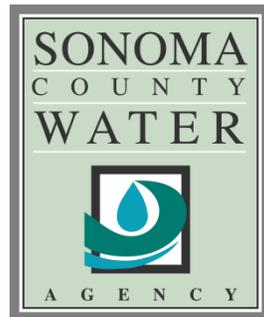


INITIAL STUDY  
AND  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**WESTSIDE FACILITY PROJECT**

OCTOBER 17, 2013

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



Contact:

Connie Barton  
Environmental Specialist  
(707) 547-1905  
Sonoma County Water Agency

**POSTING AND REVIEW PERIOD:** October 17, 2013 to November 22, 2013  
SCH #: 2013012035



## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Project Title</b> .....                                   | 1  |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....                                    | 1  |
| <b>Location</b> .....  | 1  |
| <b>Project Background</b> .....                              | 3  |
| <b>Project Purpose and Need</b> .....                        | 3  |
| <b>Project Description</b> .....                             | 3  |
| <b>Potential Impact Periods</b> .....                        | 4  |
| Duration of Construction and Construction Staging Area ..... | 4  |
| Construction .....   | 4  |
| Project-incorporated Best Management Practices.....          | 7  |
| Geotechnical Survey.....                                     | 7  |
| <b>Project Operations and Maintenance</b> .....              | 7  |
| <b>Basis for Preferred Project</b> .....                     | 7  |
| <b>Project Alternatives</b> .....                            | 8  |
| Alternative A: .....   | 8  |
| Alternative B: .....   | 8  |
| Alternative C: .....   | 9  |
| No Project Alternative .....                                 | 9  |
| <b>Notice Of Preparation and Summary Of Comments</b> .....   | 9  |
| <b>Environmental Setting</b> .....                           | 11 |
| Topography .....   | 11 |
| Soils and Geology.....                                       | 11 |
| Seismicity .....   | 12 |
| Vegetation .....   | 12 |
| Wildlife and Fisheries.....                                  | 13 |
| Cultural Resources .....                                     | 13 |
| <b>Land Use and Conformance with General Plan</b> .....      | 13 |
| Historical and Present Land Use .....                        | 13 |
| Conformance with the General Plan .....                      | 13 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Rights-of-Way Issues</b> .....               | 14 |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b> .....                 | 14 |
| Approach to Analysis .....                      | 14 |
| <i>Geographic Scope</i> .....                   | 14 |
| <i>Project Timing</i> .....                     | 14 |
| <i>Agencies and Entities Contacted</i> .....    | 14 |
| Results.....                                    | 14 |
| <b>Environmental Evaluation</b> .....           | 16 |
| <b>Jurisdictional/Permitting Agencies</b> ..... | 16 |
| <b>Finding</b> .....                            | 16 |
| <b>Environmental Checklist</b> .....            | 16 |
| I.    AESTHETICS .....                          | 17 |
| II.   AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES .....   | 20 |
| III.  AIR QUALITY .....                         | 22 |
| IV.  BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES .....                 | 25 |
| V.   CULTURAL RESOURCES .....                   | 28 |
| VI.  GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....                     | 30 |
| VII.  GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS .....            | 33 |
| VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS .....     | 38 |
| IX.  HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY .....          | 41 |
| X.   LAND USE AND PLANNING .....                | 43 |
| XI.  MINERAL RESOURCES .....                    | 44 |
| XII.  NOISE.....                                | 45 |
| XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING .....              | 47 |
| XIV.  PUBLIC SERVICES.....                      | 48 |
| XV.  RECREATION .....                           | 49 |
| XVI.  TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.....               | 50 |
| XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.....        | 52 |
| XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE ..... | 54 |
| <b>DETERMINATION</b> .....                      | 55 |

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES**..... 57  
**LIST OF PREPARERS** ..... 57

**APPENDICES**

- A. Notice of Preparation
- B. Brunsing Associates, Inc, Limited Geotechnical Investigation
- C. Special Status Species Potentially Occurring Within the Westside Facility Project Area
- D. Westside Facility Project Best Management Practices



## **Project Title**

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration have been prepared by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) for the Westside Facility Project (Proposed Project).

## **Introduction**

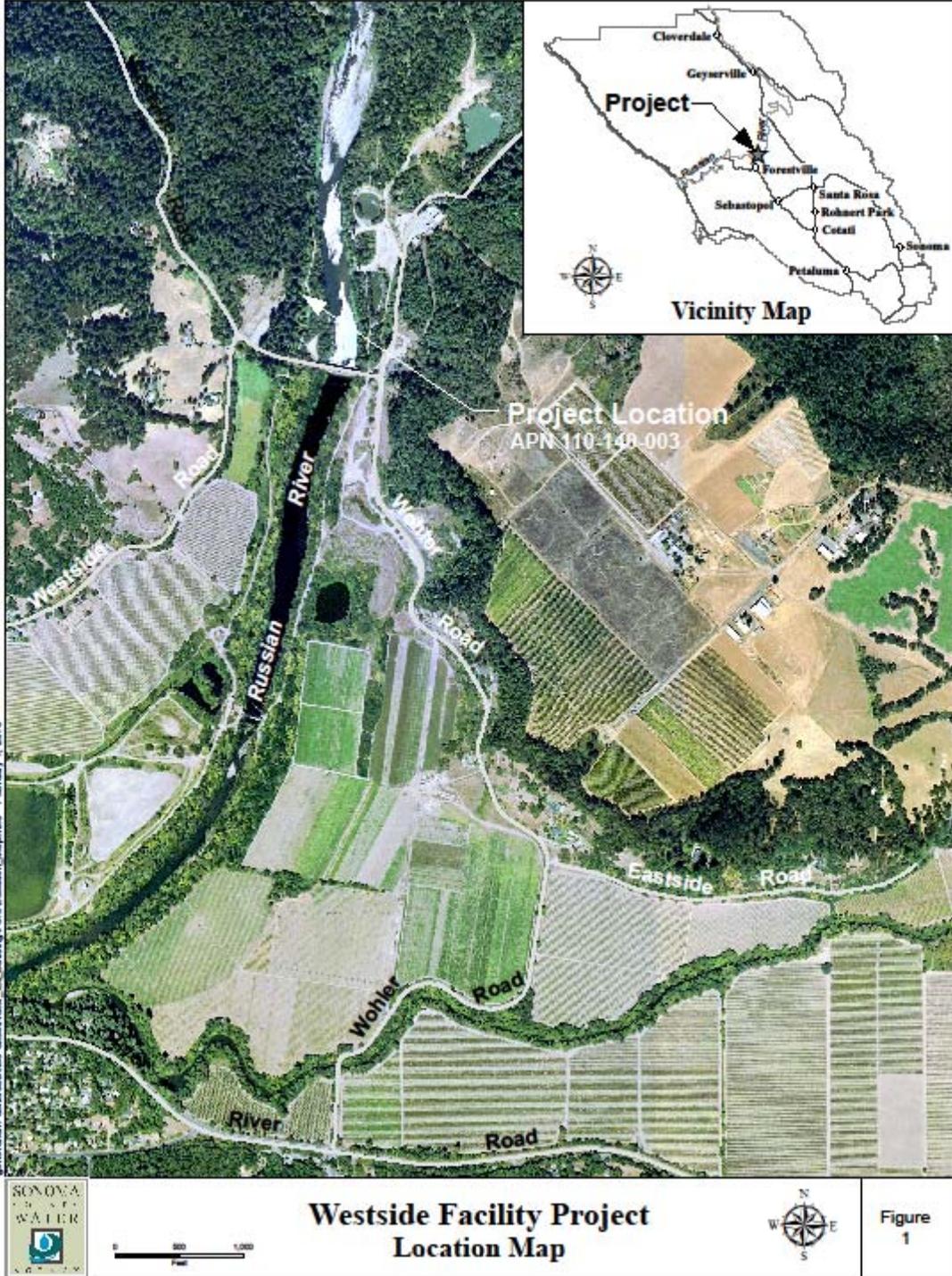
The Water Agency is the lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Proposed Project. An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of a project's potential environmental impacts used to determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report will be prepared. This document is intended to provide a clear understanding of the potential 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.

This Initial Study for the Proposed Project was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the CEQA, Section 15063(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Water Agency's *Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA*. The Water Agency is the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA, and will consider all comments received in response to this Initial Study, including comments from responsible and trustee agencies, property owners, and interested parties regarding the scope and content of the information included in this Initial Study. After completion of the public review period for this document, this Initial Study, along with a summary of comments submitted and the Water Agency's responses to those comments, will be brought before the Water Agency's Board of Directors for their consideration.

## **Location**

The Proposed Project would be located on Water Agency property at 9560 Westside Road (Assessor's Parcel Number 110-140-003), in the unincorporated area of Forestville, Sonoma County, California. The project site is located just west of the Wohler Bridge, adjacent to Maxwell Grove, as shown in Figure 1.

The project site is a previously disturbed, abandoned quarry. The property adjacent to the project site is owned by the Water Agency and operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks, known as Maxwell Grove, which consists of a fenced-in parking lot, picnic area, and boat launch access to the Russian River.



## **Project Background**

The Water Agency is a special district created by the California Legislature and operates under the direction of a Board of Directors, composed of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The law that created the Water Agency and defines its powers and duties authorizes the Water Agency to produce and furnish surface water and groundwater for beneficial uses, to control flood waters, to generate electricity, to provide recreational facilities in connection with Water Agency water supply facilities, and to treat and dispose of wastewater.

Since 1981, the Water Agency has provided a Water Education Program (Education Program) to public and private schools located within the Water Agency's service area in Sonoma and northern Marin counties. The Education Program is designed to help educators teach students the value of water as an important natural resource and to promote water conservation and stewardship of the Russian River watershed. One component of the Education Program is the Field Study Program, which currently takes place at the Water Agency's Wohler facilities for students in the fifth grade. The Field Study Program runs from March through May/early June, and September through October/early November of each year. It is offered Monday through Thursday and is restricted to two classes a day.

## **Project Purpose and Need**

The purpose and need of the Proposed Project is to relocate the Water Agency's Field Study Program to a facility that can safely accommodate students while continuing to utilize the water collection facilities for the outdoor component of the program.

## **Project Description**

The Proposed Project is construction and operation of a facility that would be utilized as a classroom for the Water Agency's Field Study Program; a location to hold teacher workshops; and a starting location for community tours of the Water Agency's Water Transmission System, which are currently offered to the public several times a year. The Project may be used for occasional staff trainings.

The Proposed Project would consist of the construction of an approximately 4,000 – 5,000 square foot (sq.ft.), one story building. The building would be constructed away from Wohler Road towards the back of the property and would have a low profile design to fit into the surrounding landscape. The Proposed Project would include the installation of low intensity, non-glaring lighting and security cameras. The building would include two classroom areas, each able to hold up to approximately 40 occupants; restroom facilities would utilize a 3,000-gallon fiberglass underground septic tank that would hold wastewater and be hauled away to be disposed and treated at the Airport Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ALWSZ) wastewater treatment facility (hold

and haul system); a small kitchen area; an outdoor sink area; and a shaded outdoor seating area with picnic tables.

In addition, the Proposed Project would require the construction of a new access road and asphalt parking lot. The paved access road would be approximately 16 feet wide by 200 feet long. The proposed parking lot would be constructed directly on the opposite side and would become an extension of the existing parking lot. Please see Figure 2. Landscape improvements to the site would include plantings of native California perennials to demonstrate sustainable water resources management and to provide habitat and food sources for beneficial insects and fauna. The Water Agency would also incorporate interpretive signage to explain the plants, their uses and why they are important to our Russian River watershed. Improvements to the existing parking lot may include: landscape improvements, removal of the cyclone fencing, and reconfiguring the entryway so that ingress and egress is made safer.

Potable water would be provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency utilizing its existing supply system. Approximately 300 feet of minor trenching into an existing hardscaped pathway would be required to provide potable water to the proposed facility. Electrical power would be provided by PG&E and would require the installation of a utility pole and minor boring and trenching activities that would be limited to the Water Agency's property and public right-of-way. All surfaces would be restored.

### **Potential Impact Periods**

Projects typically can have potential impacts to the environment during the construction of the facility, during the anticipated operation of the facility, and as a result of expected future maintenance activities associated with the facility.

### **Duration of Construction and Construction Staging Area**

It is estimated that the construction period would be two construction seasons between June and October. The project site is large enough to accommodate the staging area needed for the Proposed Project. The staging area would store construction equipment and other construction-related items. The staging area would be located in a previously disturbed or non-vegetated area, and would not be located within a sensitive area, such as a wetland or a stream.

### **Construction**

Approximately 150 cubic yards of material would be excavated from the site. No off haul of material would be necessary. There would be approximately 300 cubic yards of imported material for the building pad, access paths and parking lot and driveway (location shown in Figure 2).

Required construction equipment would include, but is not limited to the following: pavement saw, jack hammers, backhoe, front-end loader, paving equipment (asphalt

hauling trucks, compactors, paving machine, rollers), air compressors, excavator, concrete truck, water truck, sweepers, back scraper, boom truck, and utility trucks.



\\special\_project\7578-Westside\Tilly\CEQA-Figure2.dwg February 20, 2013



**Westside Facility Project**

**Figure 2**

### **Project-incorporated Best Management Practices**

Measures to avoid and or substantially reduce environmental impacts are incorporated in the Proposed Project, as listed in Appendix D. The Water Agency would require the selected Contractor(s) to use Best Management Practices (BMPs), as defined in project plans and specifications. These BMPs would therefore be implemented as components of the project. BMPs, such as dust and noise control procedures, would be implemented to avoid impacts to air quality and noise resources. These practices and procedures are intended to protect the environment by avoiding and/or minimizing potential adverse environmental impacts.

### **Geotechnical Survey**

A geotechnical investigation was conducted by Brunsing Associates, Inc. at the project site on January 9, 2012 (Appendix B). The Proposed Project is located on the floor of an abandoned quarry. The former quarry site is now mostly bare rock with scattered trees. The slopes surrounding the quarry are forested with mostly fir trees. The bedrock exposed in the quarry cut banks consists of Jurassic, Great Valley Sequence basalt that is little to moderately fractured, moderately hard and moderately to little weathered. Portions of the basalt are very hard. The fill (quarry waste) soils covering portions of the bedrock consist of sandy, gravelly silts that are soft, porous and contain roots. The bedrock and soils appear relatively low in expansion potential (tendency for volume change with changes in moisture content). Based upon the results of the geotechnical investigation, the site is geologically suitable for the Proposed Project.

### **Project Operations and Maintenance**

Currently, the Field Study Program runs from March through May–early June, and September through October–early November of each year. It is offered Monday through Thursday and is restricted to two classes a day. Vehicular traffic consists of 7-12 vehicle trips per day on average during operation. Operation of the proposed facility would not result in additional vehicular traffic beyond existing levels along Wohler or Westside Roads because no changes in the Education Program are proposed. Maintenance of the facility would include minor landscaping and sanitary sewer haul out once a year.

For the Proposed Project, the new facility is not expected to result in any new activities during the operation and maintenance phases that do not already occur as a result of the Water Education Program.

### **Basis for Preferred Project**

The preferred project location is the result of over two decades of evaluations of other potential facility sites. Since the objective of the Proposed Project is to relocate the Water Agency's Field Study Program to a facility that can safely accommodate students while continuing to utilize the nearby water collection facilities and the Russian River for the outdoor component of the program, opportunities for potential facility sites were

narrowed down to areas that would be in close proximity to the Russian River. The alternatives had to meet the needs of the existing program, including accommodating the parking and turnaround of school buses. Other considerations included: size of the footprint, utilities, parking, other potential uses of the site, and if feasible, eliminating the need of transporting students by bus from the classroom facility to the Water Agency's Mirabel facilities. These construction and operational considerations combined with limitations (described below) of other potential sites yielded the current Preferred Project location.

