

Appendix A. Project Actions, Alternatives, Comments, and Responses

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Appendix A.1. Project Conservation Measures

Table A-1. Project Conservation Measures

Resource Area	Project Conservation Measure
Air Quality 1	All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
Air Quality 2	All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
Air Quality 3	All visible mud or dirt trackout onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
Air Quality 4	All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.
Air Quality 5	All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible. Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
Air Quality 6	All excavation, grading, and/or demolition activities shall be suspended when average wind speeds exceed 20 mph.
Air Quality 7	All trucks and equipment, including their tires, shall be washed off prior to leaving the site.
Air Quality 8	Unpaved roads providing access to sites located 100 feet or further from a paved road shall be treated with a 6- to 12-inch layer of compacted layer of wood chips, mulch, or gravel.
Air Quality 9	Publicly visible signs shall be posted with the telephone number and name of the person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's General Air Pollution Complaints number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
Cultural 1	For post-review discoveries, the Unanticipated Discoveries procedures outlined in Appendix E.2 shall be followed. If any human remains are discovered under any circumstance, the Unanticipated Discoveries procedures shall be followed.
Dewatering 1	Dewatering operations include but are not limited to the removal of groundwater through well and sump developments, the removal of perched water, and the removal of stored surface water (considered separate from collected storm waters). Construction contractors will install a system of wells to dewater the granular soils to within a few feet of the contact. Removal of the remaining water resting on the fine-grained soils and bedrock will be performed by installing sumps and routing the water via trenches to the closest well or sump. Finer soils may require the use of active groundwater control measures such as vacuum wellpoint and eductor systems, which induce a vacuum in the borehole that enhances groundwater flow towards the well. Depending on the turbidity of dewatering flows, it may be necessary to treat via a settling basin or sand filters to meet regulatory discharge requirements. All pump intakes will be covered with 0.125-inch mesh to prevent entrainment of fish or amphibians. Pump intakes will be periodically checked for impingement of fish or amphibians. Preconstruction biological surveys will be conducted and an aquatic species rescue and relocation plan will be developed. After the creek diversion system is in place, if authorized in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 1600 agreement issued for the project, qualified biologists will rescue native aquatic species from the ponded water within the work area and relocate them to a safe location.
Listed Species 1	Minimization measures from the Programmatic Formal Consultation on the NRCS's Conservation Practices in Four Bay Area Counties would be applied (see Appendix D.8).
Noise 1	Operation of equipment at the site would only occur during daylight hours.
Noise 2	A project-specific noise analysis would be conducted pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and appropriate mitigation measures would be identified at that time.

Resource Area	Project Conservation Measure
Noxious Weeds 1	Equipment will be washed to remove any soil and debris that may contribute to the spread of noxious weeds.
Noxious Weeds 2	Any seed mix used in implementation of the project must be certified weed free.
Reclamation 1	As practicable, the embankment and other disturbed areas will be seeded or planted with appropriate species per NRCS Practice Standard “Critical Area Planting” (342).
Vegetation 1	Vegetation removal will be limited as much as practicable.
Vegetation 2	Environmental fencing or other protective measures will be installed around the vernal pools adjacent to the proposed auxiliary spillway that are occupied by Lobb’s aquatic buttercup to protect the pools from disturbance during construction activities.
Vegetation 3	Trees to be removed will be evaluated for protection and permitted in accordance with Sonoma County Code Section 26-88-010(m), Section 26-67, and Chapter 26D processes as necessary.
Water Quality 1	Equipment servicing and refueling areas will be located at least 300 feet away from any stream channels. To ensure that accidental spills do not enter waters, the storage of petroleum-based fuels and the refueling of construction machinery will not occur outside of approved designated staging areas. The project will comply with state and federal water quality standards and toxic effluent standards to minimize any potential adverse impacts from discharges to waters of the U.S.
Water Quality 2	A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) will be prepared by the construction contractor prior to initiation of ground disturbance. The SWPPP will detail the best management practices and site-specific control features to prevent sediment and other pollutants from discharging off the site during construction. BMPs may include silt fence, fiber wattles, and earthen berms.
Wildlife 1	Where practicable, vegetation will be removed outside the nesting bird season (February 15 – August 15) to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If vegetation removal activities must occur between February 15 and August 15, pre-construction surveys for nesting birds within 7 days prior by a qualified biologist will be required. Appropriate spatial and temporal buffers will be applied if nesting birds are located.
Wildlife 2	Pre-construction surveys for roosting bats and sign of bat activity will be conducted prior to tree removal by a qualified biologist. In coordination with a bat expert, appropriate spatial and temporal buffers will be incorporated to the project design and construction schedule if potential roosts are located, or if roost or potential roost removal is required.
Wildlife 3	In-channel work will be restricted to occur only between June 15 and October 15. Dewatering, aquatic species capture and relocation, and construction activities within any wetted and/or flowing creek channel will only occur within this window. Planting activities outside the active channel may occur beyond October 15 if necessary to improve plant establishment during the onset of winter precipitation.
Wildlife 4	Preconstruction surveys will occur within 7 days of initial ground disturbance, within 7 days of initial dewatering, and within 7 days of re-initiation of ground-disturbing work if there is more than a 14-day pause in ground-disturbing work. During the preconstruction survey(s), biologists will survey for special-status species and nesting birds that may be impacted by implementation of the project.
Wildlife 5	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of terrestrial wildlife during construction, excavated holes or trenches more than 1 foot deep with walls steeper than 30 degrees will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. Alternatively, one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks will be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. Any animals discovered in the holes or trenches will be allowed to leave on their own volition, and work around the hole or trench will cease until the animal has left.

