



# Notice of Preparation of Initial Study

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July 9, 2018

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

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

## Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Cotati Aqueduct Cathodic Protection Project

**Public Scoping Period: July 9 to August 10, 2018**

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) is preparing an Initial Study for the Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Cotati Aqueduct Cathodic Protection Project (Proposed Project) 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. An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of a project's potential environmental impacts is 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 impacts. 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 (NOP), including comments from responsible and trustee agencies, and interested parties regarding the scope and content of the information to be considered in the Initial Study.

### Background

The Water Agency was created in 1949 by the California Legislature as a special district to provide flood protection and water supply services. The members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors are the Water Agency's Board of Directors. The Water Agency's powers and duties authorized by the California Legislature include the production and supply of surface water and groundwater for beneficial uses, control of flood waters, generation of electricity, provision of recreational facilities (in connection with the Water Agency's facilities), and the treatment and disposal of wastewater.

The Water Agency operates several aqueducts to provide a reliable supply of naturally-filtered drinking water from the Russian River to contractors throughout its service area. The original system was constructed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but construction of the transmission system continued through 2006. The Santa Rosa Aqueduct was installed from 1968 to 1985 to provide drinking water to

residents in Santa Rosa. The Santa Rosa Aqueduct consists of approximately 83,100 feet (16 miles) of 36-inch and 42-inch diameter concrete mortar-lined steel pipe. This aqueduct runs from the Wohler Pumping Plant at the Russian River to the Ralphine Tanks at Spring Lake Park in Santa Rosa. The Cotati Aqueduct was installed in 1963 and consists of 94,000 feet (18 miles) of 30-inch to 48-inch diameter concrete mortar-lined steel. This aqueduct runs from the Mirabel Pumping Plant to the Cotati Tanks.

## **Project Need and Objective**

The Proposed Project would allow the Water Agency to update the existing, aging cathodic protection system. The Water Agency's aqueducts are currently protected by a galvanic cathodic protection system (galvanic system). The galvanic system includes buried anodes that are attached to the aqueduct. The anodes provide a material that corrodes more readily than the aqueduct, so the corrosive materials in the environment around the aqueduct degrade the anodes rather than the aqueduct. This system also includes cathodic test stations, which consist of a wire lead from the aqueduct up to a test station mounted above the ground surface that allows Water Agency staff to test the level of cathodic protection without excavating to the aqueduct. The anodes in the current galvanic cathodic protection system are aging and, therefore, depleted and no longer provide adequate protection against corrosion. Failing to replace the existing anodes could result in corrosion and failure of sections of the aqueducts in the future.

The objective of the proposed project is to extend the service lives of the Santa Rosa and Cotati aqueducts by installing an updated cathodic protection system, which will protect the aqueducts from corrosion.

## **Project Location and Description**

The Proposed Project would be located at multiple locations along the Santa Rosa and Cotati aqueducts in unincorporated areas of Sonoma County and in the City of Santa Rosa. New right-of-way will be required in several locations. The Water Agency is proposing to install 29 centralized anode wells and 51 test stations along these aqueducts (Figure 1). Each anode well would require a construction footprint of approximately 40 feet by 100 feet and would include the installation of appurtenances with a footprint measuring two feet by three feet and a well measuring one foot in diameter and 250 feet deep would also be included at each location. Each test station would require a construction footprint of approximately 30 feet by 50 feet and would include permanent facilities measuring approximately two feet by two feet.

### ***Operation and Maintenance***

The Water Agency will monitor the wells and test stations up to six times per year for the first two years to ensure that they are operating properly. Once the system has been installed, tested, and is fully operational, the wells and test stations will be tested once per year. Testing will involve taking voltage and amperage readings at the test stations and rectifiers and verifying that the rectifiers are operating properly.

Vegetation maintenance would also be necessary at each anode well, test station, and at various locations along the Santa Rosa and Cotati aqueducts. Three known locations for maintenance activities are included in Figure 1. Vegetation maintenance would be required along the aqueducts to ensure continued access and prevent damage to the aqueducts from tree roots.