## **Project Alternatives**

Three alternative locations to the Proposed Project location were considered by the Water Agency and are shown in Figure 3. Alternative A, the Wohler property (near the Water Agency's Collector 6), Alternative B, the Wohler property (just inside of the Wohler Gate) and Alternative C, the White property (approximately one-half mile south of the Water Agency's Mirabel Facilities). Potential environmental impacts associated with each project alternative are discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

**Alternative A:** The Wohler Site A, which is in close to proximity to Collector 6 (Figure 3) was considered as a possible site for the Proposed Project for several reasons, including: close proximity to the Russian River, established trails and roadways, no Heritage Oaks identified, and controlled public access through locked and monitored gate. However, to avoid the 100-year flood hazard area the Proposed Project would need to be constructed on the hillside which could have potential environmental impacts to a meadow and the hillside in addition to longer utility runs and associated costs. This alternative is on the opposite side of the Water Agency's fish ladder at Mirabel and would require transporting the students across the Wohler Bridge to the Mirabel facilities. Therefore, this site does not enhance the outdoor opportunities for the field study program. Potential environmental impacts would be greater to those of the Proposed Project.

**Alternative B:** The Wohler Site B, which is in close proximity to the existing site (Figure 3) was considered as a possible site for the Proposed Project for several reasons, including: close proximity to the Russian River, established trails and roadways, proximity to existing utilities, and the site is not within the 100 year flood hazard area. This site, however, is limited in size to accommodate school bus turnaround and parking. In addition, this alternative site is in an industrial area which lessens the natural setting for the Water Agency's Field Study Program. This alternative is on the opposite side of the Water Agency's fish ladder at Mirabel and would require transporting the students across the Wohler Bridge to the Mirabel facilities. Therefore, this site does not enhance the outdoor opportunities for the field study program. Potential environmental impacts would be similar to those of the Proposed Project.

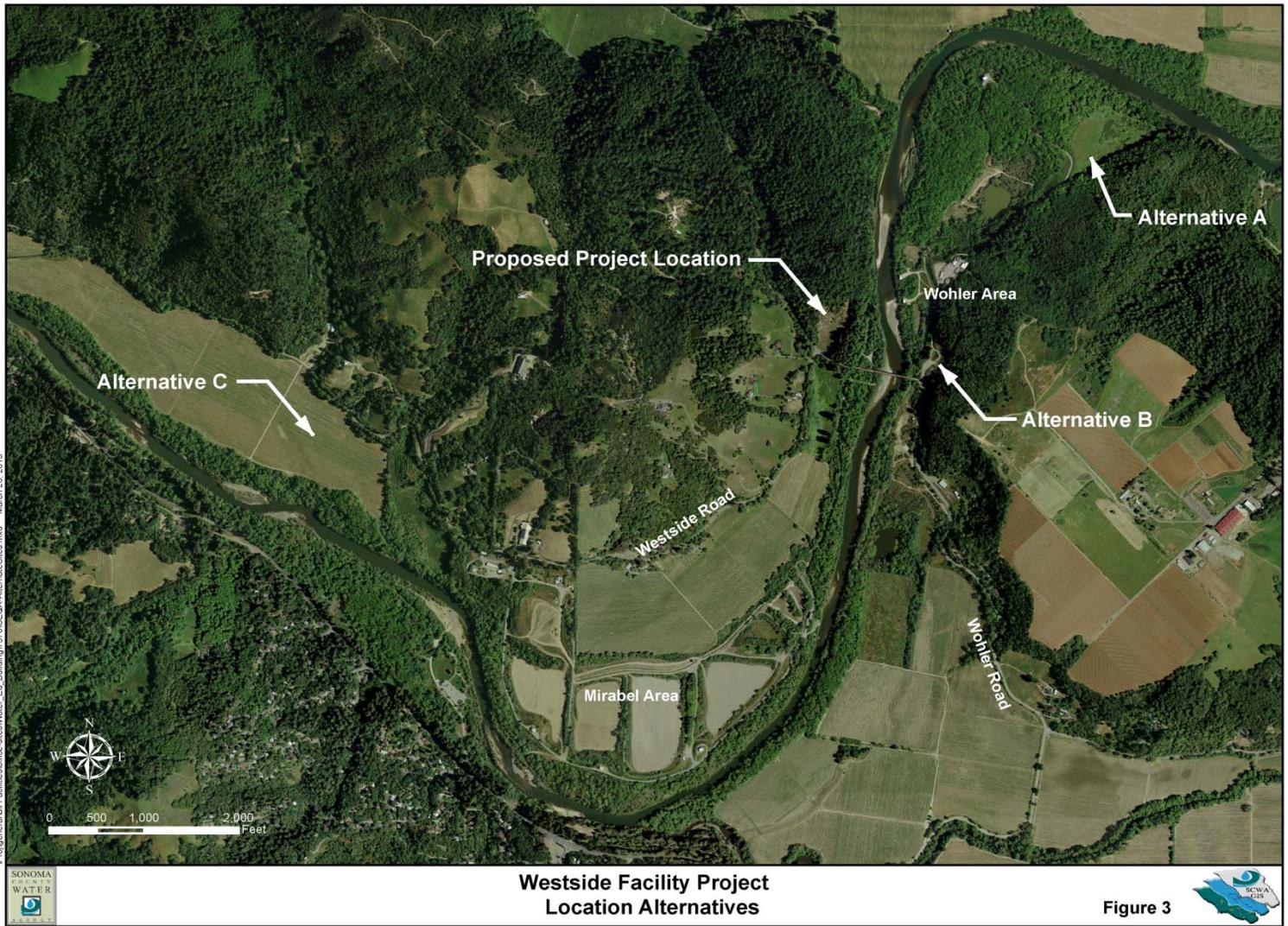
**Alternative C:** The Water Agency-owned White property, located approximately one-half mile downstream from the Mirabel facilities (Figure 3), was considered as a possible site for the Proposed Project for several reasons, including: there are no industrial activities on the property, the property is in close proximity to a road and existing utilities, and the site area is already cleared for a building pad (which has the potential for minimal site development costs). In addition, the property is above the 100-year flood hazard area. However, this alternative presents a challenge with regards to the proximity to the Water Agency's facilities at Mirabel and the fish ladder. Since components of the Education Program are conducted along the banks of the Russian River, a new trail system would need to be developed that would be too far for younger students to walk. Therefore, this alternative would require transporting student on a bus to the Water Agency's water transmission facilities. Consequently, this site does not enhance the outdoor opportunities for the field study program. Potential environmental impacts would be similar to those of the Proposed Project.

### **No Project Alternative**

Selection of the No Project alternative would mean that the Westside Facility would not be constructed and that the Water Agency's Field Study Program would not be able to relocate to a facility that can safely accommodate students and utilize the water collection facilities for the outdoor component of the program.

### **Notice Of Preparation and Summary Of Comments**

On January 9, 2013, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Initial Study was posted at the Sonoma County Clerks' Office. The NOP was also posted with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and sent to property owners adjacent to the project area. The Water Agency held two public meetings to inform the public about the Proposed Project and to receive input from the public. These meetings were held on July 10, 2012 and on January 22, 2013 during the review period. No comments regarding the Proposed Project were received during the public comment period. A copy of the NOP is included in Appendix A.



**Westside Facility Project  
Location Alternatives**

**Figure 3**

## **Environmental Setting**

The Russian River watershed consists of a series of valleys surrounded by two mountainous coastal ranges, the Mendocino Highlands to the West and the Mayacamas Mountains to the east. The Santa Rosa Plain, Alexander Valley, Hopland (or Sanel) Valley, Ukiah Valley, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley and other small valleys comprise about 15 percent of the watershed. The remaining area is hilly to mountainous. Principal communities are Ukiah, Hopland, Potter Valley, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, Forestville, Sebastopol, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Rio Nido, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Duncans Mills and Jenner. The project area is located in rural, unincorporated Sonoma County near the town of Forestville. The project area is accessible from Westside Road south of the Wohler Bridge and Wohler Road.

The project site is located on Water Agency owned property (approximately ten acres) along the Russian River in rural Sonoma County. The Water Agency's Wohler facilities are directly across the river from the Proposed Project site, with Collectors 1 and 2 closest to the site. The Water Agency's Mirabel facilities are approximately one-quarter mile downstream from the project site and include Collectors 3, 4, 5, and the Russian River Diversion System. In addition, the project site is surrounded by scattered homes, ranches and vineyards.

The project site is contiguous with an existing boat launch, redwood grove and picnic area that is owned by the Water Agency and operated seasonally by Sonoma County Regional Parks. Maxwell Grove is open to the public October through May and is primarily used by anglers to launch boats. In addition, the Water Agency regularly grants a temporary license to three commercial kayak/canoe companies. Only one company, SOAR, uses the site regularly from May through September, as a boating egress site.

## **Topography**

The project area is located on the west side of the Russian River just upstream of the Wohler Bridge. The land generally rises gradually from the Russian River, although in some places there are steep terraces or embankments. Topography of the Proposed Project is located on the floor of an abandoned quarry. The former quarry site is mostly bare rock with scattered brush and trees. The proposed facility would be near the lower, very steep quarry site that is approximately 40 to 45 feet high with a very steep slope gradient of two-thirds horizontal to one vertical.

## **Soils and Geology**

The principal geologic formations in the lower Russian River Valley are alluvium and consolidated bedrock of Jurassic and Cretaceous Age. Also included are river-channel deposits, erosional remnants of terrace deposits, and the Merced Formation. Bedrock at the site consists of sandstone, shale, chert, and metamorphic rocks of the Jurassic age

Franciscan, and Cretaceous-age Knoxville formations (Herzog Associates, 1992). Generally the rocks are highly fractured and absorb and store water (Cardwell, 1965). The bedrock exposed in the quarry cut banks consists of Jurassic, Great Valley Sequence basalt that is little to moderately fractured, moderately hard and moderately to little weathered. Portions of the basalt are very hard.

The fill (quarry waste) soils covering portions of the bedrock consist of sandy, gravely silts that are soft, porous and contain roots. The bedrock and soils appear relatively low in expansion potential (tendency for volume change with changes in moisture content).

The soil in the majority of the project site and within the footprint of the proposed facility is comprised of Red Hill clay loam, with 30 to 50 percent slopes.<sup>1</sup> This soil is moderately well drained and stable. A small portion of the project is located on Zamora silty clay loam, with 2 to 5 percent slopes, Empire loam, with 9 to 30 percent slopes, which both consist of well-drained clay loams.

### **Seismicity**

The Healdsburg-Rodgers Creek Fault, located approximately 10 miles to the east, is the closest active fault to the project site. The Rodgers Creek Fault enters Sonoma County at San Pablo Bay and extends northward through the City of Santa Rosa, where it meets up with the Healdsburg Fault, which continues northward passing east of the Town of Windsor.<sup>2</sup> Future damaging earthquakes could occur on this fault, or on the active San Andreas Fault, which is located approximately 15 miles southwesterly of the project site. However, the Proposed Project area is not located within a known earthquake fault zone, as delineated in the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map.<sup>34</sup>

### **Vegetation**

Riparian woodland habitat adjacent to the project site is present along the Russian River and provides high quality forage, cover, and breeding/nesting habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The slopes surrounding the project site are forested with mostly coniferous trees. The surrounding vegetation contains a mix of native and non-native riparian species and coniferous trees such as annual and perennial grasses, forbes, shrubs, scattered oaks and fir trees.

Vegetation in the project area has undergone considerable changes caused by past and present agricultural use, recreational use, Water Agency activities, and by past rock quarrying activities. The Proposed Project is located adjacent to an existing facility with existing access roads in the area. The Proposed Project footprint does expand beyond the former quarry site into existing hardscaped walkways and access roads surrounding the Maxwell Grove area. Ruderal habitat includes roadways and cultivated land, and occupies the majority of the project area. The project site contains yellow star thistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). A list of plant species observed within the project area is included in Appendix C.

### **Wildlife and Fisheries**

Wildlife habitat types present within or adjacent to the project area include ruderal/developed and riparian woodland habitats. Ruderal habitat provides limited forage and cover for wildlife, and typically supports a low diversity of disturbance-adapted wildlife species. A copy of special status species potentially occurring in the project area is included in Appendix C.

Trenching activities would take place within existing maintained paved and hardscaped access roads, and are necessary for utility installation. No trees would be removed and minor tree limbing may be necessary.

Wildlife species observed in ruderal habitat on the project site include species typically associated with high levels of human activity and disturbance such as house finch, black phoebe, Brewers blackbird, Anna's hummingbird, raccoon, and opossum.

Species associated in riparian woodland included black-headed grosbeak, Swainson's thrush, sharp-shinned hawk, yellow warbler, dusky-footed woodrat, and Pacific treefrog.

### **Cultural Resources**

The project site is located on the floor of an abandoned quarry. Over 40 feet of material has been quarried from the project site and potential cultural resources located in the area would likely have been discovered at that time. In 2012, a cultural resource survey was conducted for the Proposed Project.<sup>5</sup> No archeological resources or historical buildings or structures were found within the study area.

## **Land Use and Conformance with General Plan**

### **Historical and Present Land Use**

The Water Agency has owned the subject property since the 1970s. Fishing, swimming, and sunbathing along the Russian River have been frequent recreational activities in the project area. The public frequently utilizes the Water Agency's service roads for walking. The Russian River itself is also heavily utilized as a recreational area.

### **Conformance with the General Plan**

The project area is subject to the land use policies and designations adopted in the Sonoma County General Plan (General Plan). The General Plan designates the project area as *Resources and Rural Development* (Land Intensive Agriculture) at a specified density of 20 acres per unit. The Proposed Project would not limit or restrict any existing activities that occur in the project area.

## **Rights-of-Way Issues**

The Proposed Project is located on land already owned by the Water Agency. No new Right-of-Way would be required for this project.

## **Cumulative Effects**

### **Approach to Analysis**

#### ***Geographic Scope***

The potential for project-generated impacts to contribute to a significant cumulative impact would arise if they are located within the same geographic area. However, the geographic area associated with the construction of the Proposed Project would generally be limited to the construction location. Localized impacts such as noise, aesthetics, and traffic would potentially be worsened if other projects with similar effects were occurring within the adjacent area.

#### ***Project Timing***

In addition to geographic scope, cumulative impacts are determined by timing of the other projects relative to the Proposed Project. For a group of projects to generate cumulative construction-related impacts, they must occur close together in time as well as location. Although timing of the potential related projects are likely to fluctuate due to schedule changes or other unknown factors, this analysis assumes that the Water Agency's proposed Mirabel Fish Screen/Fish Ladder project and the County of Sonoma Transportation and Public Works Department's Wohler Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit project would be implemented concurrently with construction of the Westside Facility Project.

#### ***Agencies and Entities Contacted***

In order to identify potential related projects that could combine with the Westside Facility Project to result in cumulative impacts, Water Agency staff consulted with the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) and County of Sonoma Transportation and Public Works Department and researched their websites. The Sonoma County General Plan was also consulted for specific regional trends and projections.

### **Results**

Results of the analysis determined that there is a Less Than Significant cumulative impact due to the project timing of construction and location of the Water Agency's Mirabel Fish Screen/Fish Ladder project and the County of Sonoma Transportation and Public Works Department's Wohler Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit project. The Mirabel Fish Screen/Fish Ladder project is approximately two miles away and is located on Water Agency owned property. Construction is anticipated to occur simultaneously with

the Westside Facility Project; however, due to the location, no cumulative impacts are anticipated. There is a possibility that the pier work associated with the Wohler Bridge Seismic Retrofit project would occur simultaneously with the Westside Facility construction. However, no re-routing of traffic would be required for the pier work as the Bridge would be accessible. Additionally, the Water Agency will coordinate with the County of Sonoma Transportation and Public Works Department during the pier work to ensure existing traffic flows remain unchanged. With the incorporation of listed BMPs, no significant cumulative noise, traffic, or air quality impacts are anticipated.