Resource Area	Project Conservation Measure
Wildlife 6	Prior to construction, a qualified biologist with experience in the ecology and identification of the special-status species that may occur in the project area will conduct a Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAT) for all construction personnel, including contractors and subcontractors. The WEAT will include, at a minimum: • a brief description of special-status species that may occur in the project area, including species identification and habitat requirements; • an explanation of the species' status and protection; • communication and work stoppage procedures in case a special-status species is observed within the project area; and • a list of measures being taken to reduce effects to the species during project implementation. Brochures conveying this information with color photographs of the species will be prepared for distribution to construction personnel working in the project area.

Appendix A.2. Summary and Comparison of Alternative Plans.

Table A-2. Summary and comparison of alternative plans table

Item or Concern	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Measures to address: Flood damage	No change; continued risk of dam breach, flood storage capacity for 25-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk of dam breach, flood storage capacity for 25-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk of dam breach, flood storage capacity for the 50-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk of dam breach, flood storage capacity for the 100-year 24-hour storm event
Installation Cost ¹	NRCS: \$0 Sponsor: \$0 Total: \$0	NRCS: \$29,737,000 Sponsor: \$13,969,000 Total: \$43,706,000	NRCS: \$20,122,000 Sponsor: \$9,525,000 Total: \$29,647,000	NRCS: \$21,509,000 Sponsor: \$10,516,000 Total: \$32,025,000
Average Annual Cost ¹	Installation: \$0 O, M, & R ² : \$214,000 Total: \$214,000	Installation: \$1,541,000 O, M, & R ² : - \$130,000 Total ³ : \$1,411,000	Installation: \$1,045,000 O, M, & R ² : - \$124,000 Total ³ : \$921,000	Installation: \$1,129,000 O, M, & R ² : - \$123,000 Total ³ : \$1,006,000
Annual Benefits ¹	---	\$14,000	\$19,000	\$22,000
Annual Costs ³	---	\$1,411,000	\$921,000	\$1,006,000
Annual Net Benefits ³	---	-\$1,397,000	-\$902,000	-\$984,000
Air quality	No effect	Temporary localized impacts	Temporary localized impacts	Temporary localized impacts
Cultural resources	No effect	No adverse effect, no significant impact	No adverse effect, no significant impact	No adverse effect, no significant impact
Endangered and threatened species	No effect to listed species or critical habitat	May affect but not likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog; no effect to critical habitat	May affect but not likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog; no effect to critical habitat	May affect but not likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog; no effect to critical habitat
Fish and wildlife	No effect	Temporary disturbance of up to 6.9 acres of habitat for various species; temporary disturbance to individual animals for up to 2 years	Temporary disturbance of up to 48.2 acres of habitat for various species; temporary disturbance to individual animals for up to 2 years	Temporary disturbance of up to 48.2 acres of habitat for various species; temporary disturbance to individual animals for up to 2 years
Floodplain management	No change	No changes to floodplain management	No changes to floodplain management	No changes to floodplain management
Invasive species	No effect	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres may temporarily increase risk of spread	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres may temporarily increase risk of spread	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres may temporarily increase risk of spread

