



# Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

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## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

### of a Draft Environmental Impact Report, Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties and Organizations

**Date:** April 4, 2025

**Project Title:** Chalk Hill Road Bridge Replacement Project

**Comment Period:** April 4, 2025, to May 5, 2025

**Scoping Meeting:** April 16, 2025, see location and time details below

**Lead Agency:** County of Sonoma

**Project Location:** Along Chalk Hill Road in unincorporated Sonoma County, approximately 1.25 miles south of Highway 128 (Refer to Figure 1)

**Lead Agency Contact:** Samuel Baumgardner-Kranz, PE  
Sonoma Public Infrastructure  
400 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Samuel.baumgardner-kranz@sonoma-county.org

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the County of Sonoma will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) includes a project description and an overview of the potential impacts that will be addressed in the Draft EIR. The County requests comments and guidance on the scope and content of the Draft EIR from responsible and trustee agencies, interested public agencies, organizations, and the general public in compliance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et seq.), and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3). In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a) and 15375, the County prepared and released this NOP of an EIR.

This NOP provides a brief description of the Chalk Hill Road Bridge Replacement Project (proposed project), the County's preliminary identification of the potential environmental issues to be analyzed in the EIR, and information on how to provide written comments and verbal comment (as part of a Public Scoping Meeting) on the scope of the EIR.

The County invites any and all input and comments regarding the preparation of the Draft EIR. If applicable, please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization. If your agency is a responsible agency as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15381, your agency may use the environmental documents prepared by the County when considering permits or approvals for actions regarding the project.

## ***Public Scoping Meeting***

The County will hold a public scoping meeting to provide an opportunity for agency staff and interested members of the public to submit verbal comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025**, at the following address:

Alexander Valley Community Hall  
5512 Highway 128  
Geyserville, CA 95441

If you have questions regarding this NOP or the scoping meeting, please contact Samuel Baumgardner at [samuel.baumgardner-kranz@sonoma-county.org](mailto:samuel.baumgardner-kranz@sonoma-county.org).

## ***Written Comments***

If applicable, please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization when submitting comments. Submit written comments to either of the below within 30 days of the date of this notice by 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2025:

Email: [samuel.baumgardner-kranz@sonoma-county.org](mailto:samuel.baumgardner-kranz@sonoma-county.org)  
Regular mail: Samuel Baumgardner-Kranz, PE  
Sonoma Public Infrastructure  
400 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

All commenters who provide an email address will be added to the Interested Parties List for future updates on the proposed project.

## ***Project Location***

The 6.38-acre project site is located along Chalk Hill Road approximately 1.25 miles south of State Route 128 within the eastern portion of Sonoma County (Figure 1. Project Location Map). The project site includes portions of Chalk Hill Road, Maacama Creek, and surrounding parcels (Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of the Project Site). The project site also includes an existing one-lane bridge that carries Chalk Hill Road over Maacama Creek, which is a historical landmark due to its age and unique character. The majority of the proposed right-of-way for bridge replacement work is located within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 132-080-023, with small portions crossing into APNs 132-060-013 and 132-080-003. Construction staging areas occur in APNs 132-060-013, 132-080-022, and 132-080-017.

The project site has a General Plan land use designation of Land Intensive Agriculture. The zoning designation is LIA (Land Intensive Agriculture) with a Scenic Resource (SR) combining zone along Chalk Hill Road, a Riparian Corridor (RC 100/50) and Oak Woodland (OAK) combining zone along Maacama Creek, and Historic District (HD) along the Chalk Hill Road bridge. APN 132-060-013 also has a Valley Oak Habitat (VOH) combining zone and an Accessory Dwelling Unit Exclusion (Z) combining zone.

## ***Project Background***

The existing bridge along Chalk Hill Road over Maacama Creek was constructed in 1915. Based on Caltrans Bridge Inspection Reports prepared in 2013, 2016, and 2017, the bridge is "scour critical" meaning that the bridge is highly vulnerable to "scour," defined as the erosion of sediment around the foundation of a structure by flowing water. Scour could potentially cause instability or failure of the bridge, especially during flood events.