## **Environmental Evaluation**

The potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project are identified in the Environmental Checklist. All of the impacts identified in the checklist are considered less than significant or no impact. In addition, the Sonoma County Water Agency intends to incorporate BMPs as defined in project plans and specifications for activities associated with the Westside Facility Project. Please see Appendix D, which identifies applicable BMPs.

## **Jurisdictional/Permitting Agencies**

The following are public entities and agencies that may require review of the project or that may have jurisdiction over the project area:

PRMD

## **Finding**

On the basis of the Initial Study, the General Manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency has determined that the Proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

## **Environmental Checklist**

The following checklist is based on the Environmental Checklist Form (Checklist) included as Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title, Sections 15000 et. seq.) as adopted December 30, 2009 (effective March 18, 2010). The checklist provides a summary of potential impacts that may result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

With regard to the checklist, a “No Impact” response indicates that no impact would result from implementation of the project. A “Less than Significant Impact” response indicates that an impact is involved, but is at a level which is less than significant. A “Less Than Significant with Mitigation” response indicates that an impact may potentially be significant, but the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce the impact to a level of insignificance. A “Potentially Significant Impact” response indicates that impacts may be significant if mitigation measures are unknown, infeasible, or not proposed. Each response is discussed at a level of detail commensurate with the potential for adverse environmental effect. The mitigation measures identified in this section would be incorporated into the project, and included in the Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

Supporting Information Sources for each response are indicated in parentheses after each impact topic. Refer to the end of the Checklist for a listing of the Supporting Information Sources.

## I. AESTHETICS

| Would the proposal:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (1,2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (2)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a) Less Than Significant. The project area is located along Wohler Road on a previously disturbed, abandoned quarry, just west of the Wohler Bridge. The project area is not identified as a Scenic Landscape Unit in the Sonoma County General Plan 2020<sup>6</sup>; however, Westside Road that runs along the west side of the project area is designated as a scenic corridor. The project area cannot be seen from Westside Road and the Proposed Project would not interrupt or block scenic vistas, therefore, no impact would occur to a scenic vista. In addition, the California Department of Transportation<sup>7</sup> has not identified the project area as a Scenic Highway.

There may be a short-term aesthetic impact associated with construction activities. Construction activities would require the use of heavy equipment and storage of materials at the site. During construction, equipment, excavated areas, stockpiled soils and other materials within the project area may be considered an aesthetic impact by some people.

Construction activities would be visible to people traveling on Wohler Road near the intersection of Westside Road; to people utilizing the property adjacent to the project site which is owned by the Water Agency and operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks, known as Maxwell Grove (which consists of a fenced-in parking lot, picnic area, and boat launch access to the Russian River); and to two of the six adjacent property owners. Construction would occur when Maxwell Grove is closed to the public (May 16-September 30); therefore no aesthetic impacts would occur to people utilizing Maxwell Grove. Two of the six property owners have limited views of the project area. The property owner located near the intersection of Wohler Road and Westside Road may have a view of the proposed driveway. Another property owner

located south of the project area on Westside Road may have views of construction activities, and the Proposed Project's roofline and parking area.

Proposed construction activities effects would be temporary and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. As noted in the Project Description, project implementation would include surface restoration, including repaving of roadways. The ground surface would be returned to original grade following trenching activities and vegetation would be planted along the southern border of the property line.

Long-term impacts to aesthetic resources from the construction of the Proposed Project would be limited. The Proposed Project design elements would offset visual impacts. Design elements to offset visual impacts would include:

- 1) Color and texture of building materials would be consistent with the surrounding environment. Non-reflective surfaces and darker colors would be utilized to avoid glare and contrast;
- 2) Exterior lighting would be low mounted, downward casting and fully shielded to prevent glare. Lighting would not wash out structures or any portions of the site. Light fixtures would not be located at the periphery of the property and shall not spill over onto adjacent properties or into the sky. Lighting fixtures would be no more than the minimum height (20 feet) and power necessary to adequately light the Proposed Project to provide security and safety. This would minimize glare onto adjacent properties and into the night sky; and
- 3) Planting would occur along the southern border/entrance of the project area.

Enhanced landscaping designs elements are included in the project description which would include plantings of native California shrubs, trees and small boulders to enhance the aesthetics and discourage parking on the side of the road.

PRMD has developed Visual Assessment Guidelines<sup>8</sup> assess the impacts of individual projects. These guidelines provide for rating site sensitivity and the visual dominance of the project site, and then using a combination of these ratings to assess the potential for significant impacts. Under this methodology, the sensitivity of the Proposed Project would be considered low; the area is not identified as a scenic resource, has low visual sensitivity, and the Proposed Project elements are compatible with the surrounding area. Taken together, these findings indicate a less-than-significant impact to aesthetics from the Proposed Project.

- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in any long-term damage of scenic resources. No mature trees would be removed during construction. There are no rock outcroppings on the site, no historic buildings of visual significance would be

removed and the Proposed Project is not within a state scenic highway. Please refer to Item I a) for additional information.

- c) No Impact. Please refer to Item I a). In addition, the Proposed Project would require the installation of a utility pole however, there are existing utility poles adjacent to the project site and therefore the Proposed Project would not result in any degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the project area.
- d) No Impact. Please refer to Item I a). The Proposed Project would require security lighting associated with the building and parking lot; however, the light or glare associated with the security lighting would not adversely affect day or nighttime view in the area. No nighttime construction is planned, and lighting of the construction area is not anticipated. Therefore, there would be no impacts from potential light and glare associated with construction.

## II. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? (3)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of any farmlands to other uses. No Farmland designations exist within the project area. To characterize the environmental baseline for agricultural resources, Important Farmland Maps produced by the State of California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), Sonoma County Important Farmland 2010 Map<sup>9</sup> and the Sonoma County General Plan 2020 Land Use Map (Healdsburg and Environs)<sup>10</sup> were reviewed.

The FMMP's Important Farmland and Monitoring Data Map designated the project area as Other Land. The map depicts categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of

Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, Grazing Land, Urban and Built-up Land, Other Land, and Water.

- b) No Impact. Please refer to Item 2a) above. The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract. The State of California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection, Land Resource Protection Maps, Sonoma County Williamson Act Map 2008<sup>11</sup> was reviewed and showed no Williamson Act contract for the project area.
- c) No Impact. No timber harvest activities are occurring or expected to occur within the project area. The California Department of Forestry's Timber Harvest Plans (THP) submitted to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire)<sup>12</sup> was reviewed and listed no THP in the project area. In addition, the California 2012 THP Database from the THP Tracking Center Maps<sup>13</sup>, which lists California private lands timber sale plans and logging sites, was reviewed and showed no THP in the project area.
- d) No Impact. Please refer to the above Item 2 c) above. The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- e) No Impact. Please refer to the above Item 2 a) above. The Proposed Project would not result in a change in existing land use.

### III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (4,5)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (2,4) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (2,4)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

#### Air Basins

Sonoma County is located within two air basins: the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) and the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB). The NCAB encompasses the northern half of Sonoma County (north of Windsor) and is regulated by the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD). The SFBAAB encompasses the southern portion of Sonoma County and is regulated by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). NSCAPCD jurisdiction includes the project area.

The NSCAPCD operates and maintains five monitoring stations located in Cloverdale (100 S. Washington Street), Guerneville (Church and 1<sup>st</sup>), Healdsburg (Limmerick Lane), Healdsburg (Matheson Street), and Healdsburg (Municipal Airport). Since the NCAB is not a nonattainment or maintenance area for pollutants other than PM<sub>10</sub> on a state level it is not required to have an Air Quality Plan. (PM<sub>10</sub> refers to particulate matter measuring less than 10 microns in diameter including fugitive dust.)

a) Less Than Significant. The Proposed Project is within the jurisdiction of NSCAPCD and would not conflict with implementation of any applicable air quality plan. Air emissions associated with the Proposed Project would be generated during construction and operation activities. Motor vehicles and motorized equipment used

during construction would result in a short-term increase of fugitive dust (PM<sub>10</sub>), exhaust emissions of ozone precursors, and carbon monoxide.

As discussed above, NSCAPCD is not required to have an Air Quality Plan and therefore, does not have specific attainment plans for PM<sub>10</sub>. Furthermore, the NSCAPCD has not established significance thresholds for construction activities relating to the release of PM<sub>10</sub>, and therefore does not require quantification of potential emissions from construction sites. The NSCAPD requires projects to mitigate construction-related emissions through the implementation of BMPs. Although not explicitly outlined, the NSCAPD has identified the BMPs recommended in the BAAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines<sup>14</sup> as sufficient in meeting the NSCAPCD's goals including PM<sub>10</sub> emission reductions. The BAAQMD's approach to analysis of construction impacts is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions. The BAAQMD considers any construction-related impact to be less than significant if the required fugitive dust and emission control measures are implemented. To minimize and avoid potential impacts to air quality, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). These practices and procedures protect air quality by avoiding or minimizing fugitive dust and emission generation during construction activities.

Vehicle trips associated with operational activities could result in minor exhaust emissions of carbon monoxide; however, operation of the proposed facility would not result in additional vehicular traffic beyond existing levels along Wohler or Westside Roads because no changes in the Education Program are proposed. Current vehicle trips to the existing Education Program facility would shift to the proposed facility. This change in location would not result in additional vehicle miles traveled because the existing and proposed facility locations are equidistant from the turn-off from Wohler Road to the existing facility. In addition, the Proposed Project site would allow students from the Education Program to walk to the Water Agency's Mirabel facilities and therefore, moving the Education Program to the proposed facility would decrease vehicle miles traveled. Maintenance of the proposed facility is not anticipated to require additional vehicle miles traveled beyond that of the existing facility. The Proposed Project would not generate emissions substantially greater than those currently generated near the Project site from ongoing agricultural operations (e.g., operation of farm equipment and vehicles, and periodic disking and tilling of agricultural fields). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any air quality plan.

- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project construction activities would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation (please refer to the above Item III a). The Proposed Project's operation and maintenance operations would not contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation because the Project would not generate emissions substantially greater than those currently generated from the existing Education Program and from ongoing agricultural operations near the Project site, and there are no existing or projected air quality violations in the Project area. Please refer to the above Items III a) and III c).
- c) Less Than Significant. As stated above, the project site is within the boundaries of the NSCAPCD. The NSCAPCD is primarily rural and mountainous, and contains one urbanized area (Forestville). According to the State of California Air Resources Board, based on 2012 area designations for air quality,<sup>15</sup> the NSCAPCD area is in attainment for the State PM<sub>10</sub> standard. Dust generation during construction activities is anticipated to be minimal, principally because the Proposed Project would require minor earth moving activities. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any air quality violation because the Proposed Project would not generate emissions substantially greater than those currently generated near the Project site from ongoing agricultural activities. Current vehicle trips to the existing Education Program facility would shift to the proposed facility. This change in location would not result in additional vehicle miles traveled because the existing and proposed facility locations are equidistant from the turn-off from Wohler Road to the existing facility. In addition, the Proposed Project site would allow students from the Water Education Program to walk to the Water Agency's Mirabel facilities reducing the number of bus trips and therefore, decrease vehicle miles traveled. Maintenance of the proposed facility is not anticipated to require additional vehicle miles traveled beyond that of the existing facility. This impact is considered less than significant. In addition, to further minimize and avoid potential impacts to air quality, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). These practices and procedures protect air quality by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities which would minimize fugitive dust and emission generation during construction activities. Please refer to the above Item III b).
- d) No Impact. No objectionable odors would result from the proposed construction activities or operation of the project.

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (2,6,7)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

#### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) Less Than Significant. An evaluation of biological resources was conducted to determine listed federal and state species, their habitat requirements and the potential for occurrence in the project area. Please refer to Appendix C for Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species occurring within the project site. The project area is not located within designated critical habitat of any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Construction activities would occur within previously disturbed areas including existing paved and hardscaped areas. No trees would be removed as a result of the Proposed Project and the proposed facility would be located outside of the riparian corridor, approximately 570 feet from the Russian River. Approximately 300 feet of minor trenching into existing hardscaped pathway would be required for the installation of utilities and would be limited to the

Water Agency's property. The staging area would be located on the project site, owned by the Water Agency. All heavy equipment would be stored within the designated construction staging areas.

Wildlife habitat types present within or adjacent to the project area include ruderal/developed and riparian woodland habitats. Ruderal habitat provides limited forage and cover for wildlife, and typically supports a low diversity of disturbance-adapted wildlife species. The Proposed Project would require the removal of yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) within the footprint of the proposed facility, access road and parking lot. Wildlife species observed in ruderal habitat on the project site include species typically associated with high levels of human activity and disturbance such as house finch, black phoebe, Brewers blackbird, Anna's hummingbird, raccoon, and opossum.

In addition, landscaping would occur around the building and parking lot area and would include a dry riverbed, native California perennials to demonstrate sustainable water resources management; provide habitat and food sources for beneficial insects and fauna, provide shelter planting for birds, and provide cover planting for amphibians.

The project site is located adjacent to a county road and a public park that has an existing parking lot and boat ramp. There is a high amount of daily vehicle traffic and human disturbance from visitors fishing and launching boats. Construction activities would not significantly increase the potential to restrict wildlife movements in the project area. Any potential disturbance that occurs as a result of construction activities would be temporary (June-October). In addition, alternative wildlife corridors exist in surrounding areas.

The surrounding project area includes potential nesting habitat for numerous common and special-status birds. Project activities are not anticipated to result in impacts to these species. However, to further minimize and avoid potential impacts to bird species, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). For example, pre-construction surveys would be conducted within one week before initiation of construction activities. If active nests are identified within the project site area, non-disturbance buffers shall be established. Buffer size shall be determined in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Buffers would remain in place until biologists determine that the young have successfully fledged. These practices and procedures protect biological resources by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities, which would reduce impacts to less than a significant level.

- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Please refer to the above Item IV a).
- c) No Impact. The project site does not contain waters of the United States, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and no substantial adverse effects to wetlands or other waters of the United States would result from the Proposed Project
- d) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the following: movement of any native, resident, or migratory fish or wildlife species, established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impeded with the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Please refer to the above Item IV a).
- e) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including a tree preservation ordinance or policy.
- f) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any Habitat Conservation, Natural Community Conservation, or any other conservation plans within the project area.

## V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (8)    | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5? (8) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? (8)                       | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (8)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a) Less Than Significant. An archaeological investigation of the project site was conducted by Tom Origer and Associates in 2013.<sup>16</sup> The archaeological investigation did not identify any prehistoric or historical archeological materials, historic-era buildings or structures, archeological resources within the study area. In addition, no resources-specific recommendations were made. Because the project site is located on the floor of an abandoned quarry near riparian areas, it is unlikely that buried archaeological deposits would be encountered. Although riparian areas are generally considered highly sensitive to the potential occurrence of cultural resources, such a location lessens the chance of recovering any archaeological matter intact. In addition, previous quarry operations of the project site required the excavation and movement of soil throughout the project area. Over 40 feet deep of material has been quarried from the project area. Potential cultural resources located in the area would likely have been discovered at that time. Boring activities associated with the installation of a utility pole and trenching activities associated with installation of utilities, one septic tank and building footings for the Proposed Project would be conducted in previously disturbed areas. The project is not anticipated to have an adverse effect to historical or archaeological resources. However, excavation during project construction has the potential to expose and affect subsurface cultural resources that were not visible and identified during the cultural resource field survey for the project. To minimize and avoid potential impacts to cultural resources, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). For example, the project specifications would require the contractor to comply with the Water Agency's Standard Contract Documents regarding the discovery of cultural resources. The project specifications would provide that if discovery is made of items of historical, archaeological or paleontological interest, the contractor would immediately cease

all work activities in the area of discovery. The contractor would not resume work until authorization is received from the Construction Inspector. The project specifications would require the contractor to comply with Public Resources Code 5097.98 and Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5, pertaining to the discovery of human remains. These practices and procedures protect cultural resources by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities which would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

- b) Less Than Significant. Please refer to Item V a).
- c) No Impact. No unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features were identified within the project site.
- d) Less Than Significant. No human remains have been identified within the project site. Please refer to Item V a).

## VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:   |                                |                                       |                                     |                                     |
| 1) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. (2,9) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Strong seismic ground shaking? (2,9)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (2,9)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) Landslides? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? (10)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) 1) No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within a known earthquake fault zone, as delineated in the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map<sup>17</sup> issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. A geotechnical investigation was conducted by Brunsing Associates, Inc. (Appendix B) at the project site. The proposed site is geologically suitable for the planned facility. Through implementation of the recommendations and guidance within the Geotechnical Design Criteria, construction, operation and maintenance of the project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects from the rupture of a known earthquake fault. Therefore, the project would have no impact from known earthquakes faults.
- a) 2) Less Than Significant. Intensity of ground shaking at the site would depend on the distance to the earthquake epicenter, the magnitude of the quake, and the response

characteristics of the underlying materials. According to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Earthquake Shaking Scenarios,<sup>18</sup> the project site is located within an area of strong to very strong ground shaking in a scenario with a 7.0 magnitude earthquake along the Healdsburg-Rodgers Creek fault. In the scenario of a 7.5 magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, strong ground shaking could occur. The project would be constructed to the standards of the most recent seismic Uniform Building and Safety Code. Therefore, compliance with these design standards would ensure potential impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

- a) 3) No Impact. The potential for liquefaction in Sonoma County exists primarily in the wetlands areas adjacent to San Pablo Bay; along the Russian and Petaluma Rivers and Santa Rosa and Sonoma Creeks; the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Santa Rosa Plain. The bedrock exposed in the quarry cut banks at the project site consists of Jurassic, Great Valley Sequence basalt that is little to moderately fractured, moderately hard and moderately to little weathered. Portions of the basalt are very hard. The bedrock and soils appear relatively low in expansion potential.<sup>19</sup>
- a) 4) No Impact. Please refer to the above Items a3) and c). The Proposed Project is located on stable soil and surrounding hillsides that have been surveyed and considered geologically stable for construction. In addition, the Proposed Project would not consist of activities which would cut into the hillside or degrade its stability. According to ABAG, the Proposed Project is not immediately located within an area prone to mudslides or debris flow due to rainfall and earthquake events, or in a landslide hazard area, as delineated in the County of Sonoma Hazard Mitigation Plan.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides.
- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project is located on an abandoned quarry and would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil.
- c) No Impact. Please refer to the above Items a1)-4), b) and c). A geotechnical investigation was conducted by Brunsing Associates, Inc. (Appendix B) at the project site. The proposed site is geologically suitable for the planned facility. Additionally, substantial grade change would not occur in the topography to the point where the project would expose people or structures to potential adverse effects on, or off site, such as, landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.
- d) No Impact. Please refer to the above Item a3). The area where the proposed facility would be constructed has relatively low in expansion potential.<sup>21</sup> The project would

be designed with the recommendations specified in the geotechnical report, mentioned above.

- e) No Impact. Wastewater would be stored in a 3,000 gallon fiberglass underground septic tank and would be hauled away to be disposed and treated at the ALWSZ wastewater treatment facility. A high water alarm shall be provided at 70 percent of the total capacity. The Red Hill clay loam soil found at the project site is capable of adequately supporting the use of the hold and haul wastewater system.

## VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? (2)      | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) Less Than Significant. Given the limited and temporary nature of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources associated with the Proposed Project, significant emissions, either directly or indirectly, of GHG is not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project.

#### Approach to Analysis

The BAAQMD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines include quantitative thresholds for evaluating (GHG) emissions from projects and plans and guidelines for assessing these impacts. The thresholds, adopted in June 2010, include a bright line emissions threshold of 1,100 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2e</sub>) per year for projects that are not stationary sources or an emission efficiency metric of 4.6 MT of CO<sub>2e</sub> per year per service population.

Neither the BAAQMD nor the NSCAPCD have an adopted threshold of significance for construction-related GHG emissions. The BAAQMD recommends that agencies calculate the emissions and disclose that GHG emissions would occur during construction. The BAAQMD also encourages the incorporation of best management practices to reduce GHG emissions during construction where feasible and applicable.

After consulting with BAAQMD staff (Michael, pers. comm., 2011), the Water Agency chose to use the Climate Registry's General Reporting Protocol v. 1.1<sup>1</sup> (Protocol) and the Registry's Default Emission Factors (released January 6, 2012) for the purpose of evaluating the impacts of the Proposed Project on global climate change because (1) the Protocol enables the user to calculate GHG emissions more accurately than other publicly-available GHG emissions calculators; (2) the Registry emissions reporting is third-party audited and verified; and (3) use of the Registry Protocol will ensure consistency between calculations completed for the purpose of environmental impact analysis and data reported to the Registry. The 2012 Climate

<sup>1</sup> The Climate Registry is a nonprofit collaboration among North American states, provinces, territories and Native Sovereign Nations that sets consistent and transparent standards to calculate, verify and publicly report GHG emissions to a single registry. It provides a method for ensuring the relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency, and accuracy of GHG emissions quantification.

Registry Default Emission Factors (released Jan 6, 2012) were used to calculate GHG CO<sub>2e</sub> emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O). Other important GHG emissions (HFCs, PFCs, and SF<sub>6</sub>) were omitted from analysis because they are not emitted through the Proposed Project activities.

### Analysis

Construction would require a variety of heavy equipment and machinery that would generate GHG emissions. The Water Agency anticipates that construction will require an excavator; backhoe loader; back scraper; sweepers; air compressors; pavement saw; jack hammers; concrete truck; water truck; boom truck; four utility trucks; and paving equipment, including asphalt hauling trucks, compactors, paving machine and rollers. Construction-related activities would result in the release of 35.79 metric tons CO<sub>2e</sub>. A comparison of the estimated total construction emissions of 35.79 metric tons CO<sub>2e</sub> to the BAAQMD operational threshold of 1,100 annual metric tons CO<sub>2e</sub> would indicate a less-than-significant impact for the construction-related emissions. To minimize and avoid potential impacts to air quality, construction activities will incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (see Appendix D). These practices and procedures protect air quality by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities which would minimize fugitive dust and emissions generation during construction activities. Given the limited and temporary nature of the GHG emission sources associated with the project, significant emissions, either directly or indirectly, of GHG are not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project.

Operation of the facility will include electricity consumption through Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). Electricity consumption of the existing building results in the annual emission of 0.04 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> while the new building is projected to emit 3.41 MT CO<sub>2e</sub>, for an increase of 3.36 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> per year.

Operation of the proposed facility would not result in additional vehicular traffic beyond existing levels along Wohler or Westside Roads because no changes in the Education Program are proposed. Current vehicle trips to the existing Education Program facility would shift to the proposed facility. This change in location would not result in additional vehicle miles traveled because the existing and proposed facility locations are equidistant from the turn-off from Wohler Road to the existing facility. Therefore, moving the Education Program to the proposed facility would not result in an increase in vehicle miles traveled.

Maintenance of the proposed facility is not anticipated to require additional vehicle miles traveled beyond that of the existing facility, therefore no additional GHG emissions would result from maintenance activities.

Operation and maintenance of the proposed facility would result in the emission of an additional 3.36 additional MT CO<sub>2e</sub> annually. The BAAQMD emission efficiency threshold of 4.6 MT of CO<sub>2e</sub> per year per service population applies to the operation and maintenance of the facility. The per capita rate is the existing or increase in annual GHG emissions expressed in metric tons divided by the existing or increase in service population. The proposed facility is anticipated to serve approximately the same number of students annually as were served during the 2010-2011 school year by the existing water education program facility, 2,328 students. Therefore, the Proposed Project's per capita emissions would be approximately 0.0014 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> annually, well below the BAAQMD's threshold of 4.6 MT of CO<sub>2e</sub> per year per service population.

In summary, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project would result in the emission of up to an additional 39.15 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> during the first year and 3.36 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> each year afterward, well below the thresholds set by the BAAQMD.

- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project does not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

#### Approach to Analysis

Potential impacts were evaluated in terms of the proposed project's consistency with applicable state and local plans, policies, and regulations.

#### *Assembly Bill 32 – Global Warming Solutions Act*

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) required the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to prepare a plan to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 in California. The main measures to reduce GHG emissions were published in the AB 32 Scoping Plan, approved in 2008 and re-approved by CARB in 2011. The CARB originally determined that GHG emissions must be reduced 28 percent below the "business as usual" (BAU) 2020 projection to meet the AB 32 GHG reduction mandate. However, CARB reevaluated the 2020 BAU baseline in light of the economic downturn (CARB, 2011). The updated evaluation identifies a 22 percent reduction in emissions to meet the AB 32 target. Additionally, CARB recommends a GHG reduction goal for local governments of 15% below 2008 levels by 2020.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan*

The Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2008, was prepared to identify potential solutions to help the nine cities in Sonoma County achieve GHG reduction goals. The plan established GHG reduction targets and

goals for major sectors including commercial, residential, transportation, and land use planning.<sup>23</sup> The following solution is included in the Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan and is listed below for project review and for applicability to the Proposed Project.

*Electricity and Natural Gas Solution # 5. Institute a mandatory green building ordinance throughout Sonoma County similar to Rohnert Park's ordinance; remove barriers to green building; require zero—energy "inclusionary" quotas for multiple building projects.*

*County of Sonoma, Resolution No. 10-0253*

In response to the Climate Action Plan Solution listed above, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 10-0253 on March 20, 2010, to establish energy and sustainability standards for local agency construction projects. The resolution sets forth requirements to demonstrate and help achieve the County of Sonoma's commitment to protect the climate, reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, promote sustainable practices, provided healthy work environments, reduce ongoing building operation costs, and provide environmental leadership.

The Resolution adopted policies relevant to the Westside facility are as follows:

- Construction projects less than 10,000 square feet shall be designed and built to meet the LEED® prerequisites and requirements equivalent to a Certified Rating. These projects are not required to register for a formally certified rating, but shall be validated and documented in the project record by a LEED® accredited professional.
- Energy use shall be at least 25 percent below California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11 standards for new construction projects.
- At least 75 percent (based on wattage) of energy-consuming equipment shall be Energy Star compliant.
- Indoor water usage shall be at least 30 percent below baseline usage.
- Outdoor water usage shall be at least 50 percent below baseline usage.
- At least 75 percent of all construction and demolition waste shall be recycled or salvaged.
- Consistent with Resolution No. 10-0253, energy use for the proposed facility shall be at least 25 percent below business-as-usual standards.

## Analysis

The green building standards outlined in Resolution No. 10-0253 were incorporated into project design. By doing so, energy use by the new facility will be at least 25 percent below BAU, surpassing CARB's reduction goals for both the public sector (15 percent) and the private sector (22 percent).

As discussed in "III. Air Quality," construction activities will also incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (see Appendix D) which will further reduce the emission of GHG activities as well as other air pollutants.

Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with both state and local plans, policies and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

## VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal, of hazardous materials? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? (2)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a) and b) Less Than Significant. Construction of the Proposed Project would require the use of vehicles and equipment that may have a slight potential for accidentally spilling oil or fuel. Accidental release of any hazardous materials (e.g., motor oil and gasoline) would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment because the project is located in a sparsely populated area; the quantity and toxicity of materials that could be released would be low; and best management practices would be implemented during construction activities to minimize and avoid potential hazards and hazardous material impacts, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). These practices and procedures protect the environment by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction

activities, which would reduce impacts to less-than-significant level. Therefore, the construction of the Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

The Proposed Project would not require long-term operation and maintenance use of hazardous materials. The Proposed Project would not require routine transport of vehicles, construction equipment, and construction materials that use or dispose hazardous materials (e.g., motor oil and gasoline). Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

The soils of the project's building and parking lot site have been excavated as part of past land use (abandoned quarry). In addition, previous quarry operations required the excavation and movement of soil throughout the project area. Boring activities associated with the installation of a utility pole and trenching activities associated with installation of utilities, one septic tank and building footings for the Proposed Project would be conducted in previously disturbed areas. These past activities lessen the potential for the release of previously unidentified hazardous materials because potential hazardous materials would likely have been discovered during these activities. No hazardous wastes are anticipated to be encountered during the construction of the Proposed Project.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would involve grading and excavation. Therefore, the potential for the release of previously unidentified hazardous materials exists. If present, encountering contaminated soil, surface water, and groundwater without taking proper precautions could result in the exposure of construction workers and the environment to hazardous conditions. To minimize and avoid potential impacts of hazards and hazardous materials, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications (Appendix D). These practices and procedures protect the environment by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities which would reduce impacts to less than a significant level.

- c) No Impact. As noted above in Item VII a) and b), the potential for release of hazardous materials is low and limited to only during construction. In addition, the nearest existing or proposed school is approximately 2.5 miles east of the project site. Therefore, no impact to an existing or proposed public school within one-quarter mile of the project site is expected.

- d) No Impact. The California State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker<sup>24</sup> website was reviewed and the site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) No Impact. The project site is approximately 4 miles west of the Charles M. Shulz-Sonoma County Airport. The project would not alter existing elevations or involve the construction of any structures that might interfere with airport operations.
- f) No Impact. The project site is not located near a private airstrip.
- g) No Impact. The Proposed Project is located on Water Agency property and would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- h) No Impact. The project site is located in an area of Resources and Rural Development adjacent to wildlands. The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires beyond the risks that currently exist in the vicinity of the project area.

## IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? (11)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? (2,11)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) No Impact. There would be no discharges to surface water during construction or operation of the Proposed Project.
- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project would use water provided by the Water Agency and would not affect groundwater recharge along the river.
- c) Less Than Significant. The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site because the Proposed Project would utilize the

existing cut-off ditch that was constructed with the existing parking lot and outlet adjacent to the project site. The Proposed Project would include the replacement of an underground 8-inch corrugated metal pipe with a 15-inch high density polyethylene drainage pipe that would be installed in the existing cut-off ditch. The installation of an artificial dry river bed (a landscape feature) in the center of the parking lot and two inlets with connecting drainage pipe (approximately 12 inches) near the west side of the building and two inlets with connecting drainage pipe (approximately 12 and 15 inches) near the south side of the parking lot would be utilized to divert surface water runoff from the hillside around the building and paved areas into the 15-inch drainage pipe. These minor modifications to the existing drainage pattern would improve the current conditions and further reduce erosion and runoff.

- d) No Impact. Refer to the above Item VIII c).
- e) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not affect stormwater drainage systems or water quality because the Proposed Project would not create additional runoff water or provide an additional source of polluted runoff.
- f) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not degrade water quality because there would be no discharges to surface water. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not degrade water quality.
- g) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not include the construction of housing.
- h) No Impact. The Proposed Project is not within a 100-year flood hazard area.
- i) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not include construction of a levee or dam.
- j) No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located in an area subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

**X. LAND USE AND PLANNING**

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance)? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- a) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not physically divide or otherwise alter an established community.
- b) No Impact. The project site is located in an area zoned for Resources and Rural Development. The Proposed Project would not change the existing land use of the project site or adjacent land uses and complies with the goals and regulations of the PRMD as well as the 2020 General Plan.
- c) No Impact. The Proposed Project does not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

**XI. MINERAL RESOURCES**

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (2)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- a) No Impact. No gravel mining operations are currently operating in the vicinity of the project site, although gravel mining has occurred in the past. The project site is an abandon quarry which has not been in operation since 1970. Gravel is the only known mineral resource at the Proposed Project site and has already been mined. No impact is anticipated from the Proposed Project.
- b) No Impact. Please see above Item XI a).