Item or Concern	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Land use	No change	Increased in maximum inundation area of 6.1 acres	Increased in maximum inundation area of 10.9 acres	Increased in maximum inundation area of 16.3 acres
Noise levels	No change	Temporary increase in daytime noise levels for up to 2 years	Temporary increase in daytime noise levels for up to 2 years	Temporary increase in daytime noise levels for up to 2 years
Prime and unique farmlands	No change	No conversion of classified farmlands	No conversion of classified farmlands	No conversion of classified farmlands
Public health and safety	No change; continued risk of dam breach, flood storage capacity for 25-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk to public safety from reduced risk of dam breach flooding; flood storage capacity for 25-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk to public safety from reduced risk of dam breach flooding; flood storage capacity for the 50-year 24-hour storm event	Reduced risk to public safety from reduced risk of dam breach flooding; flood storage capacity for the 100-year 24-hour storm event
Riparian areas	No effect	Temporary loss of 6.6 acres and permanent loss of 0.3 acres of riparian vegetation	Temporary loss of 6.6 acres and permanent loss of 0.3 acres of riparian vegetation	Temporary loss of 6.6 acres and permanent loss of 0.3 acres of riparian vegetation
Socioeconomic factors	No change	No change	No change	No change
Soil resources	No effect	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres of soil	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres of soil	Disturbance of up to 48.2 acres of soil
Vegetation	No effect	Temporary removal of up to 42.2 acres of vegetation; permanent loss of 6.0 acres on auxiliary spillway	Temporary removal of up to 48.2 acres of vegetation	Temporary removal of up to 48.2 acres of vegetation
Water quality	No change; continued sediment capture of 3.8 acre-feet per year for approximately 22.6 years	Temporary increase in turbidity due to disturbance of 48.2 acres; continued sediment capture of 3.8 acre-feet per year for approximately 50 years	Temporary increase in turbidity due to disturbance of 48.2 acres; continued sediment capture of 3.8 acre-feet per year for approximately 50 years	Temporary increase in turbidity due to disturbance of 48.2 acres; continued sediment capture of 3.8 acre-feet per year for approximately 50 years
Waters of the U.S.	No effect	Permanent loss of 1,534 feet (0.2 acres) of jurisdictional waters	Permanent loss of 1,534 feet (0.2 acres) of jurisdictional waters	Permanent loss of 1,534 feet (0.2 acres) of jurisdictional waters

Item or Concern	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Wetlands	No effect	Permanent loss of approximately 27,052 square feet (0.62 acres) of wetland; temporary loss of approximately 16,142 square feet (0.37 acres) of wetland	Permanent loss of approximately 27,052 square feet (0.62 acres) of wetland; temporary loss of approximately 16,142 square feet (0.37 acres) of wetland	Permanent loss of approximately 27,052 square feet (0.62 acres) of wetland; temporary loss of approximately 16,142 square feet (0.37 acres) of wetland

Notes:

¹ Values rounded to the nearest thousand, 2022 price level, 2023 base year, amortized using a 2.5 percent discount rate over a 52-year period. Regional Economic Development (RED) account concerns were not identified during the scoping process. Therefore, the RED account information is not included.

² “O, M, & R” stands for Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement.

³ Values rounded to the nearest hundred, 2022 price level, 2023 base year, amortized using a 2.5 percent discount rate over a 52-year period.

Appendix A.3. Public Participation Plan



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

March 2021

Public Participation Plan

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Supplemental Watershed Plan-ED Project

Sonoma County, California



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Purpose of This Strategy

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposes to supplement the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan under Public Law 83-566 (PL-566) authority (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended). The NRCS National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM) sets forth the policy for all watershed plans developed under the PL-566 Program. No project will be funded unless it meets the requirements set forth in the manual. PL-566 authorizes the NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to sponsoring local organizations (SLOs) to prepare and implement watershed plans. The SLO for this effort is the Sonoma County Water Agency (hereafter referred to as “Sonoma Water”).