Several methods were considered to rehabilitate the existing historic bridge. However, due to the extent of identified deficiencies requiring a degree of seismic retrofitting, the necessary improvements to the existing bridge would render it

unrecognizable, adversely impacting its historic features. Although some of the considered retrofit methods are feasible, it was determined that those methods would destroy the historic features of the bridge and render the structure functionally obsolete. Therefore, the purpose of the project is to ensure safe crossing for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians over Maacama Creek by replacing the existing bridge.

### ***Project Description***

The proposed project includes constructing a new replacement bridge then demolishing the existing bridge and installing scour countermeasures along the south creekbank.

The replacement bridge would be positioned downstream (west) of the existing bridge, crossing Maacama Creek with a single-span concrete box girder supported by reinforced concrete abutments. Retaining structures would be built along the west side of the bridge at the north approach roadway to minimize the take of farmland for new right-of-way. The replacement bridge would have two 11-foot lanes and two 6-foot shoulders for a total clear roadway width of 34 feet, which meets minimum American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials standards for an average daily traffic count of 400 to 1,500 trips and complies with the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for mixed-use.

The project would be constructed in two construction seasons. The first season would consist of construction site preparation, constructing the new bridge, installing retaining walls, configuring the approach roadways to the new bridge, and reconfiguring the Young Road and Chalk Hill Road intersection. The existing bridge would remain open during the first construction season to maintain traffic flows. Once the replacement bridge and new approach roadways are constructed, the traffic will be switched onto the new bridge at the end of the first construction season. The second season would consist of demolishing the existing bridge, installing scour countermeasures, and revegetating excavated areas with native vegetation.

Construction of the project would require access to the creek bed to create a stream diversion/fish channel, to construct temporary falsework to build the replacement bridge, to install slope stability tiebacks, to implement south creekbank stabilization, and to demolish the existing bridge. Once the dry season starts, the contractor would access the creek bed from three locations downstream of the existing bridge. Stream protections, including stormwater pollution prevention techniques, would be implemented at all access points.

### ***Project Alternatives***

The EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of project alternatives that, consistent with CEQA, meet most of the project objectives and reduce or avoid potential environmental effects, including a required No Project Alternative.

### ***Potential Permits and Entitlements***

Potential permits, approvals, and entitlements required for the project include:

- Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Clean Water Action Section 401 Water Quality Certification – North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement – California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Notice of Intent for coverage under the statewide Construction General Permit – State Water Resources Control Board
- Endangered Species Action Section 7 Biological Opinion – National Marine Fisheries Service
- Grading, building, and encroachment permits – Sonoma County
- Project approval – Sonoma County

### ***Potential Environmental Effects***

The County has determined that implementing the proposed project may result in significant environmental impacts; therefore, an EIR will be prepared. The EIR will address all environmental topic areas identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, with a particular focus on the following topic areas:

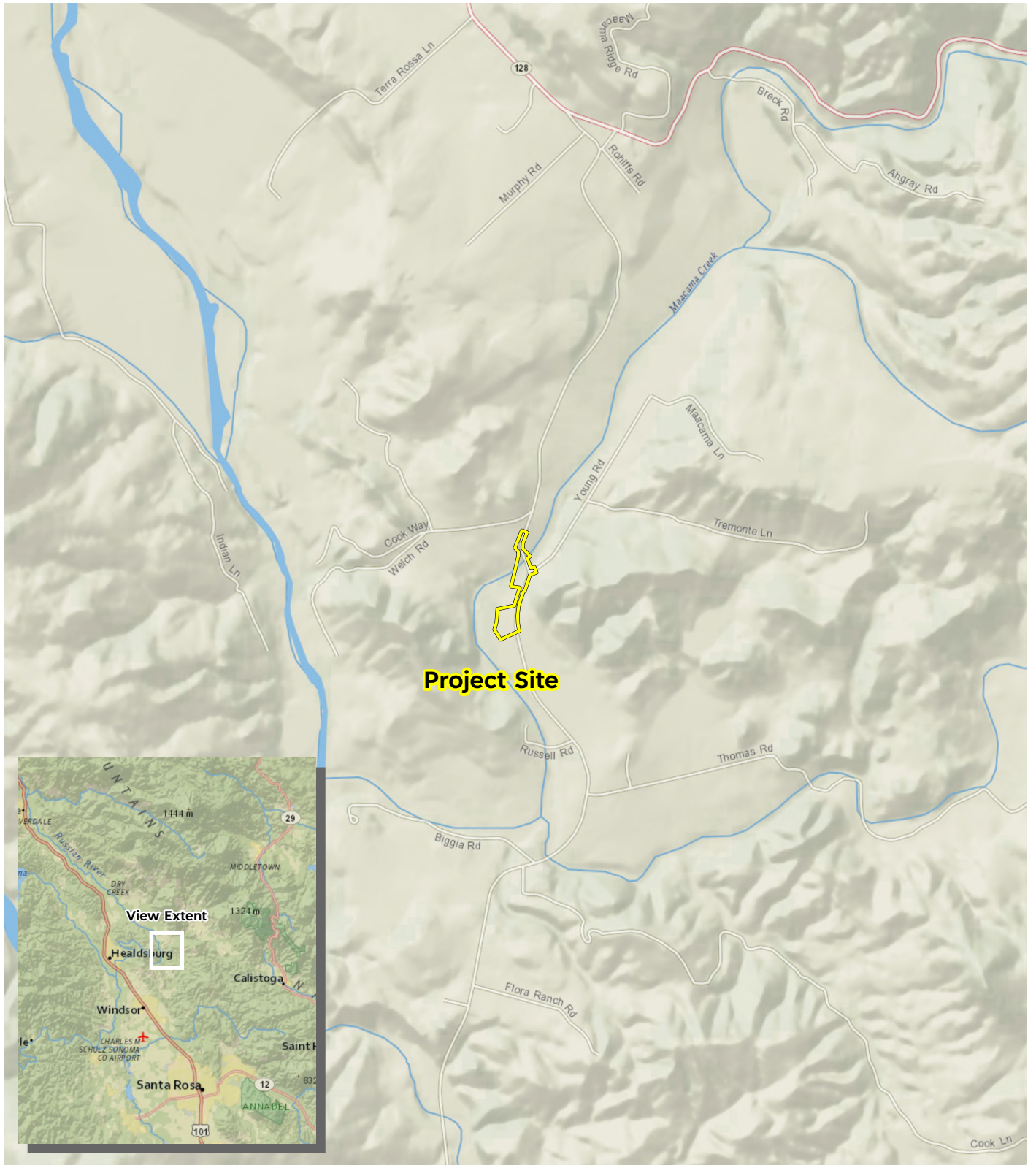
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Transportation/Traffic

The EIR will analyze the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse effects of the proposed project (both direct and indirect). The EIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

### ***Next Steps***

After the Draft EIR is completed, the County will issue a Notice of Availability of a Draft EIR to inform the public and interested agencies, groups, and individuals of how to access the Draft EIR and provide comments.

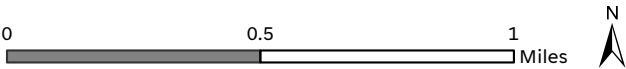
Path: L:\Acad 2000 Files\27000\27316\GIS\ArcMap\27316Base.aprx Layout Name: Fig 1 Location CEQA