## XII. NOISE

| Would the project result in:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? (2,12)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) Less Than Significant. Construction of the Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in noise associated with construction activities. There are residences near (approximately 300 feet away) the project site that could be exposed to increased noise levels during construction activities; however, the overall project area setting is an agricultural and industrial setting. Existing noise-generating water diversion facilities and agricultural activities (approximately 500 feet away) can and do occur at various hours over a 24-hour period depending upon needs (e.g., water supply, harvest and frost protection activities). Existing noise-generating from industrial activities such as Water Agency diversion facilities and the noise generated from the operations and maintenance from the Water Agency's Collectors and maintenance yard can and do occur. The proposed construction activities would be temporary during the construction period and would not represent a significant new source of noise in the project area. To minimize and avoid potential impacts of noise, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs. These practices and procedures include: construction activities would only take place between the hours of 7:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday; equipment and trucks used for project construction shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., improved mufflers, equipment redesign, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine

enclosures and acoustically-attenuating shields or shrouds, wherever feasible); and all machinery and equipment would be inspected daily to see if there are any problems which may contribute to increased noise levels and unsafe practices. For complete list of BMPs please see Appendix D. These practices and procedures protect the environment by avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts during construction activities which would reduce impacts to less than a significant level.

- b) Less Than Significant. Please refer to the above Item XI a).
- c) Less Than Significant. The Water Agency is currently using a portion of the Wohler area for its field study program for the Education Program. The relocation of the field study program to the new facility (approximately 1,300 feet away) would not increase ambient noise levels since the Proposed Project would not increase the size and scale of the field study program.
- d) Less Than Significant. Construction of the Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in noise associated with the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Construction of the project would not result in substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels above levels existing without the project because the project is located in an agricultural area subject to temporary and periodic increases in noise levels as a result of farm equipment operations. In addition, construction activities would incorporate the use of BMPs, as defined in project plans and specifications.
- e) No Impact. The project site is approximately 4 miles from the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport; however, the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport does not generate a significant amount of noise in the project area. In addition, since the project does not consist of the construction of any new homes or work locations, the project does not consist of any components that would result in placing new sensitive receptors in the project area.
- f) No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

### XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) Less Than Significant. The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth in the area because no new homes and businesses are proposed. The Proposed Project would not require extension of roads; however, it would require the extension of water service to the new facility. Approximately 300 feet of minor trenching along existing hardscaped pathway would be required to provide potable water to the proposed facility. The Proposed Project would not expand the Water Agency's delivery capacity or modify its water rights to allow for any increase in water diversions.
- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not displace housing because no homes exist within the project site.
- c) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not displace people because there are no inhabitants within the project site.

#### XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

|   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: |                                |                                       |                              |                                     |
| Fire protection? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

#### DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

a) Fire protection. No Impact. The Proposed Project is located on Water Agency property and involves construction of a new government facility to replace an existing facility. During construction, staging areas and equipment would be located on Water Agency property. Therefore, traffic delays along Wohler Road are not anticipated and would not cause significant environmental impacts to response times for fire and police protection.

Police protection. No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require alteration of existing or construction of new governmental facilities, including police protection.

Schools. No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require alteration of existing or construction of new governmental facilities, including schools.

Parks. No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require alteration of existing or construction of new governmental facilities, including parks.

Other public facilities. No Impact. The Proposed Project would consist of the construction of a facility on publicly owned property. The construction of the Proposed Project would not cause significant environmental impacts, or impair service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

**XV. RECREATION**

|  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (2)                        | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- a) No Impact. The Proposed Project is near an existing regional park. However, the Proposed Project activities would not increase the use of the park. Therefore, Proposed Project would not impact parks or other recreational facilities.
- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project does not include the construction or expansion of recreation facilities. The Russian River is a popular destination for canoeing and kayaking. People using the Russian River in the project area would not be impacted during construction of the Proposed Project. The parking lot available for recreational use is seasonal and construction would occur outside that season. Therefore, the proposed construction activities would not impact recreational resources.

## XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

| Would the project:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? (2,13) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) Less Than Significant. Construction activities would all occur outside of roadways and within property owned by the Water Agency. However, construction vehicles may cause a short-term delay of traffic along Wohler Bridge, Wohler Road, and Westside Road, as vehicles enter and exit the project site. It is not anticipated that the short-term increase in traffic related to construction vehicles accessing the project site would substantially increase traffic or cause traffic congestion in relation to the capacity of the road. Wohler Road and Westside Road are designated as Rural Major Collectors. Traffic control would be implemented by the construction contractor if necessary to allow the passage of construction vehicles and the delivery of materials to the site.
- b) Less Than Significant. Construction vehicle traffic is expected to temporarily increase by approximately 45 vehicle trips per day. Vehicles traveling to and from the site during project construction would not exceed, either individually or cumulatively, the level of service standard for Westside Road or Wohler Road. The

increase in vehicle traffic would be temporary and would primarily be concentrated over a few months during the construction period. Therefore, the temporary impact would be less than significant.

- c) No Impact. The Proposed Project does not include air transportation and would not affect air traffic patterns.
- d) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not change any road design or cause any road obstructions.
- e) No Impact. The Proposed Project site would be accessed by the same roads as the existing facility and would be assessable to emergency vehicles.
- f) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with alternative transportation policies, plans, or programs. The Proposed Project would be located on Water Agency property. There is adequate room to stage construction vehicles, equipment, and materials. No off-site parking would be necessary.

## XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

| Would the project:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact        | No Impact                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (2)                            | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (2)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- a) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction or expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities.
- b) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require connection to a wastewater treatment facility. Restroom facilities would utilize a 3,000-gallon fiberglass underground septic tank that would hold wastewater and be hauled away to be disposed and treated at the ALWSZ wastewater treatment facility. Currently, the Water Agency utilizes the hold and haul system for disposing wastewater at the facility and therefore would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements.
- c) No Impact. Please refer to the above Item XVII b). The Proposed Project would not require connection to a wastewater treatment facility.
- d) No Impact. Sufficient water supplies are available to serve the Proposed Project from existing entitlements and resources from the Sonoma County Water Agency's water transmission line.

- e) Less Than Significant. Proposed Project would utilize the existing cut-off ditch that was constructed with the existing parking lot and outlet adjacent to the project site. The Proposed Project would include the replacement of an underground 8 inch corrugated metal pipe with a 15-inch high density polyethylene drainage pipe that would be installed in the existing cut-off ditch. The installation of a dry river bed in the center of the parking lot and two inlets with connecting drainage pipe (approximately 12 inches) near the west side of the building and two inlets with connecting drainage pipe (approximately 12 and 15 inches) near the south side of the parking lot would be utilized to divert surface water runoff from the hillside around the building and paved areas into the 15-inch drainage pipe.
- f) No Impact. No off haul of solid waste material would be necessary for the Proposed Project.
- g) No Impact. The Proposed Project would not require the disposal of construction-related debris. No off haul of materials would be necessary for the Proposed Project. The existing operation and maintenance of solid waste disposal is serviced by Redwood Empire Waste Management Company. The Proposed Project would continue with this service.

**XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

|  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact                           |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? (2) | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? (2)   | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? (2)  | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

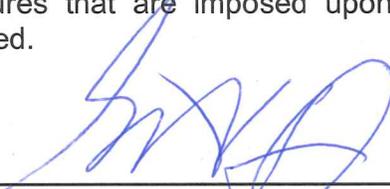
**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- a) No Impact. The Proposed Project would relocate the Water Agency’s Field Study Program to a facility that can safely accommodate students while continuing to utilize the nearby water collection facilities and the Russian River for the outdoor component of the program. All impacts associated with the Proposed Project have been fully identified in this document. The Proposed Project does not have potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history.
- b) No Impact. All impacts associated with the Proposed Project have been fully identified in this document. No impacts have been identified that could be cumulatively considerable, and no mitigation is required.
- c) No Impact. The Proposed Project does not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

**DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
  
- I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
  
- I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
  
- I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
  
- I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10-16-13

Grant Davis - General Manager



## SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES

### LIST OF PREPARERS

Connie Barton, Environmental Specialist, Project Manager  
Anne Crealock, Senior Environmental Specialist  
David Manning, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Jessica Martini-Lamb, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Yvette O'Keefe, Environmental Specialist  
Michelle Williams, Environmental Specialist  
Jeanette Wilson, GIS/Graphics

### References Cited in Text of Initial Study/Negative Declaration

---

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, February 17, 2012 <<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>>

<sup>2</sup> Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Program, 2011 Update, County of Sonoma Permit and Resources Management Department, updated accessed December 11, 2012  
[http://www.sonomacounty.org/prmd/docs/hmp\\_2011/chapters/ch2.pdf](http://www.sonomacounty.org/prmd/docs/hmp_2011/chapters/ch2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Hart, E.W. and W.A. Bryant, *Fault Rupture Hazard Zones in California: Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones Act of 1972 with Index to Special Studies Zone Maps*. California Division of Mines and Geology, Special Publication 42, 1990. Revised and updated 1997, accessed December 11, 2012 <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/PUB/DMG/PUBS/SP/SP42.PDF>

<sup>4</sup> Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone Maps, State of California Department of Conservation, Geologic Survey, updated 2007 and accessed December 4, 2012, [http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/ap/ap\\_maps.htm](http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/ap/ap_maps.htm)

<sup>5</sup> Hagensieker, B.A. and Janine M. Loyd, M.A./R.P.A. *A Cultural Resources Survey for the Westside Facility Project near Forestville, Sonoma County, California*. Tom Origer and Associates. February 11, 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Sonoma County Permit and Resources Management Department. Sonoma County General Plan 2020, Open Space and Resource Conservation Element, Scenic Resources Area Figure OSRC-1. September 23, 2008.

<sup>7</sup> California Department of Transportation. Officially Designated State/County Scenic Highways. Website <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/schwy.htm>. Last updated July 2012. November 16, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Sonoma County Permit and Resources Management Department. Permit and Resources Management Department Visual Assessment Guidelines.

<sup>9</sup> State of California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Sonoma County Important Farmland 2010 Map. web page [http://redirect.conservacion.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/county\\_info\\_results.asp](http://redirect.conservacion.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/county_info_results.asp). November 16, 2012.

<sup>10</sup> Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department. Sonoma County General Plan 2020, Land Use Element, Land Use Map LU-2C. September 23, 2008.

- 
- <sup>11</sup> State of California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection, Land Resource Protection Map's, Sonoma County Williamson Act Map 2008.  
[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Pages/qh\\_maps.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Pages/qh_maps.aspx). November 16, 2012.
- <sup>12</sup> State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's California Department of Forestry Timber Harvest Plans web page.  
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/resourcemanagement/thpstatusupload/thpstatustable.html>. October 25, 2012.
- <sup>13</sup> Mapchannels.com website. <http://www.thptrackingcenter.org/database/thpca2012.html>. October 24, 2012.
- <sup>14</sup> Bay Area Air Quality Management District. California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Updated May 2012. May, 2012.
- <sup>15</sup> California Air Resources Board. 2012 State Area Designation Maps.  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>. May 30, 2013.
- <sup>16</sup> Virginia Hagensieker, B.A. and Janine M. Loyd, M.A./R.P.A. *A Cultural Resources Survey for the Westside Facility Project near Forestville, Sonoma County, California*. Tom Origer and Associates. February 11, 2013.
- <sup>17</sup> Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone Maps, State of California Department of Conservation, Geologic Survey, updated 2007 and accessed December 4, 2012, [http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/ap/ap\\_maps.htm](http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/ap/ap_maps.htm)
- <sup>18</sup> Earthquake Shaking Scenarios, Earthquake and Hazards Program, Association of Bay Area Governments, updated July 18, 2012 and accessed November 28, 2012,  
<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/shaking/>
- <sup>19</sup> Brunsing Associates Inc. 2012
- <sup>20</sup> Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Program 2011 Update, County of Sonoma Permit and Resources Management Department, accessed December 11, 2012,  
[http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/hmp\\_2011/index.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/hmp_2011/index.htm)
- <sup>21</sup> Brunsing Associates Inc. 2012
- <sup>22</sup> CARB, 2008
- <sup>23</sup> Climate Protection Campaign, 2008
- <sup>24</sup> California State Water Resources Control Board. GeoTracker website  
<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. November 15, 2011.

# **APPENDICES**

---

## **APPENDIX A**

---

### Notice of Preparation



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN INITIAL STUDY

January 9, 2013

**TO:** State Clearinghouse  
Responsible and Trustee Agencies  
Interested Agencies and Parties

**FROM:** Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### **WESTSIDE FACILITY PROJECT**

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) is preparing an Initial Study for the Westside Facility Project (Proposed Project). 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. It is a public document that analyzes the potential environmental effects related to construction, operation, and maintenance of a project and describes ways to reduce or avoid possible environmental damage.

The Initial Study for the Proposed Project will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Water Agency's "Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA." The Water Agency will act as the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA, and will consider all comments received in response to this Notice of Preparation, including comments from responsible and trustee agencies, property owners, and interested parties regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the Initial Study. Agencies and interested members of the public are invited to provide input on the scope and content of the environmental information that should be included in the Initial Study.

### **SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

The Water Agency is a special district created by the California Legislature and operates under the direction of a Board of Directors, composed of the members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The law that created the Water Agency and defines its powers and duties authorizes it to produce and furnish surface water and groundwater for beneficial uses, to control flood waters, to generate electricity, to provide recreational facilities in connection with flood control and sanitation facilities.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since 1981, the Water Agency has provided a Water Education Program (Education Program) to public and private schools located within the Water Agency's service area in Sonoma and northern Marin counties. The Education Program is designed to help educators teach students the value of water as an important natural resource and to promote water use efficiency and stewardship of the Russian River Watershed. One component of the Education Program is the Field Study Program, which currently

takes place at the Water Agency's Wohler facilities for students in the fifth grade. The Field Study Program runs from March through June, and September through November of each year. It is offered Monday through Thursday and is restricted to two classes a day.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Proposed Project is to relocate the Water Agency's Field Study Program to a facility that can safely accommodate students while continuing to utilize the nearby water collection facilities and the Russian River for the outdoor component of the program.

## **LOCATION**

The Proposed Project is located on Water Agency property at 9560 Westside Road (Assessor's Parcel Number 110-140-003), in the unincorporated area of Forestville, Sonoma County, California. The project site is located just west of the Wohler Bridge, adjacent to Maxwell Grove, as shown in Figure 1, at the intersection of Westside and Wohler roads.

The Proposed Project site is a previously disturbed, abandoned quarry. The property adjacent to the Proposed Project site is owned by the Water Agency and operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks, known as Maxwell Grove, which consists of a fenced-in parking lot, picnic area, and boat launch access to the Russian River.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Proposed Project is construction of a facility that would be used as a classroom for the Water Agency's Field Study Program; as a location to hold teacher workshops; as a starting location for community tours of the Water Agency's Water Transmission System, which are offered to the public approximately four times a year; and as a starting location for tours for other agency representatives, visiting officials and researchers which are offered approximately six times a year.

The Proposed Project would consist of the construction of an approximately 4,000 – 5,000 square foot, one story building. The building would be constructed towards the back of the property, to minimize sight lines from Wohler and Westside roads, and would have a low profile design to fit into the surrounding landscape. The Proposed Project would include the installation of low intensity, non-glaring lighting and security cameras. The building would include two classroom areas, each able to hold up to 40 occupants, restroom facilities, a small kitchen area, a small enclosed storage garage, an outdoor sink area, and a shaded outdoor seating area with picnic tables.