Matanzas Creek Dam was designed and constructed under the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan that was approved by Congress in 1958. The dam was constructed in 1964 and is now classified as a high hazard dam. Recent analyses indicate that the dam does not meet current NRCS criteria for high hazard dams. Alterations to bring the dam into compliance with current NRCS criteria will require a supplement to the 1958 Plan. The NRCS will assist Sonoma Water in preparing a supplemental watershed project plan and environmental document, which will be combined into a single document, called the Supplemental Plan-ED. The Supplemental Plan-ED will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the Supplemental Plan-ED is to develop a watershed project plan so that NRCS can decide whether to provide technical and financial assistance for implementation of the alternative selected by Sonoma Water.

The intent of this public participation plan is to outline the outreach methods and timing of public participation throughout the planning and NEPA process in developing the Supplemental Plan-ED.

This strategy has been designed to assist with communication between the NRCS and the public. This document should be considered a “living document” as it may be updated as information changes (such as contact information or as activities are completed or new ones are identified).

Public Participation Objectives

The term “public” used in this document is a broad term that includes private citizens, local, state, regional, and national government entities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, formal collaborative groups, cooperating agencies, special interest groups, community groups, and others.

The primary objectives are to deliver concise, consistent messages regarding the Plan-ED process and to engage the public in the process.

In order to keep the public and all associated agencies and organizations fully informed throughout the duration of the project, the strategy will:

- Familiarize the general public, including private groups and government agencies at local, county, and state levels, with the proposed project.
- Provide a forum for the reception and consideration of public input regarding the project. The desired input includes not only opinion, but also available data.
- Identify and clarify the impacts of the alternatives under consideration.
- Collect existing resource data regarding the Matanzas Creek Dam and the Central Sonoma Watershed. The data may be collected from various agencies and citizens.
- Incorporate written and verbal comments into the decision-making process.

Techniques to Ensure Public Participation

The following techniques will be implemented within the watershed planning process:

1. Hold a meeting between NRCS and the Sponsor to explain the Watershed Program and process.
2. Contact local agencies, explain the Watershed Program, and request existing resource data about the watershed.
3. Determine if participation by potential Cooperating Agencies is needed, and if so, the required scope and extent of their participation.
4. Contact local media representatives to request their assistance informing the public.
5. Provide opportunities to share information and obtain input from all project stakeholders.
6. Post notices in local forums, municipal buildings, and other gathering places to announce public meetings. Methods may include a public website, project fact sheets, and social media posts.
7. Discuss ongoing developments at meetings to explain the planning process and seek input regarding the project problems and opportunities, the range of alternatives, and the potential project impacts.
8. Develop an email address list to facilitate electronic notification and updates as needed.

Information Provided and Obtained

1. Early in the Planning Process
 - a. Information provided to the public:
 - i. NRCS Watershed Program Outline
 - ii. Objectives of the Supplemental Watershed Plan-ED
 - iii. Known watershed problems and opportunities
 - iv. Discussion of the preliminary potential alternatives
 - v. Explanation of the process through completion
 - b. Information to be obtained:
 - i. Watershed natural resource problems that should be addressed
 - ii. Data and other information that may be pertinent to the planning activities
 - iii. Alternatives that should be considered and how the alternatives may affect their property and lives
 - iv. Range of effects that should be determined relative to the evaluated alternatives
2. Later in the Planning Process
 - a. Information provided to the public:
 - i. Identified problems and opportunities
 - ii. Sponsor objectives
 - iii. Alternatives considered

- iv. Alternatives evaluated, including a comparison of effects (ecological, economic, social, physical, cultural, etc.)
- v. Preferred alternative
- vi. Draft Supplemental Plan–ED
- vii. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for an Environmental Assessment (EA), or Record of Decision (ROD) for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- b. Information to be obtained:
 - i. Verbal and written feedback/comments on the above items

Information that is obtained through the public participation process will be reviewed and incorporated into the analysis as appropriate. Substantive comments will be fully addressed in the final Supplemental Plan-ED, per direction in the NEPA regulations and the NWPM.