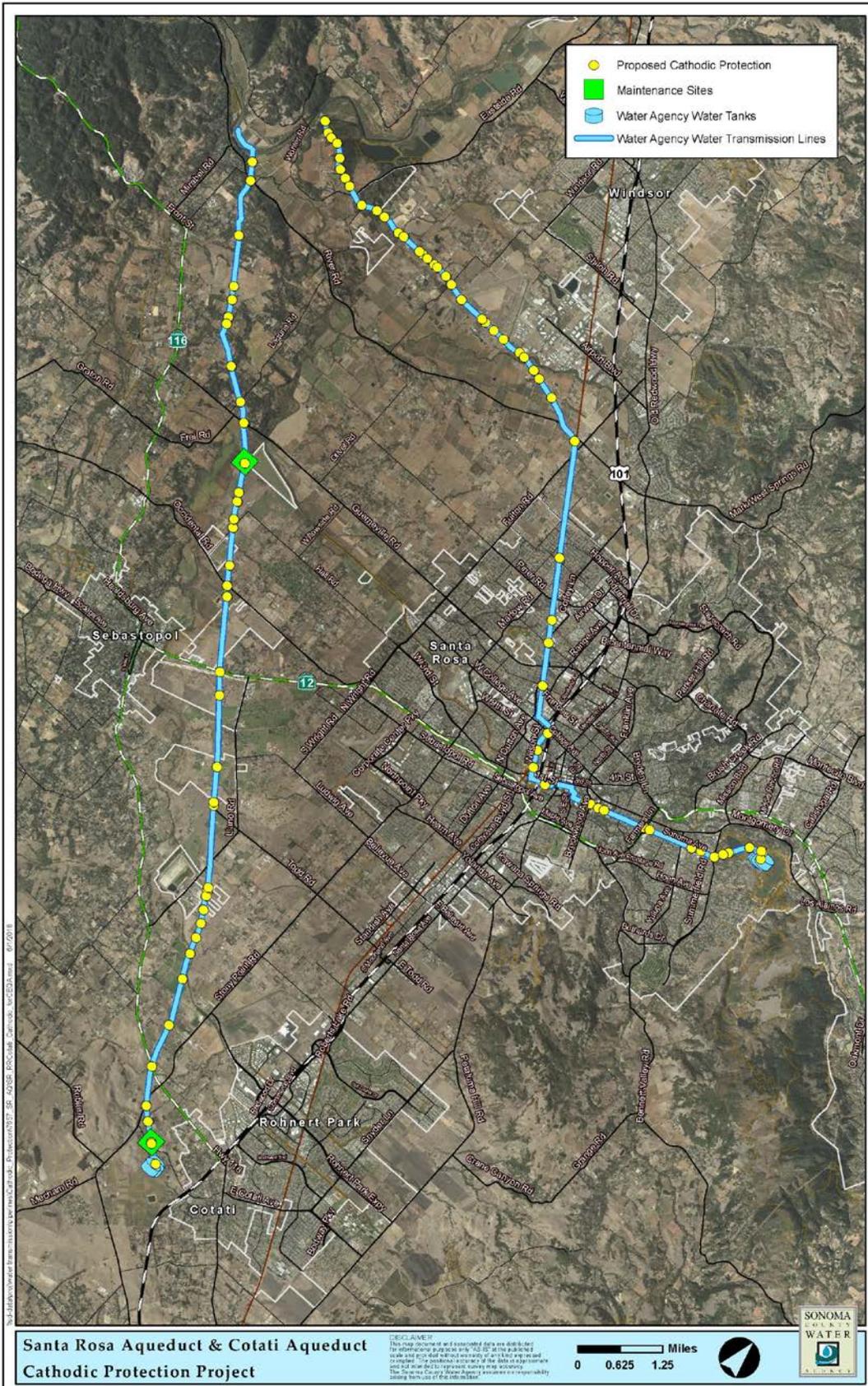


Figure 1. Proposed Project Area, Including Locations of the Existing Santa Rosa and Cotati Aqueducts

### Todd Road Aqueduct Improvements

The Water Agency's existing pump station, located adjacent to Todd Road, west of Llano Road (Figure 2), includes a portion of the Cotati Aqueduct that requires reinforcement at its joints. Work would take place adjacent to the existing production well and control building and would require excavation of 10-foot by 10-foot pits to unearth the pipeline and stockpiling of soil during welding activities.