In addition, the Proposed Project would require the construction of a new access road and asphalt parking lot. The paved access road will be approximately 16 feet wide by 200 feet long. The proposed parking lot would be constructed directly on the opposite side of the existing parking lot and would become an extension of it. Improvements to the existing parking lot may include: landscape improvements, removal of the cyclone fencing, and reconfiguring the entryway so that ingress and egress is made safer.

## **FUNDING**

The cost of construction for the Proposed Project is estimated to be \$1.2 million. The source of funding would be the Water Agency's Water Transmission and General Funds, which are derived from revenue bond proceeds, income from water sales, and property tax revenues.

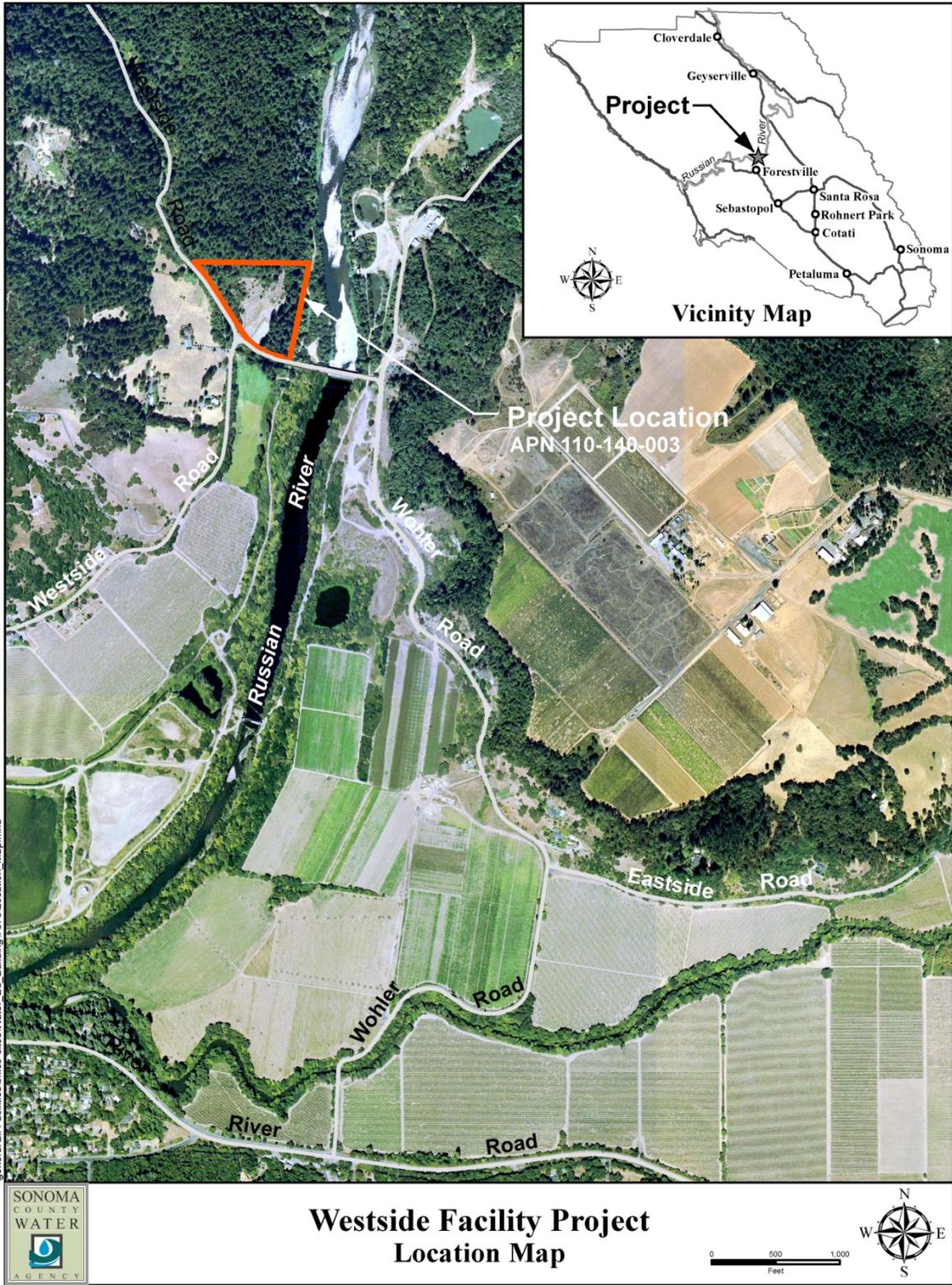


Figure 1

## **ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE INITIAL STUDY**

In accordance with CEQA, the Initial Study for the Proposed Project will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project. Specific areas of analysis will include: aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards, hydrology and water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems. Other areas of analysis may be added based on input from the public and public agencies during the Notice of Preparation review period. The Initial Study will be made available to decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, and the public for review and comment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 35 days after its mailing. The public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2013. Interested parties will also have an opportunity to comment on the Initial Study after it is published and circulated for public review. Please send your written comments regarding this Notice of Preparation to:

**Sonoma County Water Agency  
Attn: Connie Barton, Environmental Specialist  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

You may also submit comments electronically at the Water Agency's website:

[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)

## **SCOPING MEETING**

In order for the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope of the Westside Facility Project, a Scoping Meeting will be held during the NOP review period. Comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit written comments at the scoping meeting; written comments may also be submitted anytime during the NOP review period. The date, time, and location of the Scoping Meeting is listed below:

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup></b><br/>6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Current Water Education Building<br/>9750 Wohler Road<br/>Forestville, CA</p> |
|---|

If you have any questions, or if you wish to update your information on our mailing list, please contact Connie Barton, Environmental Specialist, at (707) 547-1905.

## **APPENDIX B**

---

### Limited Geotechnical Investigation

February 17, 2012

12155.04

Mr. Brian Paulson  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**RE: Limited Geotechnical Investigation, Planned Westside Multipurpose Facility at Maxwell Grove, Wohler Road at Westside Road, Sonoma County, California**

Dear Mr. Paulson:

This letter presents the results of our Limited Geotechnical Investigation for the Sonoma County Water Agency's (SCWA's) planned Westside Multipurpose Facility at Maxwell Grove, located on Wohler Road at Westside Road, Sonoma County, California. The site is located on the north-northeast side of the intersection of Wohler and Westside Roads, approximately 2.5 miles north of the community of Forestville, as shown on the Vicinity Map, Plate 1.

The Aerial Site Plan, Plate 2, shows the planned facility in relation to the mentioned road intersection, a Sonoma County Regional Parks Department parking lot, and the nearby cut slopes of an abandoned quarry. We understand that the SCWA would like to build the new building as close to the quarry cut bank as possible.

The intent of our services is to determine a suitable quarry slope setback for the building, as well as provide recommendations for pad grading and structure foundation support. The scope of our services, as outlined in Agreement Memorandum, TW 08/09-33, dated January 24, 2012, consists of:

1. Initial site meeting/observations, research and project coordination.
- 2.1 Field reconnaissance/mapping of the quarry slopes using Agency-provided plan and section.
- 2.2 Observe, log and sample test pits within the planned building area using client-provided backhoe.
- 3.1 Geologic and engineering analyses.
- 3.2 Preparing a written report presenting a summary of our field data along with recommendations regarding:
  - a. Quarry slope setback;
  - b. Site grading and drainage;
  - c. Structure foundation support.

## **Field Exploration**

Our Principal Engineering Geologist, Erik Olsborg met with you and observed the site on January 9, 2012. Olsborg returned to the site on January 26, 2012 and performed a geologic reconnaissance of the quarry cut banks and nearby natural slopes.

## **Site Conditions**

The proposed facility is located on the floor of the abandoned quarry. The planned building will be very near the lower, very steep quarry cut bank that is approximately 40 to 45 feet high with a very steep slope gradient of two-thirds horizontal to 1 vertical (0.67H:1V). The abandoned quarry has two, gently sloping benches; a lower bench, and an upper bench, as shown on Cross Section A-A', Plate 3. The lower bench slopes gently to the northeast. Stains on the quarry face indicate areas of ponding and runoff from the lower bench during rains. The upper bench has a moderate slope gradient to the northeast for drainage. The slope between the two benches has an average slope gradient of approximately 2H:1V.

The quarry is mostly bare rock with scattered brush and trees, as shown in Site Photograph A, Plate 4. The slopes surrounding the quarry are forested with mostly fir trees. The proposed building and parking areas are covered with grasses, weeds and some brush. The proposed building area below the quarry has mounded areas of quarry waste and what appears to be in-place rock, as shown in Site Photograph B, Plate 5. We understand that in this area the SCWA formerly stored gravels that were mined from the river. The upper and lower quarry benches are shown in Site Photographs C and D, Plate 6.

Ponded water and saturated soils were observed within the lower near-flat ground (former quarry floor) in the vicinity of the Regional Parks parking lot. No other standing water or groundwater seepage was observed within the quarry slopes.

## **Site Geology**

The bedrock exposed in the quarry cut banks consists of Jurassic, Great Valley Sequence basalt that is little to moderately fractured, moderately hard and moderately to little weathered. Portions of the basalt are very hard. The fill (quarry waste) soils covering portions of the bedrock consist of sandy, gravely silts that are soft, porous and contain roots. The bedrock and soils appear relatively low in expansion potential (tendency for volume change with changes in moisture content).

## **Conclusions**

Based upon the results of our reconnaissance and analysis, we conclude that the site is geologically suitable for the planned facility. The geological/geotechnical constraints that should be considered in design and construction of the facility are discussed below:



The proposed building can be situated as close as 20 feet from the quarry cut bank, provided that the building is protected by an uphill slough wall.

Portions of the bedrock within the planned building pad may be difficult to excavate. A hoe ram attachment on a large excavator or a D-8 caterpillar tractor with ripper teeth may be needed to remove localized hard rock masses.

The pad and/or building should be protected by a system of under-drainage. Recommendations for under-drainage can be provided when preliminary grading and building plans are completed.

### **Recommendations**

### **Additional Services**

### **Limitations**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Erik E. Olsborg  
Engineering Geologist – 1072

---

Keith A. Colorado  
Geotechnical Engineer – 2894

EEO/KAC/mjw

3 copies submitted



## **Field Exploration**

Our Principal Engineering Geologist, Erik Olsborg met with you and observed the site on January 9, 2012. Olsborg returned to the site on January 26, 2012 and performed a geologic reconnaissance of the quarry cut banks and nearby natural slopes.

## **Site Conditions**

The proposed facility is located on the floor of the abandoned quarry. The planned building will be very near the lower, very steep quarry cut bank that is approximately 40 to 45 feet high with a very steep slope gradient of two-thirds horizontal to 1 vertical (0.67H:1V). The abandoned quarry has two, gently sloping benches; a lower bench, and an upper bench, as shown on Cross Section A-A', Plate 3. The lower bench slopes gently to the northeast. Stains on the quarry face indicate areas of ponding and runoff from the lower bench during rains. The upper bench has a moderate slope gradient to the northeast for drainage. The slope between the two benches has an average slope gradient of approximately 2H:1V.

The quarry is mostly bare rock with scattered brush and trees, as shown in Site Photograph A, Plate 4. The slopes surrounding the quarry are forested with mostly fir trees. The proposed building and parking areas are covered with grasses, weeds and some brush. The proposed building area below the quarry has mounded areas of quarry waste and what appears to be in-place rock, as shown in Site Photograph B, Plate 5. We understand that in this area the SCWA formerly stored gravels that were mined from the river. The upper and lower quarry benches are shown in Site Photographs C and D, Plate 6.

Ponded water and saturated soils were observed within the lower near-flat ground (former quarry floor) in the vicinity of the Regional Parks parking lot. No other standing water or groundwater seepage was observed within the quarry slopes.

## **Site Geology**

The bedrock exposed in the quarry cut banks consists of Jurassic, Great Valley Sequence basalt that is little to moderately fractured, moderately hard and moderately to little weathered. Portions of the basalt are very hard. The fill (quarry waste) soils covering portions of the bedrock consist of sandy, gravely silts that are soft, porous and contain roots. The bedrock and soils appear relatively low in expansion potential (tendency for volume change with changes in moisture content).

## **Conclusions**

Based upon the results of our reconnaissance and analysis, we conclude that the site is geologically suitable for the planned facility. The geological/geotechnical constraints that should be considered in design and construction of the facility are discussed below:



The proposed building can be situated as close as 20 feet from the quarry cut bank, provided that the building is protected by an uphill slough wall.

Portions of the bedrock within the planned building pad may be difficult to excavate. A hoe ram attachment on a large excavator or a D-8 caterpillar tractor with ripper teeth may be needed to remove localized hard rock masses.

The pad and/or building should be protected by a system of under-drainage. Recommendations for under-drainage can be provided when preliminary grading and building plans are completed.

### **Recommendations**

### **Additional Services**

### **Limitations**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Erik E. Olsborg  
Engineering Geologist – 1072

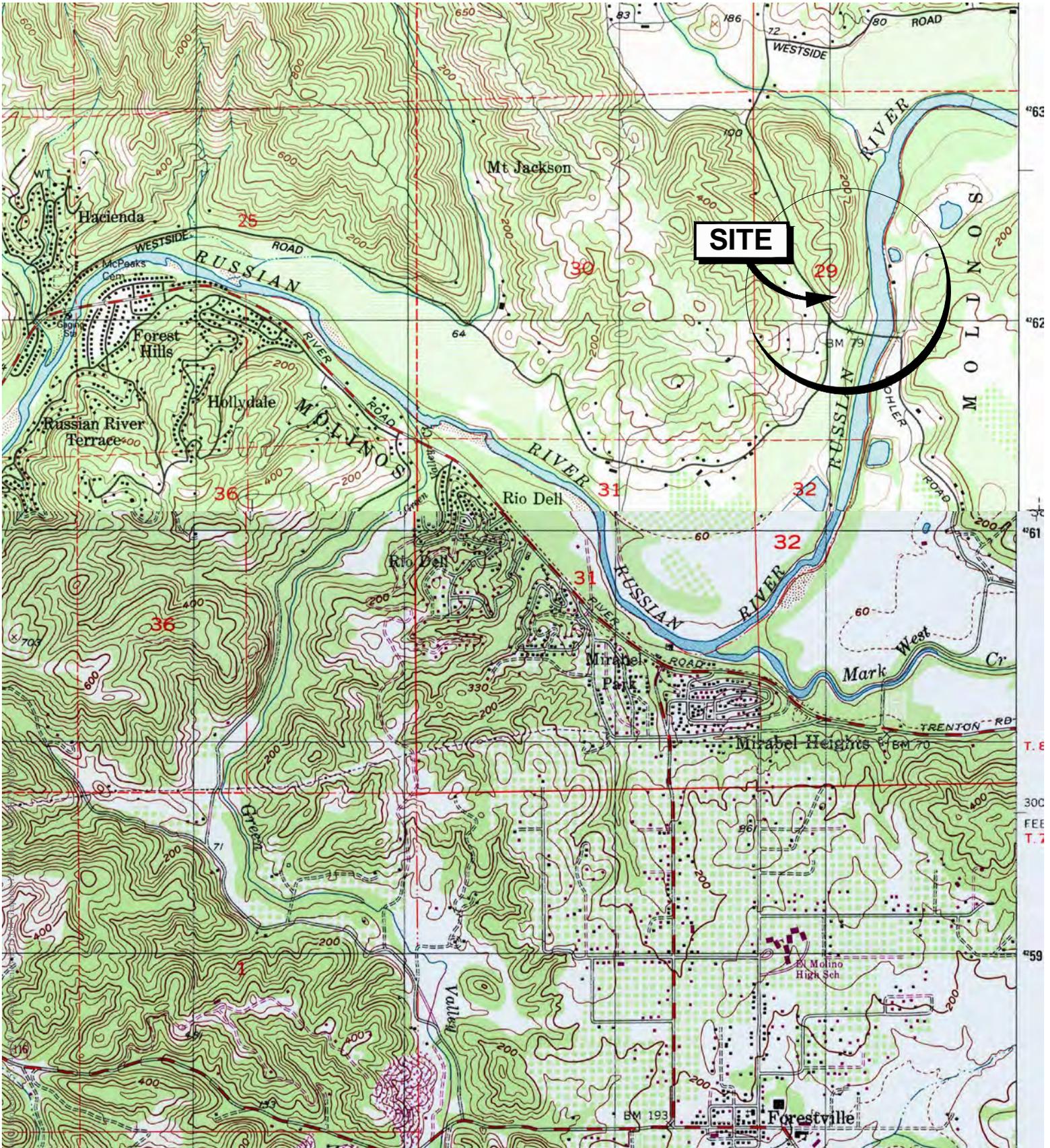
---

Keith A. Colorado  
Geotechnical Engineer – 2894

EEO/KAC/mjw

3 copies submitted





**REFERENCE:**

Guerneville 1997, Camp Meeker 1995, Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), USGS



APPROXIMATE SCALE (FEET)



**Brunsing Associates, Inc.**  
 5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201  
 Santa Rosa, California 95403  
 Tel: (707) 838-3027

Job No.: 155104  
 Appr.: **Draft**  
 Date: 02/17/12

**VICINITY MAP**  
**WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY**  
 Wohler Road at Westside Road  
 Sonoma County, California

**PLATE**  
**1**



W:\Geotech\Geotech\Projects\12155-04\SC\WA - Westside Facility\12155-04 Aerial Site Plan.dwg  
 2/17/2012 4:42:41 PM plot date

**REFERENCE:**

Aerial Site, Drawing Number C-2, Sheet 3 of 7, prepared by Sonoma County Water Agency, dated 1/06/2012



APPROXIMATE SCALE (FEET)



**Brunsing Associates, Inc.**  
 5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201  
 Santa Rosa, California 95403  
 Tel: (707) 838-3027

Job No.: 12155-04  
 Appr.: **Draft**  
 Date: 02/17/12

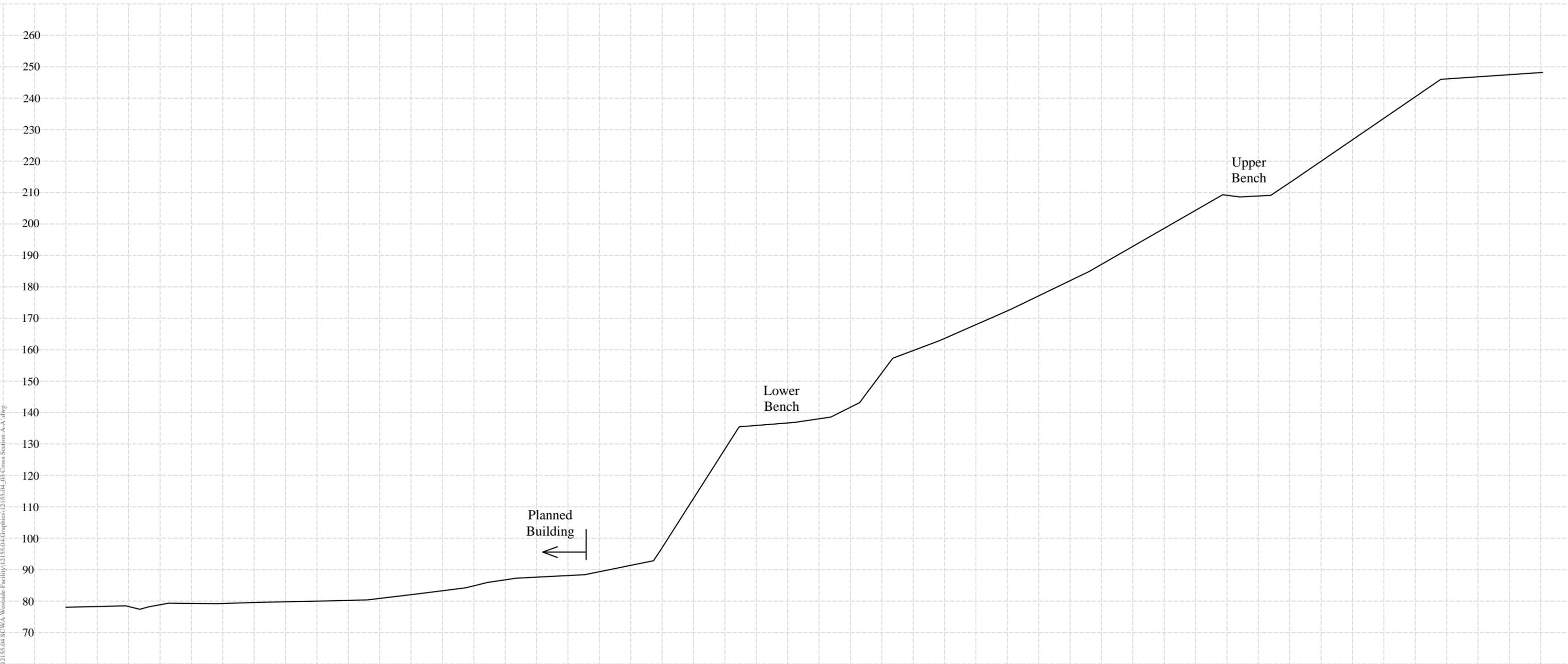
**AERIAL SITE PLAN**  
**WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY**  
 Wohler Road at Westside Road  
 Sonoma County, California

**PLATE**  
**2**

2/17/2012 4:08:12 PM save date  
 2/17/2012 4:42:41 PM plot date

A

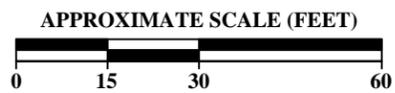
A'



W:\Geotech\Projects\12155-04-SCWA-Westside-Facility\12155-04-05-Cross-Section-A-A.dwg

2/17/2012 4:09:14 PM save date  
2/17/2012 4:45:04 PM plot date

**REFERENCE:**  
 Cross section created from survey data provide by  
 Sonoma County Water Agency, received 1/19/12

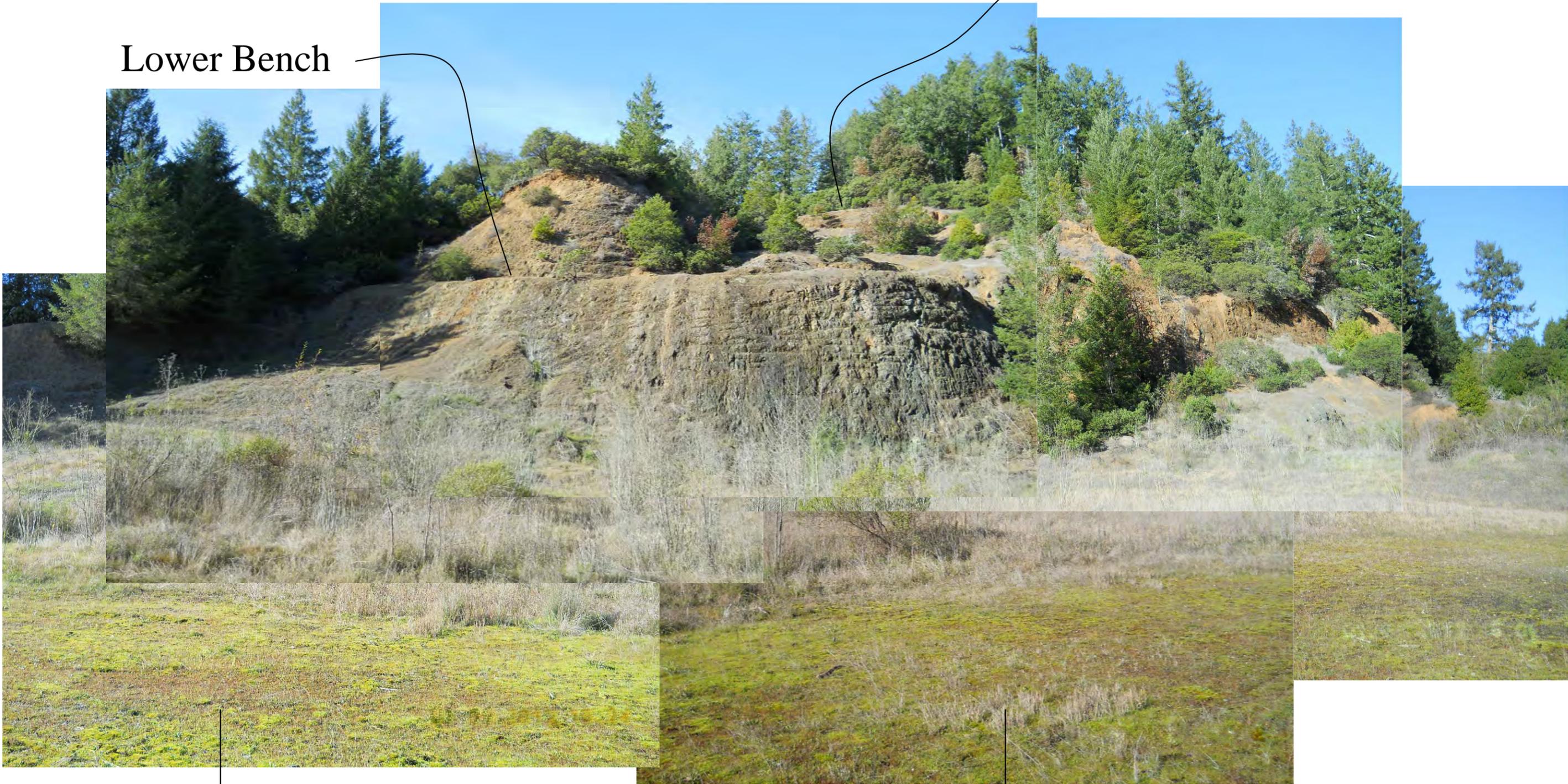


|   |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Brunsing Associates, Inc.</b><br/>         5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201<br/>         Santa Rosa, California 95403<br/>         Tel: (707) 838-3027</p> | Job No.: 12155-04<br>Appr. <b>Draft</b> | <p><b>CROSS SECTION A - A'</b><br/>         WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY<br/>         Wohler Road at Westside Road<br/>         Sonoma County, California</p> | <p><b>PLATE</b><br/> <b>3</b></p> |
|   | Date: 02/17/12                          |   |                                   |
|   |   |   |                                   |

# Site Photograph A

Upper Bench

Lower Bench



Proposed Building Site

REFERENCE:  
Images photographed by BAI



**Brunsing Associates, Inc.**  
5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201  
Santa Rosa, California 95403  
Tel: (707) 838-3027

Job No.: 1216404  
Appr. **Draft**  
Date: 02/17/12

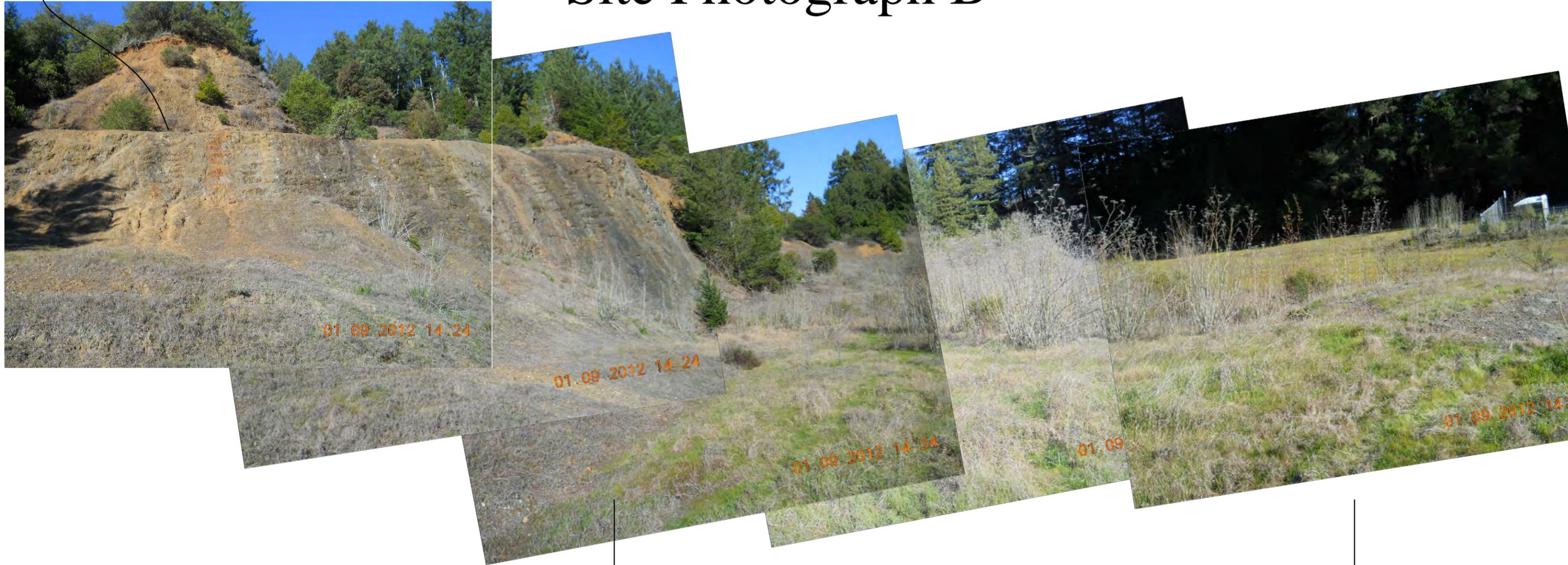
**SITE PHOTOGRAPH A**  
WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY  
Wohler Road at Westside Road  
Sonoma County, California

**PLATE**  
**4**

W:\Geotech\Projects\12155.04 SCWA Westside Facility\12155.04 Graphics\12155.04\_Site Photograph A.dwg  
2/17/2012 4:10:19 PM save date  
2/17/2012 4:43:23 PM plot date

Lower Bench

# Site Photograph B



Proposed Building Site

**REFERENCE:**  
Images photographed by BAI



**Brunsing Associates, Inc.**  
 5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201  
 Santa Rosa, California 95403  
 Tel: (707) 838-3027

Job No.: 1215504  
 Appr.: **Draft**  
 Date: 02/17/12

**SITE PHOTOGRAPH B**  
 WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY  
 Wohler Road at Westside Road  
 Sonoma County, California

