



City of Healdsburg

Notice of Preparation of Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)

To Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Responsible and trustee agencies
Adjacent property owners
Interested parties

From City of Healdsburg Planning & Building Department

Date February 5, 2019

Project Name: City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

Project Location: Unincorporated Sonoma County, south of the City limits (see attached Exhibit 1).

Applicant Name: City of Healdsburg, Municipal Utility Department

Background: On August 1st, 2018 a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated for the project, which indicated that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be prepared to analyze potential impacts from proposed facilities and operations. Based in part on comments received during the NOP public review period, the City now intends to prepare a Subsequent EIR, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162. This NOP is being recirculated to update interested parties of the type of CEQA document that will be prepared, and to provide refinements to the proposed project description.

Project Description: The City of Healdsburg (City) will serve as the lead agency under CEQA for the preparation of a Subsequent EIR for the proposed Wastewater Reuse Project. The SEIR will expand upon the *City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project Environmental Impact Report (2005 EIR)*, which assessed the potential environmental impacts of implementing a water recycling program as part of a larger wastewater treatment plant upgrade that constructed the City's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) on Foreman Lane. The 2005 EIR was certified on June 13, 2005 (State Clearinghouse Number 2002072083).

The City must seasonally curtail wastewater discharged to surface waters from its WRF. At present, the WWTP discharges a portion of its annual effluent to the Russian River. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has ordered the City to eliminate surface water discharges during the period of May 15 through September 30 of each year to protect water quality and associated beneficial uses.

In 2005, the City implemented a water recycling program that made a portion of the treated wastewater available to nearby water users. Uses of the treated wastewater as recycled water are limited to vineyard irrigation, commercial landscaping, and landscape irrigation. Recycled water is conveyed from the City's WRF to several places of use via three pipelines that extend north, south, and west of the WRF and via trucks, which haul water to additional users. In the 2005 EIR, the City considered recycled water deliveries to irrigate 1,350 acres.

In 2009, an Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared to address the seasonal irrigation of several additional properties in the vicinity of the WRF and a proposed modification of the recycled water pipeline alignments, which were not previously analyzed in

the 2005 EIR. Two Addenda to the 2005 EIR were prepared in April 2014 and March 2016. In the 2014 Addendum, the City considered delivery of recycled water for seasonal irrigation for up to 25,000 additional acres of agricultural land during the 2014 and 2015 irrigation seasons. The 2014 Addendum also allowed trucks (in addition to pipelines) to deliver a portion of the recycled water. The 2016 Addendum addressed the continued irrigation of the 25,000 acres through the year 2020, and the irrigation of 600 acres within this larger area via a new recycled water pipeline.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 indicates that a subsequent EIR should be prepared where: substantial changes are proposed in the project which require major revisions of the previous EIR; substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken requiring major revisions of the previous EIR; or new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows new or more severe environmental impacts.

The City is currently proposing to increase the volume of water in the water recycling program supplied for beneficial uses. To increase the volume of recycled water and to eliminate seasonal discharges to surface waters during the May 15 to September 30 season, the City proposes to:

- Extend existing recycled water transmission pipelines along two alignments totaling approximately 5,600 linear feet;
- Add approximately 1,160 acres of land that could receive recycled water through the proposed new pipelines (2018 Proposed Area);
- Construct a recycled water distribution system within the 2018 Proposed Area to irrigate approximately 150 acres of pasture lands and 40 acres of vineyards;
- Expand the list of recycled water uses beyond those currently allowed in the program to include:
 - orchards (apple, peach, plum/prune);
 - cannabis;
 - irrigated pasture;
 - direct livestock watering (not including dairy cows);
 - frost protection; and
 - other agricultural uses occurring in the vicinity of the WWTP, consistent with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
- Add 3,540 acres of land that potentially could receive recycled water at a future date (2018 Program Expansion Area).
- Make permanent the temporary program for the application of recycled water via truck delivery on approximately 25,000 acres of lands, which is set to expire at the end of 2020.

The regional location of the project is shown in Exhibit 1. The locations of the proposed conveyance pipeline alignments, 2018 Proposed Area, and 2018 Program Expansion Areas are shown in Exhibit 2. The area temporarily approved for application of recycled water is shown in Exhibit 3.

Probable Environmental Impacts: Because the City has determined that a Subsequent EIR will be prepared for the proposed project, an Initial Study has not been prepared (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]). The 2005 EIR comprehensively addressed impacts associated with implementation of a water recycling program. The Subsequent EIR would provide

additional information to expand the analysis presented in the 2005 EIR, and specifically consider whether the proposed project would result in any new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact. Changes in CEQA that have occurred since the 2005 EIR was certified will also be addressed in the Subsequent EIR. Additional information would be provided to ensure the analysis and conclusions in the Subsequent EIR are current and fully analyze the proposed changes to the City's water recycling program. Applicable mitigation measures from the 2005 EIR will be identified and, if necessary, additional mitigation measures will be formulated to reduce or avoid any new significant impacts.

The City of Healdsburg will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Subsequent EIR for the project identified above. Responsible and trustee agencies may need to use the Subsequent EIR when considering a permit or other approval for the project.

The City would like to know your views as to the significant environmental issues and possible mitigation measures that should be included in the Subsequent EIR.

In accordance with the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. **The public review period of this NOP is from February 6, 2019, to March 8, 2019.**

Please send your response to Patrick Fuss via email at pfuss@ci.healdsburg.ca.us, or regular mail:

Patrick Fuss, Water/Wastewater Principal Engineer
City of Healdsburg
401 Grove Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448

An NOP was previously circulated in August 2018 and a public scoping meeting for the proposed project was conducted by the City on August 21, 2018 to obtain comments regarding the content and scope of the environmental review. All comments received in response to prior scoping will be carried forward and considered during analysis for the Subsequent EIR. No additional scoping meeting will be conducted for this recirculated NOP.

Contact Patrick Fuss at 707.217.3218 or pfuss@ci.healdsburg.ca.us if you need further information regarding this notice.



Maya DeRosa, Director
Planning & Building Department

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1. Regional Location
- Exhibit 2. Recycled Water Program Expansion Map
- Exhibit 3: Truck Hauling Program Area

