

ADDENDUM
to
Notice of Exemption
2021 Capital Improvement Project:
Water Main Replacement
Old River Road and Vicinity
July 2021

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title

2021 Capital Improvement Project: Water Main Replacement Old River Road and Vicinity

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Sweetwater Springs Water District
Attn: Ed Fortner
17081 Hwy. 116
Guerneville, California 95446

1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number

Ed Fortner, General Manager
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(707) 869-4000

1.4 Project Location

The Sweetwater Springs Water District (District) provides domestic water to the unincorporated communities of Guerneville, Monte Rio, and contiguous territory in the lower Russian River area. These communities are located in western Sonoma County. The proposed Project sites are located within Guerneville in Sonoma County right-of-way (ROW), see Figure 1 (Regional Location Map). The Project sites currently consist of the existing roadways and residential uses, see Figure 2 (Project Sites Aerial Map).

1.5 Surrounding Land Use and Setting

Surrounding land uses in the area include small residential neighborhoods along Old River Road and Woodland Drive, as well as a few commercial uses located along Old River Road. The Guerneville Regional Library and St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church is also located at the western terminus of Woodland Drive. Downtown Guerneville is located to the southwest and of the Project sites. The Russian River is located to the south and southeast of the Project sites. Weedy vegetation and redwood trees line the roadways.

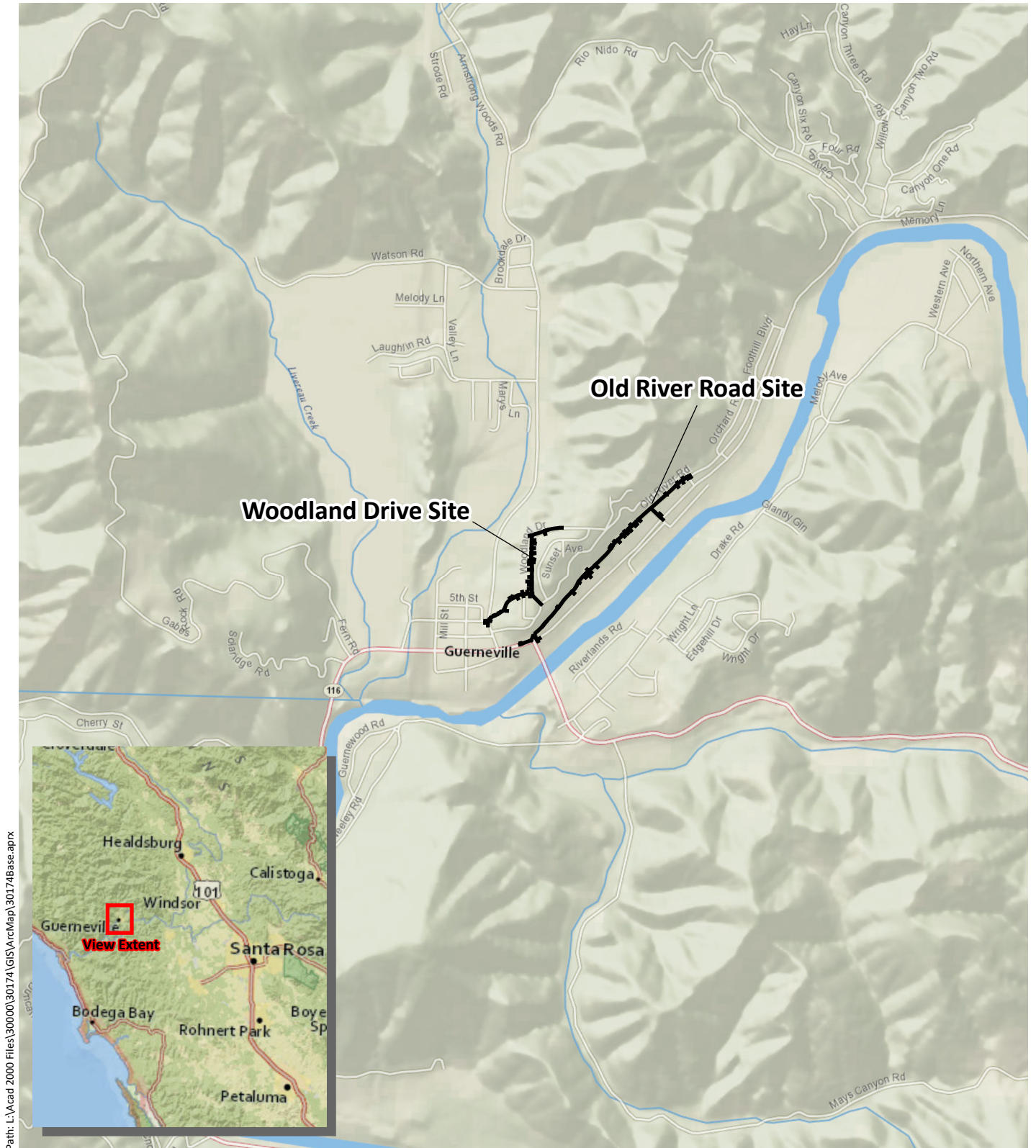


Figure 1. Regional Location Map

2021 Capital Improvement Project:
Old River Road and Vicinity
Sonoma County, California

0 0.25 0.5
Miles



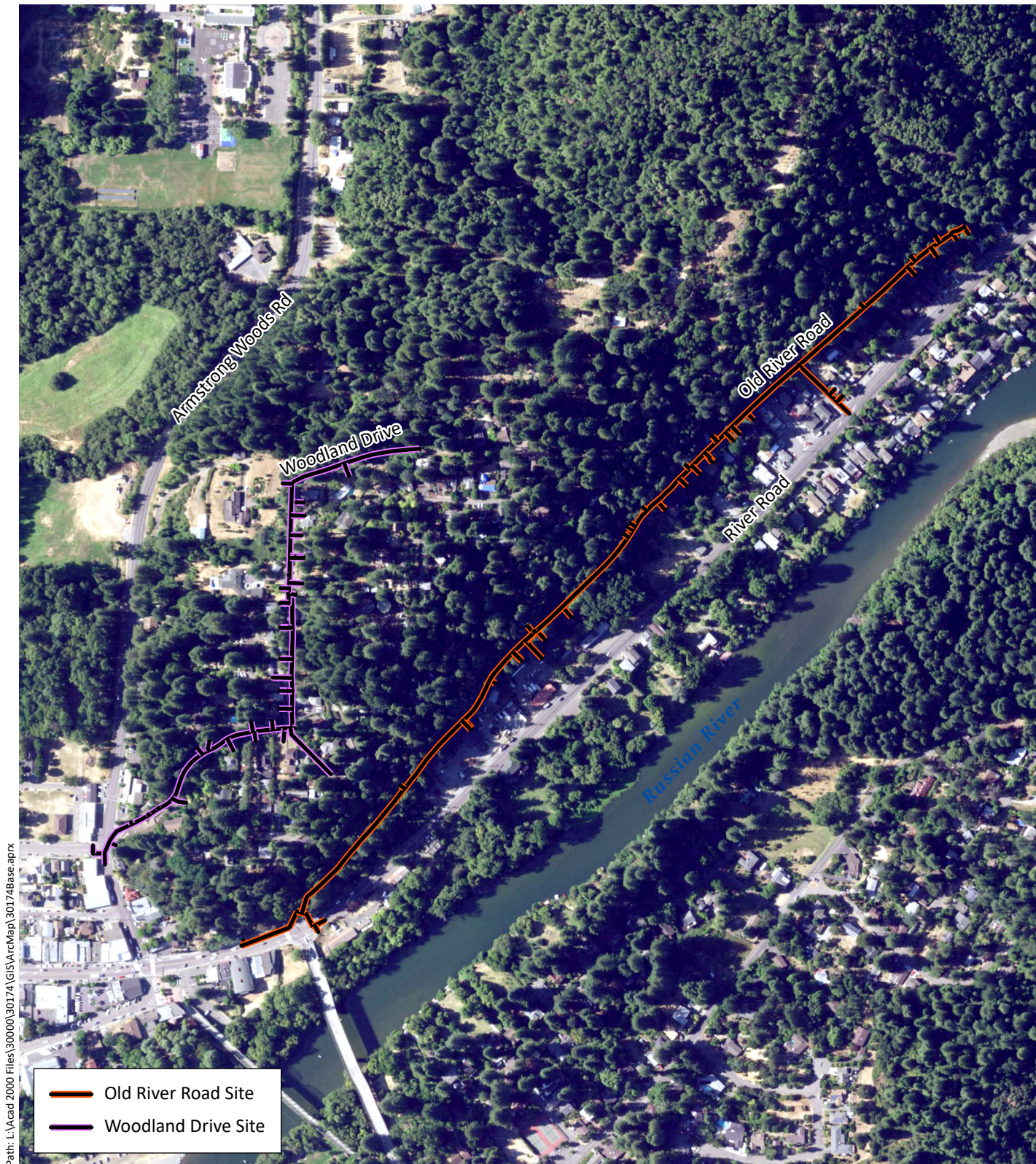


Figure 2. Project Sites Aerial Map

2021 Capital Improvement Project:
Old River Road and Vicinity
Sonoma County, California

0 250 500
Feet



2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Description

The Sweetwater Springs Water District proposes to continue their ongoing program to replace aging and undersized water system infrastructure. The purpose of the proposed Project is to replace a water system that has reached the end of its service life, improve water service flows, improve customer water quality, improve fire protection and reduce water losses from leaks, while minimizing the need for future maintenance. The proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the water system, but rather update the undersized infrastructure system to adequately support the existing capacity and provide adequate fire protection.

There are an inadequate number of fire hydrants in the overall area and based on line sizing and pipe conditions, fire flows are either non-existent (have to use water tender fire trucks that bring in their own water) or are extremely low (200 gpm). Existing water lines in this area are known to have lead fittings. With this Project, all existing water lines containing lead in the fittings will be removed from the system per Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations requirements.

The material of the existing 2-inch and 6-inch water lines (galvanized iron) provides inadequate pressures, inability to provide sufficient domestic flows, inability to provide adequate flows for fire protection and reliability. Fire flows in the area should be approximately 1,000 gallons/minute.

Improved water pressure, flows, and reliability will be provided as the outcome of the Project and will served a disadvantaged community that are LMI qualified. With additional fire hydrants and new/upsized lines, fire flows are anticipated to meet minimum standards of 1,000 gallons per minute upon completion of the Project. Leaded joints will be removed from the overall water system, thereby improving water quality both in the Project area and in the overall water system.

The Project encompasses two separate sites:

Old River Road & Bonita Ave – this portion of the Project includes replacing the existing aged 6-inch water line with new 6-inch water line in Old River Road from the intersection of River Road and Highway 116 to the intersection of Old River Road and Morningside Drive. The exiting 6-inch water line will also be replaced in Bonita Avenue from the intersection of Old River Road to River Road. In this stretch of Old River Road and Bonita Avenue, the Project will replace 3,425 feet of water main, replace 35 water services (the water service extends from the existing water main to the new meter), the replacement of 1 commercial fire service line and installation of 6 new fire hydrants along the replaced water line.

Woodland Drive – this portion of the Project includes replacing the existing aged 6-inch water line and the undersized 2-inch water line in Woodland Road from the intersection of Woodland Drive and Armstrong Woods Road to approximately 14210 Woodland Road. In this stretch of Woodland Drive, the Project will replace 820 feet of 6-inch water main with new 8-inch water main from Armstrong Woods Road to Palo Alto Drive as the existing 6-inch line to be replaced is not sufficient to provide fire flows. 1,050 feet of 6-inch and 2- inch water mater main will be replaced with a new 6-inch water line from Palo Alto Drive to 14210 Woodland Drive.