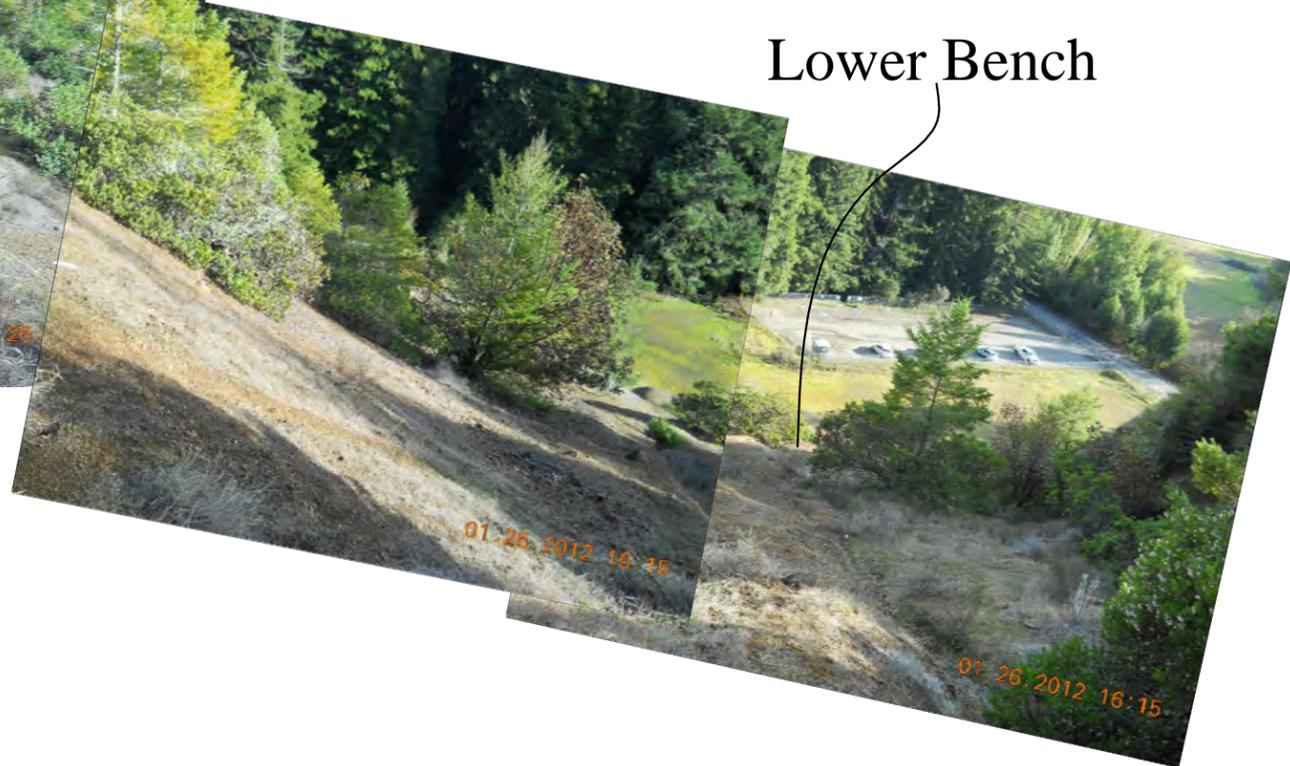
**PLATE**  
**5**



Upper Bench



# Site Photograph C



Lower Bench

# Site Photograph D



Lower Bench



Proposed Building Site

W:\Geotech\Projects\12155.04 SCWA Westside Facility\12155.04 Graphics\12155.04\_06 Site Photographs C and D.dwg

2/17/2012 4:12:38 PM save date  
2/17/2012 4:44:05 PM plot date

**REFERENCE:**  
Images photographed by BAI

|   |  |   |  |                          |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|
|  | <b>Brunsing Associates, Inc.</b><br>5468 Skylane Blvd., Suite 201<br>Santa Rosa, California 95403<br>Tel: (707) 838-3027 | Job No.: 12155.04<br>Appr. <b>Draft</b><br>Date: 02/17/12 | <b>SITE PHOTOGRAPHS C and D</b><br>WESTSIDE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY<br>Wohler Road at Westside Road<br>Sonoma County, California | <b>PLATE</b><br><b>6</b> |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|

## **APPENDIX C**

---

California Natural Diversity Database and  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife List of Special-Status  
Species in the Project Vicinity

| <b>Table 1. CNDDDB Special Status Species Table for the Westside Facility Project</b> |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Species</b>  | <b>Status</b>                               | <b>Habitat Requirements</b>  | <b>Likelihood of Species to Occur within Project Area</b>  |
| <b>Amphibians</b>   |   |  |  |
| California red-legged frog<br><i>Rana draytonii</i>                                   | Fed: Threatened<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC | Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.                               | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.   |
| foothill yellow-legged frog<br><i>Rana boylei</i>                                     | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC       | Partly-shaded, shallow streams & riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.   |
| <b>Birds</b>  |   |  |  |
| osprey<br><i>Pandion haliaetus</i>  | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: WL        | Ocean shore, bays, fresh-water lakes, and larger streams. Large nests built in tree-tops within 15 miles of a good Fish-producing body of water.   | Low.<br>CNDDDB Occurrence No. 314 was documented in 1998 0.25miles upstream of Wohler Bridge, however, the proposed project is not immediately located within the preferred habitat. Preferred habitat may exist in adjacent areas, however, the proposed project is mostly located outside of the riparian corridor (and approximately 570 feet from the Russian River) and would not require the removal of any trees. |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| white-tailed kite<br><i>Elanus leucurus</i>                         | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: FP   | Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching. | Low.<br>Proposed project is not immediately located within preferred habitat. Preferred habitat may exist in adjacent areas, however, the proposed project is mostly located outside of the riparian corridor (and approximately 570 feet from the Russian River), and would not require any removal of trees.           |
| Fish  |  |   |  |
| Russian River tulle perch<br><i>Hysterocarpus traski poma</i>       | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC  | Low elevation streams of the Russian River system. Requires clear, flowing water with abundant cover. They also require deep (> 1 m) pool habitat   | Not likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within the preferred habitat; no work would occur within the Russian River.   |
| Insects   |  |   |  |
| Giuliani's dubiraphian riffle beetle<br><i>Dubiraphia giulianii</i> | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None | Aquatic; found in the slow part of the Russian River. Inhabits rocks and vegetation.  | Not likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within the preferred habitat; no work would occur within the Russian River.   |
| Mammals   |  |   |  |
| hoary bat<br><i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>                               | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None | Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover & open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.                       | Low.<br>Proposed project is not immediately located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity. Preferred habitat may exist in adjacent areas, however, the proposed project is mostly located outside of the riparian corridor (and approximately 570 feet from the |

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |   | Russian River), and would not require any removal of trees trees.  |
| Plants   |  |   |  |
| bristly sedge<br><i>Carex comosa</i>                 | Fed: none<br>State: none<br>CDFG: none<br>CNPS: 2.1  | Marshes and swamps lake margins, wet places; site below sea level is on a delta island.   | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.     |
| fragrant fritillary<br><i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>   | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS 1B.2  | Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal prairie; often on serpentine; various soils reported though usually clay, in grassland. | Not likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within the preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity. |
| holly-leaved ceanothus<br><i>Ceanothus purpureus</i> | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Chaparral. Rocky, volcanic slopes.  | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.     |
| long-beard lichen<br><i>Usnea longissima</i>         | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS: None | Coastal scrub, chaparral. Sandy soils; mesic openings.  | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.     |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Napa false indigo<br><i>Amorpha californica</i><br><i>var. napensis</i>           | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2         | broadleaved upland forest,<br>chaparral, cismontane woodland.<br>Openings in forest, woodland or in<br>chaparral.                    | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within<br>preferred habitat and there are no known<br>CNDDB occurrences within the project<br>vicinity.   |
| Pennell's bird's-<br>beak<br><i>Cordylanthus tenuis</i><br><i>ssp. capillaris</i> | Fed:Endangere<br>d<br>State: Rare<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS:1B.2 | Closed-cone coniferous forest,<br>chaparral. In open or disturbed<br>areas on serpentine within forest or<br>chaparral.              | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within<br>preferred habitat and there are no known<br>CNDDB occurrences within the project<br>vicinity.   |
| Rincon Ridge<br>ceanothus<br><i>Ceanothus confusus</i>                            | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS:1B.1          | Closed-cone coniferous forest,<br>chaparral, cismontane woodland.<br>Known from volcanic or serpentine<br>soils, dry shrubby slopes. | Low.<br>CNDDB Occurrence No. 20 was documented<br>in 1988, at the southeast end of Gilder Ridge,<br>one half mile west of Wohler Bridge, however,<br>the proposed project is not immediately<br>located within the preferred habitat. Preferred<br>habitat may exist in adjacent areas, however,<br>the proposed project is mostly located outside<br>of the riparian corridor (and approximately<br>570 feet from the Russian River) and would<br>not require any removal of trees. |
| serpentine daisy<br><i>Erigeron serpentinus</i>                                   | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS:1B.3          | Chaparral; serpentine shrubland  | Low.<br>Proposed project is not located within<br>preferred habitat and there are no known<br>CNDDB occurrences within the project<br>vicinity   |

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sonoma alopecurus<br><i>Alopecurus aequalis</i><br><i>var. sonomensis</i>   | Fed:<br>Endangered<br>State: None<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Freshwater marshes and swamps, riparian scrub. Wet areas, marshes, and riparian banks with other wetland species.  | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.                |
| The Cedars<br>Manzanita<br><i>Arctostaphylos</i><br><i>bakeri ssp. sublaevis</i>  | Fed: None<br>State: Rare<br>CDFG: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2          | Chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest. In serpentine chaparral and sargent cypress woodland; typically in canyons and on slopes.  | Not Likely.<br>Proposed project is not located within preferred habitat and there are no known CNDDDB occurrences within the project vicinity.                |
| Reptiles  |   |  |   |
| western pond turtle<br><i>Emys marmorata</i>  | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC                         | Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying. | Not Likely.<br>CNDDDB Occurrence No. 431 was documented 10 miles upstream of Wohler Bridge in 2008; proposed project is not located within preferred habitat. |
| Status Key  |   |  |   |
| <u>Federal Legal Status</u><br>Endangered: Federally listed<br>endangered   | <u>State Legal Status</u><br>Rare: California listed rare     | <u>CDFG</u><br>SSC: Species of Special Concern   |   |
| <u>California Native Plant Society (CNPS)</u><br>List 1B.1: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California<br>List 1B.2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, fairly threatened in California<br>List 1B.3: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very threatened in California<br>List 2.1: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; seriously threatened in California |   |  |   |
| Sources: California Natural Diversity Database, Biogeographic Data Branch, California Department of Fish and Game, information accessed November 15, 2012, information expires May 6, 2013.   |   |  |   |

## **APPENDIX D**

---

### Best Management Practices

|   |
|---|
| <b>Air Quality</b>  |
| <b>Dust Control Measures</b>  |
| <i>Water all active maintenance areas as necessary to reduce dust emissions. In dry areas, this may be twice daily or more, while in already wet areas, no watering may be needed.</i>  |
| <i>Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain freeboard as necessary to prevent transported material from blowing from the trucks.</i>  |
| <i>Sweep as necessary (with water sweepers or dry sweepers, as appropriate) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.</i>  |
| <i>Sweep streets as necessary (with water sweepers or dry sweepers, as appropriate) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.</i>   |
| <i>As necessary, enclose, cover, water, or apply (non-toxic) soil binders to exposed stockpiles.</i>  |
| <i>Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.</i>   |
| <i>Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.</i>  |
| <b>Exhaust Control Measures</b>   |
| <i>Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations {CCR}). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.</i>   |
| <i>All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacture's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.</i>   |
| <b>Biological Resources</b>   |
| <i>Special trenching techniques would be implemented in specific areas of the project which would require that a certified arborist be onsite to ensure that root pruning is performed in accordance with ANSI 300 pruning standards; the project would not significantly impact tree drip lines.</i>   |
| <i>To the extent feasible, construction activities will take place outside the migratory bird and raptor nesting period (February 15 through August 15 for most birds). During the nesting bird season, work sites that are less densely vegetated will be prioritized, to facilitate pre-maintenance surveys and decrease the likelihood of disturbing undiscovered nests.</i>   |
| <i>If construction activities must be scheduled to occur during the nesting season, a qualified wildlife biologist, familiar with the species and habitats in the Program Area, will be retained to conduct pre-maintenance surveys for raptors and nesting birds within suitable nesting habitat within 300 feet of construction activities. The surveys should be conducted within one week before initiation of maintenance activities within those habitats. If no active nests are detected during surveys, activities may proceed. Vegetation removal activities will be conducted under the guidance of a biologist.</i>   |
| <i>If active nests are identified within the project site area, non-disturbance buffers shall be established at a distance sufficient to minimize disturbance based on the nest location, topography, cover and species' tolerance to disturbance. Buffer size shall be determined in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If active nests are found within 300 feet of the project area, a qualified biologist shall be on site as necessary to monitor the nests for signs of nest disturbance. If it is determined that maintenance activity is resulting in nest disturbance, work shall cease immediately and CDFG shall be contacted. Buffers will be developed through consultation with CDFG. Buffers will remain in place until biologists determine that the young have successfully fledged or nests have been otherwise abandoned.</i> |
| <b>Noise Resources</b>  |
| <i>Construction activities will only take place between the hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Routine construction activities will not occur on Saturdays, Sundays, or on Water Agency observed state holidays, except during emergencies, or with approval by the local jurisdiction and advance notification of surrounding residents.</i>   |
| <i>Equipment and trucks used for project construction shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., improved mufflers, equipment redesign, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures and acoustically-attenuating shields or shrouds, wherever feasible).</i>  |
| <i>All machinery and equipment will be inspected daily to see if there are any problems which may</i>   |

|  |
|--|
| <i>contribute to increased noise levels and unsafe practices.</i>  |
| <i>Construction equipment noise shall be minimized during project construction by muffling and shielding intakes and exhaust on construction equipment (per the manufacturer's specifications) and by shrouding or shielding impact tools.</i>   |
| <i>Construction contractors shall locate fixed construction equipment (such as compressors and generators) and construction staging areas as far as feasible from nearby sensitive receptors.</i>  |
| <b>Cultural Resources</b>  |
| <i>The project specifications will require the contractor to comply with the Sonoma County Water Agency's Standard Contract Documents regarding the discovery of cultural resources. The Water Agency Construction Inspector and construction personnel will be notified of the possibility of encountering archaeological materials during project construction. The project specifications will provide that if discovery is made of items of historical, archaeological or paleontological interest, the contractor will immediately cease all work activities in the area of discovery. Archaeological indicators may include, but are not limited to, dwelling sites, locally darkened soils, stone implements or other artifacts, fragments of glass or ceramics, animal bones, human bones, and fossils. After cessation of excavation, the contractor will immediately contact the Water Agency's Construction Inspector. The contractor will not resume work until authorization is received from the Construction Inspector. If archaeological indicators are discovered during construction, the Water Agency will retain the services of a qualified professional archaeologist to evaluate the significance of the items prior to resuming any activities that could impact the site. If it is determined that the find is unique and/or potentially eligible for listing in the California Register, and the site cannot be avoided, an archaeologist shall provide a research design and excavation plan outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find. The research design and excavation plan will be submitted to the Water Agency's Construction Inspection Section and approved by the Water Agency prior to construction being resumed.</i> |
| <i>The project specifications will require the contractor to comply with Public Resources Code 5097.98 and Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5, and pertain to the discovery of human remains. If human remains are encountered, excavation or disturbance of the location must be halted in the vicinity of the find, and the county coroner contacted. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify the person or persons believed to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent makes recommendations regarding the treatment of the remains with appropriate dignity.</i>  |
| <b>Hazardous Materials</b>   |
| <i>The project specifications will require the contractor to comply with the Sonoma County Water Agency's Standard Contract Documents to protect the project area from being contaminated by the accidental release of any hazardous materials and/or wastes. Disposal of all hazardous materials will be in compliance with all current hazardous waste disposal laws. The construction contractor will contact the local fire agency and the Sonoma County Department of Environmental Health for any site-specific requirements regarding hazardous materials or hazardous waste containment or handling.</i>   |
| <i>The project specifications will require the contractor to prepare a Safety Plan in accordance with the Sonoma County Water Agency's Standard Contract Documents. If hazardous materials are encountered during construction activities, the contractor will be required to halt construction immediately and notify the Water Agency's Construction Inspection Section. Disposal of all hazardous materials will be in compliance with all applicable hazardous waste disposal laws.</i>  |
| <b>Good Neighbor Practices</b>   |
| <i>Posting of signs on-site pertaining to permitted construction days and hours and complaint procedures and who to notify in the event of a problem.</i>  |
| <i>The designation of a construction complaint manager for the Proposed Project.</i>   |
| <i>A listing of telephone numbers to reach the construction complaint manager for the Proposed Project (during regular construction hours and off-hours).</i>  |