



**Notice of Availability/Intent To Adopt  
Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration  
for the  
Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard  
Mitigation at the Russian River Crossing Project  
March 28, 2016**

## INTRODUCTION

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed **Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at the Russian River Crossing Project**. The Water Agency has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project in accordance with CEQA. An electronic copy of the IS/MND is available at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org). Hard copies of the IS/MND are available for purchase by request at 707-547-1900 or at the Water Agency's administrative office (404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa). Hard copies are also available for public viewing at the following locations:

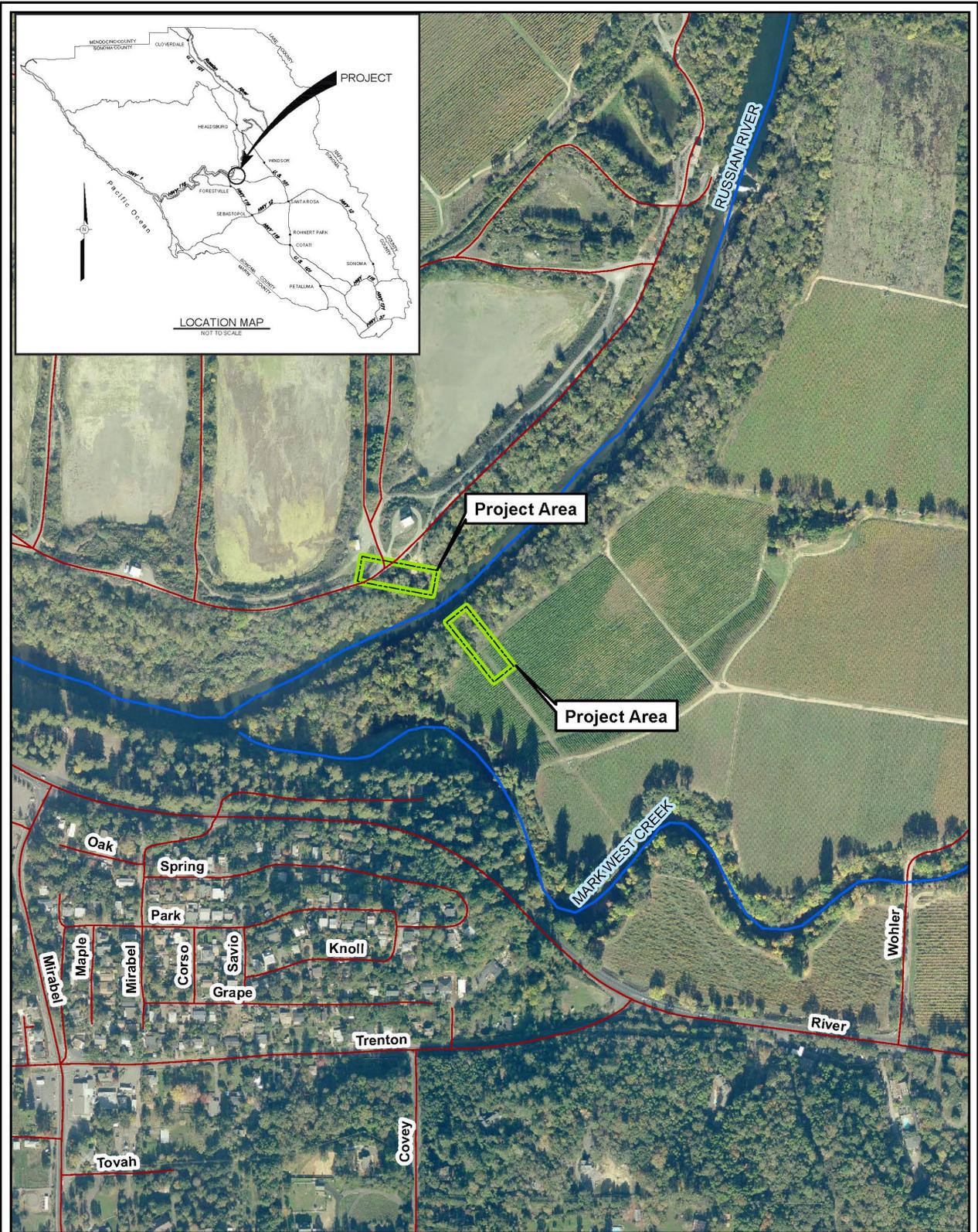
- ❖ **Central Santa Rosa Library:** 211 E Street, Santa Rosa
- ❖ **Forestville Regional Library:** 7050 Covey Road, Forestville
- ❖ **Water Agency's administrative office**

