

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: X Office of Planning & Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

X County Clerk  
County of Sonoma  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Project Title:** Water Transmission Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at the Santa Rosa Creek Crossing Project (Project)

**Project Location - Specific:** The project site is located near the intersection of Sonoma Avenue and E Street (Figure 1).

**Project Location - City:** Santa Rosa

**Project Location - County:** Sonoma

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** An existing section of the Santa Rosa Creek Aqueduct crosses under Santa Rosa Creek and is at risk of failure during an earthquake due to liquefaction and lateral spread. The proposed project would help to reduce failure of this section of the Santa Rosa Aqueduct due to earthquake-induced liquefaction and lateral spread by relocating a section of pipeline (approx. 730 ft.) from the existing stream crossing to a location downstream under E Street and Sonoma Avenue. The relocated pipeline would use a trench-less technology to tunnel under the existing E Street Bridge and concrete box culvert into which the creek currently flows. The expected result is that the project would eliminate the Santa Rosa Aqueduct's exposure to the free face of the creek and would help to reduce the risk of failure due to earthquake-induced liquefaction and lateral spread hazard at the existing pipeline stream crossing.

All work would occur in existing right-of-way and previously disturbed areas. The proposed project would realign approximately 730 feet of pipeline from the existing creek crossing to an under the pavement alignment in E Street and Sonoma Avenue, with a section (approximately 180 feet) installed by trench-less technology under the existing Santa Rosa Creek box culvert. The remaining pipeline, approximately 550 feet, would be installed in a conventional trench with bedding and backfill. Once the box culvert has been crossed, the pipeline would proceed approximately 300 feet to Sonoma Avenue, then turn left under Sonoma Avenue, proceeding approximately 250 feet until the pipeline meets the existing aqueduct on Sonoma Avenue. The existing mortar-lined and coated steel pipeline crossing of Santa Rosa Creek would be abandoned in place.

Once the project is complete, road surfaces would be restored. Best construction management practices and a traffic control plan will be required of the contractor and all work will comply with City of Santa Rosa standards and ordinances.

**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:

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15302(c):  
Replacement or Reconstruction and 15304(f):  
Minor Alterations to Land.

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project would replace an existing utility system involving negligible or no expansion of use to reduce seismic vulnerability and meet public health and safety standards in a location near the same site as the existing pipeline and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the pipeline replaced. The project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project includes minor trenching and backfilling where surfaces are to be restored.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Connie Barton

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

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 2.1.21

**Title:** General Manager

X Lead Agency ☐ Applicant  
Date Received for filing at OPR:



Photo 1: Aerial Photo Map