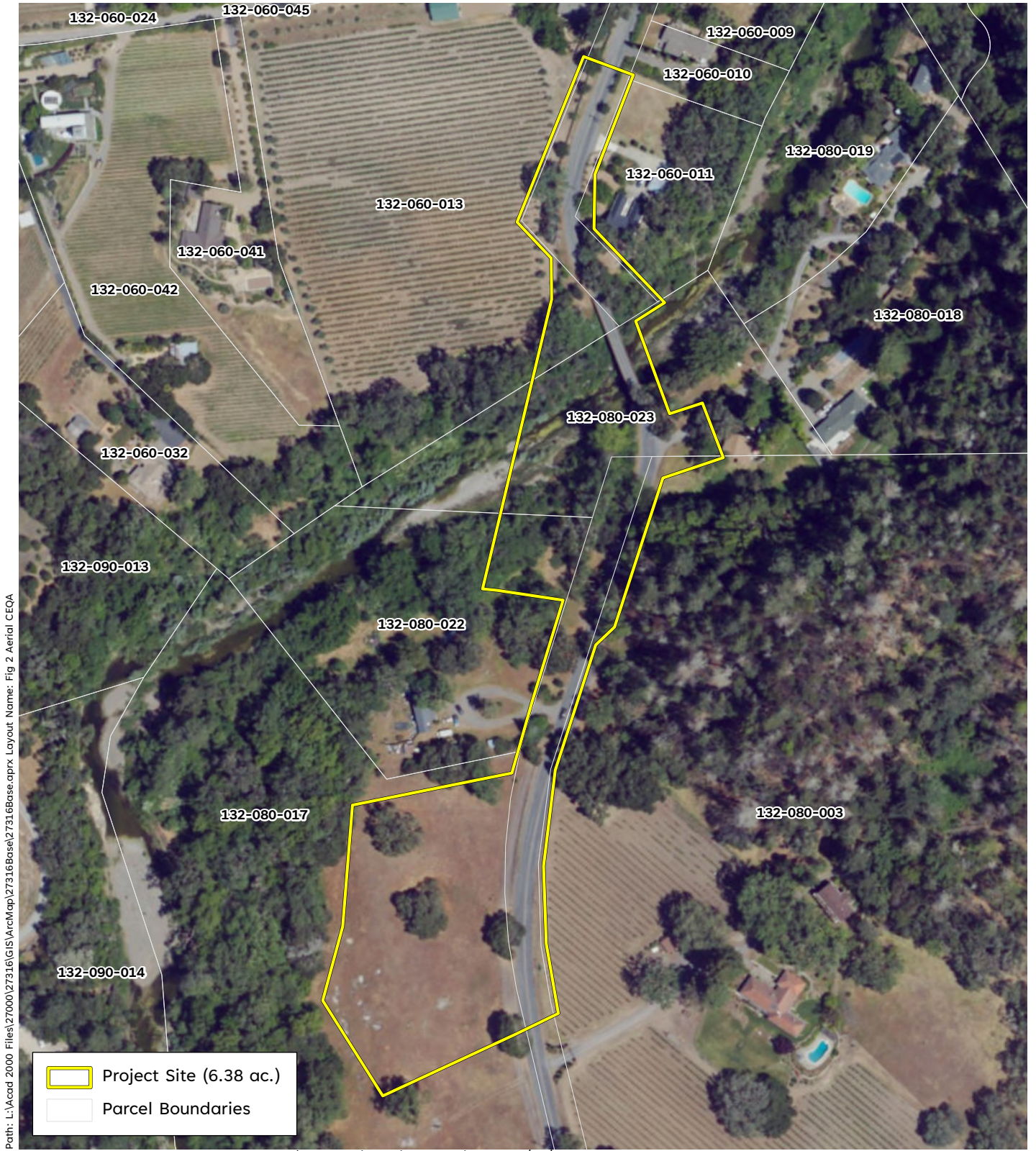
Sources: National Geographic, WRA | Prepared By: rhona.mcchesney, 3/5/2025

**Figure 1. Project Site Regional Location**

Chalk Hill Road Bridge Replacement  
Sonoma County, California







**Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of the Project Site**

Chalk Hill Road Bridge Replacement  
Sonoma County, California