An existing cross-country main is currently installed within an easement from Sunset Avenue to Woodland Drive. This 4-inch cross-country main delivers water to Woodland Drive from the District's Highland Water Tank and is inadequate in size to provide sufficient fire flow along Woodland Drive. The existing easement is through a very steep and vegetated area which makes it difficult for District staff to access and make repairs. The Project proposes to abandon the 4-inch water line in place and install a new water main in Palo Alto Drive within the paved

roadway to provide the same connection to the District's water tanks to Woodland Drive. By placing the new main in Palo Alto Drive, it allows for it to be constructed in a previously disturbed area of the exiting pavement section and allow for improved access by District staff for maintenance. The new main would be 215 feet of 8-inch water line.

The Project will also replace 28 water services and the installation of 3 new fire hydrants and replace 2 existing fire hydrants.

The proposed Project is located in the hills of the North Coast Ranges within the unincorporated community of Guerneville, in Sonoma County, California. The Project is situated between the USGS 7.5' Guerneville Quadrangle map in Township 8 North, Range 10 West, in section 29 of Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM). The proposed Project would be constructed over approximately 100 days. See Appendix A for the full set of Project plans.

All Project components will be installed underground and no above-ground features such as: fences, walls, dams or roadways will be constructed. Therefore, conditions following the completion of the proposed Project will be the same as they were prior to construction. The proposed Project will not result in any new barriers or encumbrances to wildlife species movement.

The construction staging area will be located entirely within the existing ROW. Minor maintenance would occur during the operation of the waterlines, but would not entail any ground disturbing activities.

2.2 Project – Related Approvals, Agreements, and Permits

It is anticipated that permits would be obtained from the following agencies:

Permit Sonoma (County of Sonoma)

- Encroachment Permit

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Project would be exempt from CEQA per Section 21000-21177, Public Resources Code; Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000-15387, California Code of Regulations due to the following exemption. See Attachment A - Exemption Language, for a complete description of the exemption.

15302. Replacement or Reconstruction

The District proposes to continue their ongoing program to replace aging and undersized water system infrastructure. The purpose of the proposed Project is to improve water service flows, improve customer water quality, improve fire protection and reduce water losses from leaks, while minimizing the need for future maintenance. The proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the water system, but rather update the undersized infrastructure system to adequately support the existing capacity and provide adequate fire protection. There are no new customer service connections anticipated, as the lots are already developed and there is no room for further expansion. The National Fire Protection Association Code provides regulations under NFPA 13 Section 24.1.3.1 stating "Private fire service mains must be at least 6-inch diameter where they supply hydrants" and under NFPA 24 Section 13.1 stating "Pipe smaller than 6 inch in diameter shall not be installed as a private service main supplying hydrants." Discharge water flow rates would remain the same regardless of the new waterlines and service connections. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the water distribution system. The new pipelines would not be able to support more than the planned services for the area and would not encourage future growth, so as to require an expansion in capacity. The proposed Project would merely replace the existing infrastructure in order to meet existing daily demand as well as improve water quality, fire protection, and efficiency. Therefore, the Project is consistent with the example provided in 15302(c), as the replacement of the pipelines would result in no expansion of capacity.

15300.2. Exceptions

The proposed Project is not subject to any exceptions to a Categorical Exemption due to the Project's location within existing roadways and the nature of the proposed replacement. The proposed Project would not result in impacts to any special-status plant or wildlife species. The proposed Project would not result in any significant effects or any significant cumulative impacts. According to the National Register of Historic Places, the Project sites do not contain any features listed as a National Register Landmark. There are no known archeological, cultural, or Native American resources within the Project sites. The proposed Project would install pipelines underground which would not be visible from any scenic corridors. The Project sites are not included on the list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Attachment A - Exemption Language

Section 21000-21177, Public Resources Code; Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000-15387, California Code of Regulations

15302. REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

- (a) Replacement or reconstruction of existing schools and hospitals to provide earthquake resistant structures which do not increase capacity by more than 50 percent.
- (b) Replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.
- (c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.
- (d) Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.