



**Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the SANTA ROSA AQUEDUCT AND RUSSIAN RIVER TO COTATI AQUEDUCT CATHODIC
PROTECTION PROJECT**

Posted: September 28, 2021

Public Review Period: September 29, 2021 to October 28, 2021

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct Cathodic Protection Project (Proposed Project). Sonoma Water has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the 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 would be located within unincorporated areas of Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa, California at intervals along the Santa Rosa and Russian River to Cotati aqueducts. Locations of Proposed Project components start approximately 4 miles southwest of downtown Windsor and end approximately 4.5 miles north of Petaluma and are shown in Figure 1 below. Additional location information is available in the IS/MND.

Project Description: Sonoma Water owns, operates, and maintains a 48-inch diameter concrete mortar lined steel water supply pipeline (the Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct) and a 42-inch steel water supply pipeline (the Santa Rosa Aqueduct) that provide water from Sonoma Water's production facility to southern parts of portions of central, southern, and eastern Sonoma County. The Russian River to Cotati and Santa Rosa aqueducts provide essential water service to approximately 600,000 residents and businesses within the Sonoma Water's service area. The Proposed Project would include the construction of a total of 31 Cathodic Protection Stations and 49 Test Stations at intervals along the Santa Rosa and Russian River to Cotati aqueducts; vegetation maintenance activities associated with both aqueducts; and vegetation management at one location on the Petaluma Aqueduct. The Proposed Project is needed because the existing corrosion protection systems along the aqueducts are in need of replacement. Failing to replace the existing system components could result in corrosion and failure of portions of the aqueducts in the future.

Materials: A copy of the IS/MND and supporting materials are available at the Sonoma Water administrative office at 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA. 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 September 29, 2021 to October 28, 2021. 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 October 28, 2021. Written comments may be addressed to: Candace Messner, Environmental Specialist, Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019; or emailed to candace.messner@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 am on December 14, 2021**. Comments submitted during the Initial Study review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors.

In accordance with AB 361 (Government Code § 54953(e)(3)) in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Board of Directors meetings may be held virtually or in a dual format with on-site modifications. Public comment on the Proposed Project may be made live during the virtual meeting or live, in person, in the Board Chambers located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA. For information on participation, please review the agenda for the Board meeting of December 14, 2021 using the following link: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