Schedule of Public Participation Activities

1. First planning meeting: Kick-off meeting with Sonoma Water, NRCS, and Jones and DeMille Engineering (JDE) team
 - Date – November 17, 2020
 - Location – Online/Conference Call
 - Responsibility – JDE with NRCS oversight
2. Preliminary Agency/Stakeholder Scoping Meeting: A virtual meeting will be held with relevant federal, state, and local agency staff and identified stakeholders to introduce the project, solicit agency-specific questions, request existing resource data about the watershed, and identify likely cooperating agencies. The notice will emphasize that this is an “Informational Meeting,” and the meeting will be open to the public. A recording of the meeting will also be made publicly available.
 - Date – April 13, 2021, 2:00 PM PDT
 - Location – Virtual meeting
 - Responsibility – JDE lead, Sonoma Water support, NRCS oversight
 - Methods:
 - JDE will prepare meeting invitation with project flyer for approval by Sonoma Water and NRCS; email to identified agency attendees (identified on contact list spreadsheet)

3. Preliminary Public Scoping Meeting: A virtual meeting will be held to introduce the project and solicit public feedback about the project. Jones and DeMille Engineering will present the conceptual project plan and an overview of the NEPA process.

Date – April 13, 2021, 5:30 PM PDT

Location – Online/Webinar format

Responsibility – JDE lead, Sonoma Water support, NRCS oversight

Methods:

- A press release and meeting notice will be published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on at least 3 different days beginning at least 15 days before the scheduled meeting; the notice will also include the project website location.
- Project notification letters will be mailed to a pre-determined mailing list at least 15 days prior to the scoping meeting; the letter will include the project flyer with program, planning, website, and contact information. Tribes will receive a Tribal scoping letter and flyer.
- Notices will be posted by Sonoma Water on Nextdoor, Facebook, and Twitter social media accounts.
 - a. Bennett Valley Facebook Group

4. Public Information Meeting: Pending outcomes and observations of the initial public meeting.

Jones and DeMille Engineering will present results of the investigations and analyses completed as part of Phase I of the project including results of hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, which shall include floodplain inundation maps for the following scenarios: existing dam in-place (100- and 500-year flood exceedance), and dam not in-place/removed (100- and 500-year flood exceedance). The maps shall be generated and printed at a scale large enough for the public to recognize houses, streets, and other important features that may be inundated. The Contractor will also present a summary of alternatives that will be considered during Phase III of the project. One of the purposes of this meeting is to solicit comments regarding potential impacts of the considered alternatives on ecological, cultural, economic, and social resources.

Date – Near the end of Phase II

Location – TBD

Responsibility – NRCS with Jones and DeMille Engineering support

5. Draft PLAN-ED Notice of Availability (NOA): Following the completion of the Draft Supplemental Plan-ED, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published locally and will

provide the date, location, and time of the public meeting for receiving comments on the Draft Plan-ED.

Date – Spring 2022

Responsibility – NRCS with Jones and DeMille Engineering support

Methods:

- JDE will submit Plan-ED to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) for posting on the CEQAnet Web Portal in compliance with E.O. 12372
- A new release for the meeting notice will be published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on at least 3 different days beginning at least 15 days before the scheduled meeting.
- Project notification letters or emails will be mailed to a pre-determined mailing list approximately 2 weeks prior to the public meeting.

6. Public Review Meeting: A public meeting will be held following publication of the Draft Supplemental Plan-ED, per NWPM 502.21. Jones and DeMille Engineering will present the proposed alternative and evaluation framework, and discuss the environmental effects of the proposed alternative. The meeting will be open to input and feedback from the public concerning the content and effectiveness of the Draft Plan-ED.

Date – Spring 2022

Location – TBD

Responsibility – NRCS with Jones and DeMille Engineering support

7. Publish Final Supplemental Plan-ED and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) if a Plan-EA: Following the completion of the Final Supplemental Plan-EA, an NOA will be published locally for the Final Supplemental Plan-EA and the FONSI.

Date – Autumn 2022

Responsibility – NRCS with Jones and DeMille Engineering support

Methods:

- Submit Final Supplemental Plan-EA and FONSI to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) for posting on the CEQAnet Web Portal
- The NOA will be published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.
- The NOA will be mailed or emailed directly to identified interested parties on the mailing list.

Appendix A.4. Scoping Report



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Scoping Report

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Supplemental Watershed Plan

Sonoma County, California

November 2021



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1. Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with the Sonoma County Water Agency (hereafter referred to as “Sonoma Water”) as the project sponsor, is developing a Rehabilitation Supplemental Watershed Plan for the Matanzas Creek Dam in Sonoma County, California. Development of the plan and project construction is authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566).

NRCS, as the lead federal agency, is initiating scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to inform the development of a Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

The Plan-EA will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ’s) regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The purpose of the Plan-EA is to develop and analyze the effects of watershed project plan alternatives to the natural and human environment.