An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of a project's potential environmental impacts used to determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report will be prepared. The Initial Study document is intended to provide a clear understanding of the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project for decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, and the public. If an Initial Study identifies potentially significant impacts but the project is modified or revised to clearly mitigate the impacts, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared. If an Initial Study concludes that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at the Russian River Crossing Project would be located approximately 1,200 feet northeast of the intersection of River Road and Mirabel Avenue near the community of Forestville in unincorporated Sonoma County (Figure 1 below). The project site encompasses the banks and upland areas on both the north and south sides of the Russian River channel, approximately 0.9 mile downstream (west) from Wohler Road Bridge (project site). As shown in Figure 1, the adjacent land is currently developed with vineyards and unpaved access roads.

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**Russian River Crossing  
Project Location  
Sonoma County, CA**

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**Figure  
1**



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Project is to reduce potential pipe failure and loss of water supply service resulting from permanent ground deformation caused by a moderate or severe earthquake along the Rodger's Creek. To maintain safe and reliable water service during a seismic event, the Project would modify the Russian River-Cotati Intertie to improve its ability to withstand the effects of ground deformation, liquefaction, and lateral spread hazards.

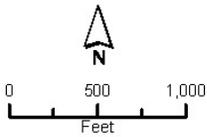
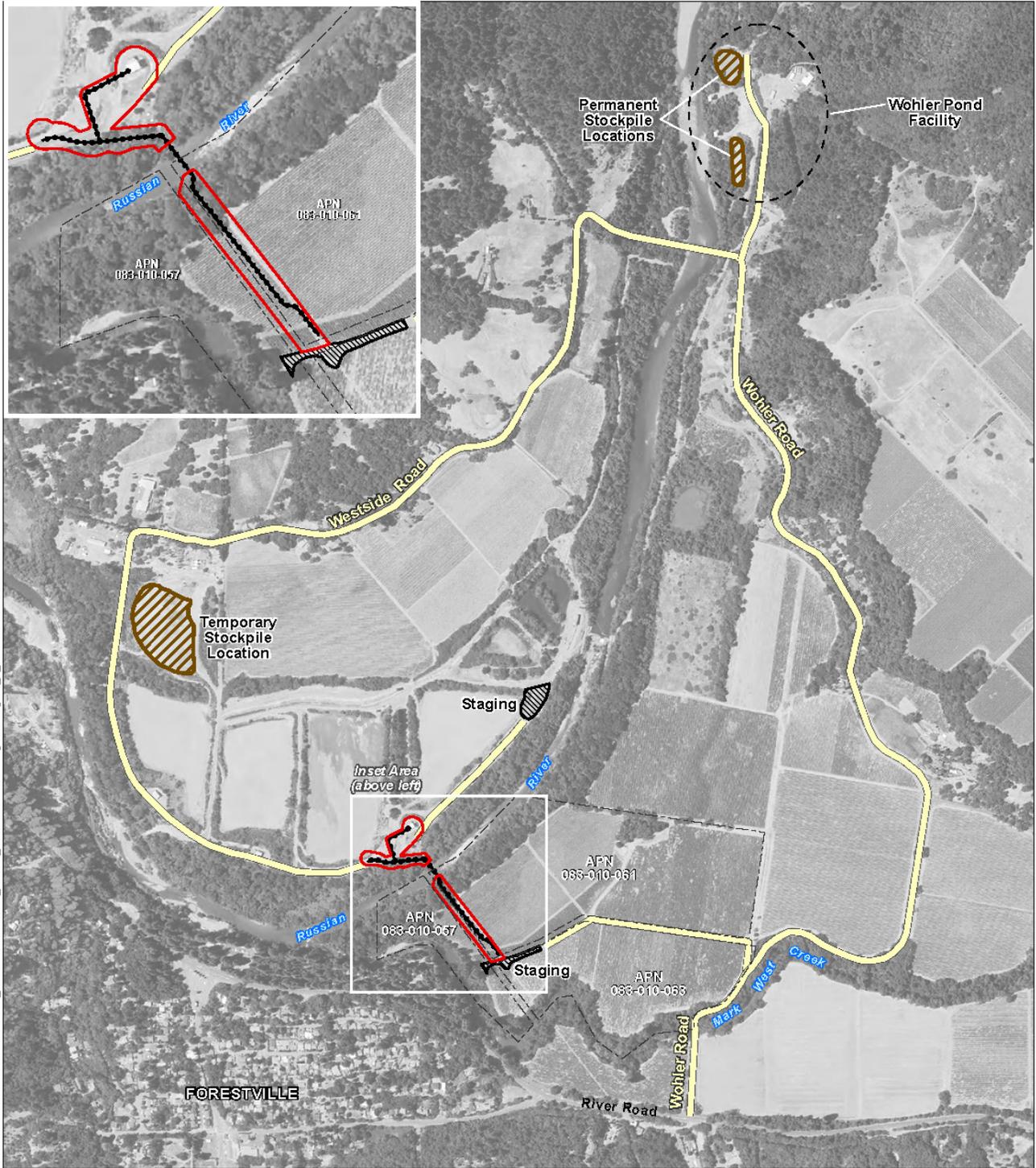
The Project consists of the following components: (1) abandon and replace sections of the existing underground pipeline on the north and south sides of the Russian River; (2) abandon and replace an underground pipe connection to one of the Mirabel collector wells (referred to as Collector #5); and (3) install supporting components, including one meter vault, approximately three cathodic protection stations and/or corrosion test stations, air valves, and appurtenances. The project consists of installation, operation, and maintenance of approximately 1,080 linear feet of two 48-inch diameter steel pipeline segments on the north and south sides of the Russian River Channel (Figure 2). The northern pipeline segment would be approximately 400 feet long and the southern pipeline segment would be no more than 700 feet long; both would tie into the existing 48-inch diameter pipeline that runs beneath the Russian River channel. In addition, an existing 20-inch diameter pipe connection between Collector #5 and the Russian River-Cotati Intertie would be replaced with a new 328-foot steel pipe, and the above-mentioned supporting components of the Project would be installed.