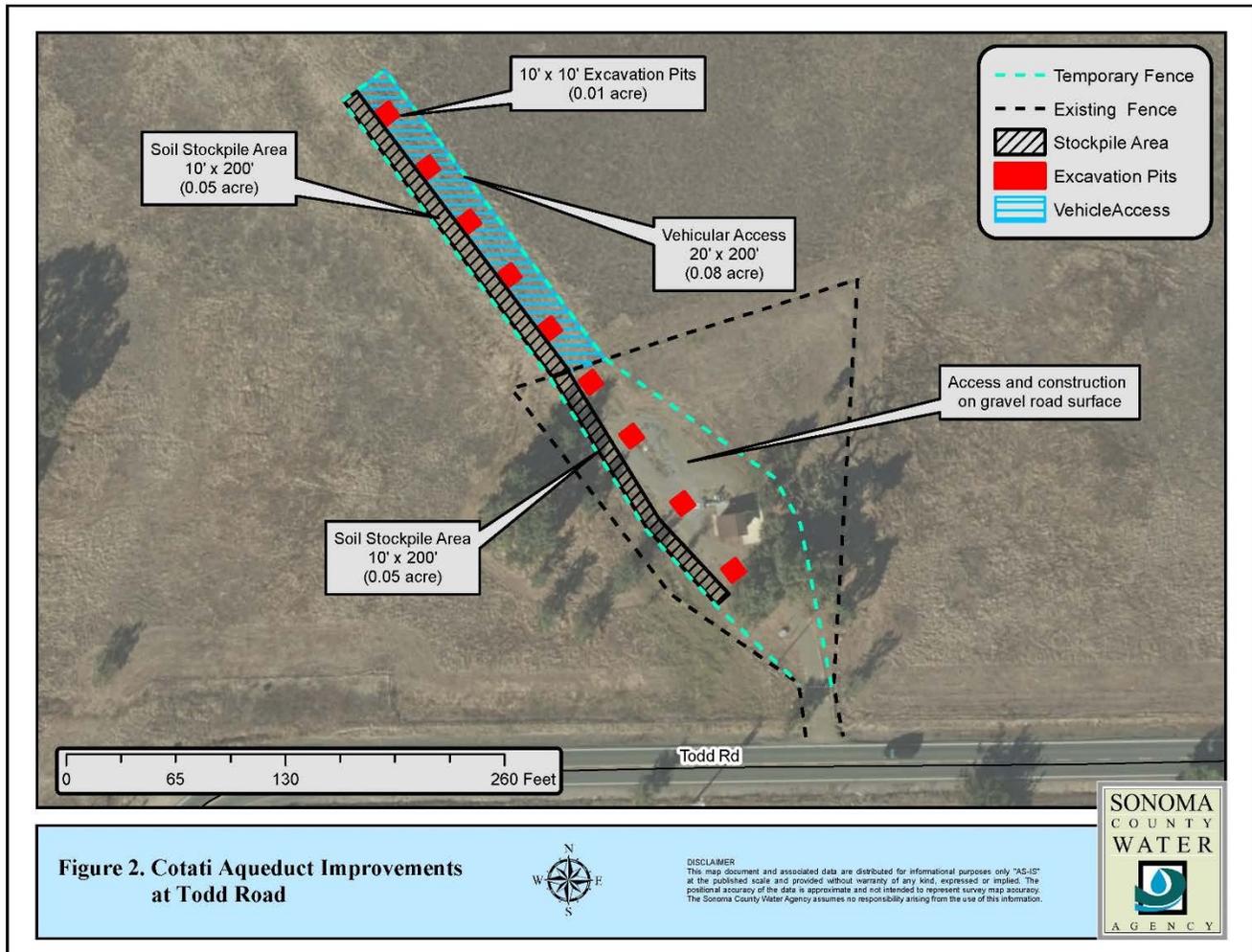


Figure 2. Cotati Aqueduct Improvements at Todd Road

### Issues to be Addressed in the Initial Study

In accordance with CEQA, the Initial Study will evaluate the potential environmental impacts, either individually or cumulatively, associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project. Areas of analysis may include: Aesthetics; Agricultural and Forest Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation and Traffic; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Utilities and Service Systems. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be proposed to avoid or reduce impacts. Areas of analysis may be changed based on comments received from responsible agencies and the public during the NOP scoping period. Decision-makers,

responsible and trustee agencies, and interested persons will also have an opportunity to comment on the applicable CEQA document, as determined by the Initial Study, after it is circulated for public review.

### **Public Comment Period for this Notice of Preparation**

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, responses must be sent no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2018. Please include a name, address, and telephone number, and email address of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject. Comments may be submitted electronically to [Anne.Crealock@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Anne.Crealock@scwa.ca.gov) or mailed to:

Sonoma County Water Agency  
Attn: Anne Crealock  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Documents or files related to the Proposed Project are available for review online at <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/environmental-documents/> or at the Water Agency's administrative office at 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

If you have any questions regarding this NOP, or if you wish to update information on our mailing list, please contact Anne Crealock at 707-547-1948 or [Anne.Crealock@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Anne.Crealock@scwa.ca.gov)





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## SANTA ROSA AQUEDUCT AND COTATI AQUEDUCT CATHODIC PROTECTION PROJECT

PRESORTED  
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Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403