



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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North Sonoma County Agricultural Reuse Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, Statement Released for Public Comment

Public Comment Period Closes May 18

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) Board of Directors today approved the release of the North Sonoma County Agricultural Reuse Project (Project) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIR and EIS are now available for public comment. The public comment period is sixty days, ending on May 18.

The Agency and the U.S Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are working together on the Project. Reclamation provided grant funding for preparation of a feasibility study and environmental documentation. Reclamation will serve as the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Agency is serving as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. In accordance with CEQA and NEPA, the Agency has prepared a joint Draft EIR and EIS to provide an analysis of the potential environmental impacts on the Project.

The Project would continue efforts to develop a recycled water supply for agricultural water users in the Russian River, Alexander, and Dry Creek valley areas. The Agency has identified up to 25,000 acres of agricultural lands that could potentially use recycled water. The Project would include the design and construction of storage reservoirs, conveyance and distribution pipelines, and pump stations. The recycled water used for the Project would be tertiary treated municipal wastewater generated and conveyed primarily through the City of Santa Rosa's Geysers Pipeline to the Project areas.

A public hearing will be held before the Agency's Board of Directors on May 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the hearing will be to hear testimony from the public regarding the Project and the Draft EIR and EIS. The Draft EIR and EIS are available for review at the Agency's Administration Office (404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa) and at regional libraries in the Project area. An electronic version of the Draft EIR and EIS will be available on the Agency's internet site (www.sonomacountywater.org) and hard copies will also be available for purchase for \$70.

Written public comments may be mailed to the following address:
Sonoma County Water Agency
C/O David Cuneo, senior environmental specialist
P.O. Box 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1628

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The Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.