



PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

450 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

RICHMOND, CA 94804

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**CITY OF RICHMOND
30-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Richmond intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the following described project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the City of Richmond's Guidelines and Procedures for Implementation of CEQA.

Project Title	Via Verdi Slope Stabilization Project
Project Applicant	City of Richmond Engineering/CIP Division
Project Location	Via Verdi, Richmond, CA
Assessor Parcel No.	414-340-002, 414-340-001, 414-202-128, 420-021-038, 414-132-001, 414-132-002, 416-140-050, 416-140-033, 416-140-021, and 414-360-041
Lead Agency	City of Richmond

Project Description:

The proposed Via Verdi Slope Stabilization Project (project) has been designed by the City of Richmond (City) to reconstruct a segment of the Via Verdi roadway that was damaged by a landslide in 2017; the road was closed at that time and an emergency roadway continues to provide access for the Sobrante Glen neighborhood. Reconstruction of the roadway requires installation of a culvert within San Pablo Creek, backfilled with engineered fill, to buttress the landslide and provide a stabilized footing for the roadway embankment. An offsite mitigation area is included as part of the project.

The project is located along the Via Verdi roadway in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, California, between El Portal Drive and the Sobrante Glen neighborhood. The project encompasses a total of 7.2 acres at two distinct project locations: the primary project area and the proposed mitigation site on Rheem Creek.

The proposed project would reconstruct approximately 650 linear feet of Via Verdi and the associated utilities that pass under the roadway. In order to stabilize the landslide, the project would construct an approximately 350-linear-foot concrete box culvert within San Pablo Creek below the landslide area. The culvert would be approximately 17.5 feet high and 24 feet wide. The creek channel would be excavated to provide space for the culvert and the foundation section, a compacted building pad of crushed rock approximately 2.5 feet thick. Once the concrete structure is constructed, approximately 18,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of engineered fill (rock/soil) would be placed around and over the culvert to buttress the landslide and achieve an acceptable factor of safety for the slope. When the culvert is in place, creek slopes including areas above the culvert will be revegetated and planted with native seed mixes in combination with erosion control blankets. Trees would be replanted to the extent required by regulatory agencies. Culvert headwall slopes and slopes upstream of the culvert that are affected by earthwork and grading will also be revegetated in combination with bioengineered slope protection that may include brush mattress and rip rap and pole plantings. Once the reconstruction of Via Verdi is complete, the temporary emergency access road would be demolished and all work areas, including the staging area, would be revegetated. The total area of disturbance within the project area, including revegetation areas, would be approximately 6.2 acres.

To mitigate for permanent impacts associated with placement of a concrete culvert within San Pablo Creek, the project proposes to restore and enhance approximately 1.0 acre of urban stream habitat at Rheem Creek. The Rheem Creek mitigation site is located southwest of Mills Avenue and Shane Drive, immediately adjacent to the Contra Costa College parking lot and college facilities. The site includes approximately 800 feet of Rheem Creek and its associated heavily vegetated area. The creek is dominated by non-native and invasive plant species. The project proposes to enhance and restore the urban stream environment by implementation of a Restoration Planting Plan that targets removal of non-native species and revegetation with native species (including trees).

The basis for proposing a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the finding that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the City has hereby agreed to implement each of the identified mitigation measures, which would be adopted as part of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Review and Comment Period: Comments on the MND shall be sent in writing and must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 27, 2019**, at the following address or email:

Lina Velasco
City of Richmond Planning Division
450 Civic Center Plaza
P.O. Box 4046
Richmond, CA 94804
lina_velasco@ci.richmond.ca.us

Report Availability: A copy of the MND is available for review online at www.ci.richmond.ca.us/viaverdiproject.

Copies are also available for review at the following locations: **Richmond Public Library - Main Branch** 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804 and City of Richmond, **Planning and Building Department**, City Hall, 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA, 94804.

Start of Public Review: October 28, 2019

End of Public Review: November 27, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
OCT 30 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE