



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Russian River County Sanitation District Third Unit Processes Project

Project Location and Description

The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) on behalf of the Russian River Sanitation District (RRCSD) has requested \$451,400 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund the construction of the Third Unit Processes Project (TUPP) for the RRCSD's wastewater treatment facility in the unincorporated community of Guerneville, California. The EPA is considering fulfilling this funding request.

The TUPP would improve the RRCSD wastewater treatment facility's ability to treat high winter influent flows. The TUPP would include the construction of a third aeration basin, a third secondary clarifier and a replacement tertiary filter system. The construction would all take place on the existing RRCSD property. The TUPP would not increase the RRCSD's wastewater treatment facility's permitted effluent discharge levels.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

During significant flood events on the lower Russian River, the amount of sewage received by the RRCSD wastewater treatment facility (influent) exceeds the facility's treatment capacity. This has caused the wastewater treatment facility to discharge partially treated wastewater (effluent) to the Russian River. This is especially an issue when large flood events occur during the more restrictive summer discharge season; May 15 through September 30. According to the RRCSD's NPDES permit, during the summer discharge season, the RRCSD wastewater treatment plant may not discharge to the Russian River, and must discharge only through land irrigation. When the RRCSD wastewater treatment plant violates its NPDES permit, this leads the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) to issue Cease and Desist Orders to the RRCSD.

The purpose of the proposed action is: 1) to reliably treat and adequately dispose of permitted wastewater flows during high influent flow periods, particularly during flood events on the lower Russian River; 2) to comply with the NCRWQCB Cease and Desist Orders; and 3) to minimize future discharge violations.

Environmental Consequences

An Environmental Assessment was prepared in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EA was circulated for a 30 day public review period; from January 21, to February 21, 2003. As a result of the EA, as well as public discussion of the proposed project, the EPA has determined that the action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the environment.

Public Review

Public Review Copies of the EA may be requested from Suzanne Marr at the US EPA at (415) 972-3468. Copies of the EA can be purchased for \$5 at the Sonoma County Water Agency Administrative Office at 2150 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, California [(707) 526-5370].

Copies of the EA are also available for viewing at:

Sonoma County Water Agency
2150 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 526-5370

Sonoma County Central Library
3rd and E Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 545-0831

Guerneville Regional Library
14107 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446
(707) 869-9004

Forestville Library Station
7050 Covey Road
Forestville, CA 95436
(707) 887-7654

EPA must receive comments on the FNSI for consideration within 30 calendar days from the date this document is issued. EPA will take no administrative action on the above-described project prior to expiration of this comment period on February 21, 2003. Comments via letter, fax or email should be sent to:

Suzanne Marr (WTR- 3)
U. S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
Telephone: (415) 972-3468
Fax: (415) 947-3537
Email: marr.suzanne@epa.gov

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA's responses and this FNSI will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If this FNSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

Wayne Nastri
EPA, Regional Administrator

Date