

**Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the VORTEX TUBE REHABILITATION PROJECT****Posted: August 28, 2020****Public Review Period: August 28, 2020 to September 28, 2020**

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Vortex Tube Rehabilitation Project (Proposed Project). Sonoma Water has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and Sonoma Water's Procedures for Implementation of CEQA. This notice is to announce that the IS/MND is available for review by the public, agencies, and interested parties. Instructions for submitting comments on the document are included in this notice.

Project Location: The Proposed Project site is located on Santa Rosa Creek where it flows beneath Montgomery Drive, approximately 4 miles east of downtown Santa Rosa and approximately 3/4 mile east of Spring Lake Regional Park.

Project Description: The Vortex Tube is part of the Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure, a concrete flood control facility constructed in 1963 as part of the Central Sonoma Watershed Project to reduce flooding in downtown Santa Rosa. A concrete culvert beneath Montgomery Drive, known as the Vortex Tube, regulates peak winter floods in Santa Rosa Creek. The Vortex Tube has been damaged by abrasion during high flows. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to extend the useful life of the Vortex Tube by restoring its structural integrity.

The Proposed Project's repair of the Vortex Tube would be implemented in two phases: 1) construct a permanent Bypass Pipe beneath Montgomery Drive to temporarily direct creek flows around the Vortex Tube, and 2) dewater and repair the damaged Vortex Tube. The Proposed Project would not change the function or expand the capacity of the Diversion Structure.

Materials: A copy of the IS/MND and supporting materials are available at the Sonoma Water administrative office at 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA. The IS/MND is available online at: <https://www.sonomawater.org/environmental-documents>

Public Review: The 30-day public review on the IS/MND runs from August 28, 2020 to September 28, 2020. Please include a name, address, and email address of a contact person for all future correspondence on this subject. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on September 28, 2020. Written comments may be addressed to: David Cook, Senior Environmental Specialist, Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019; or emailed to david.cook@scwa.ca.gov.

ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Tentative Adoption Schedule: Following the close of the IS/MND public review period, Sonoma Water's Board of Directors will consider adoption of the IS/MND. The project is scheduled for consideration and adoption by Sonoma Water's Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting beginning at **8:30 am on November 17, 2020**. Comments submitted during the Initial Study review period will be included in our report to the Board of Directors.

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-29 in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Board meeting will be held virtually. Public comment may be submitted via recorded voice message or email. Members of the public may listen or watch the live stream of the Board meeting and find instructions for submitting comments on the Proposed Project by using the following link and clicking on the Board of Directors' agenda for the meeting of November 17, 2020: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com>