

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Southeast Greenway Easement Agreement

Project Location- Specific: The project is located between Mayette Avenue and Hoen Avenue and follows a 1.9-mile linear path from Farmers Lane/Highway 12 to Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa, California.

Project Location – City: Santa Rosa

Project Location – County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) would execute an easement agreement with the City of Santa Rosa (City) to secure property rights for the existing Spring Creek Bypass flood control infrastructure and for a future reliability water transmission pipeline. The project would also allow the General Manager to execute an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City, in a form approved by County Counsel and to amend these agreements, if needed, to meet future project needs.

The land was previously owned by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and was intended to continue Highway 12 from Farmers Lane to connect Highway 12 near Spring Lake Park. In August 2014, Caltrans rescinded the property’s freeway designation, creating the opportunity for Caltrans to transfer the property for other public uses. The rescinded State Route 12 is currently undeveloped and owned by the City. The City, along with several partners, intends to develop the property, known as the Southeast Greenway Project, for several public uses, including a linear park with multi-use paths, picnic areas and playgrounds, and community gathering places.

The existing Spring Creek bypass flood control infrastructure was constructed, operated, and maintained under an encroachment permit from Caltrans on State Route Highway 12. This agreement would secure the fee easement over the existing alignment.

The agreement would also secure fee easement for a future reliability water transmission pipeline alignment within the Southeast Greenway Project area that would be subject to future evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec.21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301(b), Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: The execution of the agreement for acquisition of the easement would allow Sonoma Water to secure property rights for the existing Spring Creek Bypass flood control infrastructure and for a future reliability water transmission pipeline. Execution of the agreement for acquisition of fee easement for the existing Spring Creek Bypass flood control infrastructure has no possibility of having a significant effect on the environment. There would be no expansion of use beyond that currently existing. Project activities for the future reliability water transmission pipeline would be subject to future evaluation under CEQA. The project would not result in any significant adverse effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Connie Barton

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-547-1905

Signature  *General Manager* *Title* June 4, 2024 *Date*

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____