,000 gallons) with appurtenances such as an air compressor and additional above-grade piping and isolation valves. Minor piping modifications to the existing system would be required to disconnect the proposed potable, domestic supply from the existing system. In addition, the project would involve replacing lead service lines in the school's Building K. Other improvements would include installation of blowoffs along the pipeline and other appurtenances on Bonita Elementary School's property.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared for the project. The Initial Study describes the environmental impacts of the project and suggests mitigation measures where necessary to reduce impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation to less-than-significant levels. The proposed mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the project to ensure the project will not generate a significant adverse impact on the environment during construction and operation. Based on this assessment, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REVIEW:

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft IS-MND is available for public review for 30 days from January 26, 2024, through February 26, 2024, at:

- Santa Maria-Bonita School District Website
(<https://www.smbds.org/departments/maintenance-operations/forms-and-reports>)
- Santa Maria-Bonita School District Office during normal business hours (708 South Miller Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454)
- Bonita Elementary School during normal school hours (2715 West Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93458)

Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 26, 2024. Please address comments to:

Javier Cavazos, Coordinator of Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, Transportation
Santa Maria-Bonita School District
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, California 93454
or by email to: jcavazos@smbds.net

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District Board will hold a public hearing for the Draft IS-MND on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. at 708 South Miller Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454. Additional information on the meeting will be available online at:
<https://www.smbds.org/district/school-board/board-meetings-minutes-and-agendas>

Figure 1 Project Site Map



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2023.

21-11597 EPS
Fig 2 Project Components