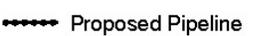
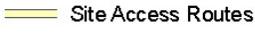
Project construction activities would require site clearing, trench construction on both sides of the Russian River, pipe installation, and trench backfilling in short segments extending in phases down the length of the pipeline alignment. The total depth of the trenches would be up to 45 feet below ground surface, roughly the same elevation of the existing pipeline crossing under the Russian River. Both the northern and southern pipeline segments would tie into the existing Russian River-Cotati Intertie crossing at the Russian River.

Up to 40,000 cubic yards of spoils would be generated from trench construction. The Project would excavate and separately store the top six inches of topsoil that would be replaced after pipe installation. Additional spoils would be sidecast as the trench is constructed, then backfilled in the trenches after pipeline installation. Approximately 300 cubic yards of spoils may require permanent disposal offsite. As shown in Figure 3, the Water Agency's Mirabel Facility would serve as a permanent and temporary stockpiling area for spoils generated on the north of the Russian River. Excess spoils not reused for trench backfill on the south side of the Russian River would be transported to a permanent existing spoil disposal area within the Water Agency's Wohler Facility for disposal.

After construction is complete, the Water Agency would implement a site revegetation plan. The plan would require replacement of topsoil that was removed during excavation activities, revegetation of disturbed areas with native species, and replacement of vineyards on the south side of the river.

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-  Project Work Site
-  Staging Area
-  Stockpile Location
-  Parcel Boundaries (with APNs)
-  Proposed Pipeline
-  Site Access Routes

**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Pipelines, Access, Staging, and Stockpile Areas**

Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at the Russian River Crossing Project

## **INITIAL STUDY REVIEW**

Agencies and interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the IS/MND. Please include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person in your agency for all future correspondence on this subject.

Please send your comments to:

Connie Barton  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019

Or email your comments to:

[connie.barton@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:connie.barton@scwa.ca.gov)

The public comment period closes at 5:00 p.m. April 29, 2016.

## **ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The project is scheduled for consideration and adoption by the Water Agency's Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled Board meeting beginning at 8:30 am on **May 10, 2016**. Comments submitted during the Initial Study review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors. Opportunity to comment on the project will also be available at the Board meeting.