1.1. Scoping Goals and Objectives

Scoping is the integral first step of the NEPA process. It is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR Part 1501.7). The objectives of the scoping process are to:

- Engage interested parties and the general public in the early identification of concerns, potential impacts, and possible alternative actions;
- Determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the Plan-EA;
- Identify potentially significant issues related to the proposed action, as well as identifying and eliminating issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review;
- Identify the scope of issues to be addressed and integrate analyses required by other environmental laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act); and
- Identify technical studies needed to adequately address potential impacts of the project.

2. Scoping Process

2.1. Schedule

The following dates outline the milestones for the scoping announcement and activities that occurred in preparation for the formal 30-day scoping comment period. The scoping comment period opened on March 29, 2021, and closed on April 30, 2021.

- November 17, 2020: Kick-off meeting with the NRCS and sponsor project team
- **March 29, 2021: Opening of formal public comment period;** flyers with meeting details were mailed to agencies, stakeholders, tribal contacts, and landowners within 1 mile of the dam.

- March 31, 2021: Notice was published in *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*
- April 13, 2021: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in conformance with restrictions issued by the Sonoma County Health Officer, public scoping meetings were held virtually; an agency and stakeholder meeting was held in the afternoon, and a public webinar meeting was held in the evening.
- **April 30, 2021: Close of formal public comment period**

Public scoping notice materials are included as Appendix A.

2.2. Public Meetings

A public scoping meeting for agencies and stakeholders was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting consisted of a presentation of the PL 83-566 program, the project purpose and need, and an introduction to the NEPA process; presenters included staff from Sonoma Water (Aaron Fulton), the NRCS (Ernesto De La Riva) and Jones and DeMille Engineering (Jenna Jorgensen and Ricky Anderson). There were 16 attendees from agencies and stakeholders, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Santa Rosa City, the EPA, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Permit Sonoma, and Sonoma County.

A public scoping meeting for a broader audience was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar. The same meeting presentation was shared. There were three public attendees.

The meeting presentation slides are attached as Appendix B. The meeting attendance lists are attached as Appendix C.

3. Comments

The formal open public comment period was from March 29 to April 30, 2021.

Comments could be submitted by email, mail, phone, or website. Comments were received from four commenters during the public comment period; the EPA provided comments on May 12. The comments are included as Appendix D.

4. Summary of Identified Issues

The following list summarizes the comments and concerns that were expressed during the scoping process:

- Project financing (would parcel taxes increase?)
- Agency coordination (compliance with Fish and Game Code section 1602)
- Potential impacts to individuals or habitat of numerous wildlife species
- Creation or enhancement of wildlife habitat
- Available water supply
- Public acquisition of waste material
- Rehabilitation and revegetation of the project area
- Noise impacts from project implementation
- Risk of dam failure and design need
- Sedimentation/siltation impacts

- Listed species and migratory birds
- Air quality
- Environmental Justice
- Tribal consultation

All comments submitted will be given full consideration for applicability to the project scope; however, not all of the comments and concerns expressed are relevant to the analysis of the Proposed Action. Those comments that are relevant will be carried forward in the environmental analysis.

Appendix A. Public Meeting Notice Documents

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Sonoma

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Press Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published DAILY IN THE City of Santa Rosa, County of Sonoma; and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Sonoma, State of California, under the date of November 29, 1951, Case number 34831, that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to wit:

The Press Democrat - Legal Notices

3/31 - 3/31/2021

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Santa Rosa, California, on

3/31/2021



This space for County clerk's Filing Stamp

Proof of Publication of

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Public Meeting Notice

Project Information
The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), is considering alterations to the Matanzas Creek Dam to bring the structure into compliance with current NRCS design criteria. Matanzas Creek Dam was designed and constructed under the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan that was approved by Congress in 1958. Alterations to bring the dam into compliance with current NRCS criteria will require a supplement to the 1958 Plan, which was implemented with assistance from the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS).

The project team will hold a preliminary public scoping meeting to provide information about the proposed project and to solicit comments. At this time, we are requesting comments on the project to identify issues and resource concerns. Written comments are due within 30 days, post-marked by April 30, 2021.

Preliminary Public Scoping Meeting:
The public is invited to attend, discuss, and comment during the following public scoping meeting:

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Place: Online at zoom.us
Meeting ID: 915 9994 8880
Call-in Number: (346) 248-7799

How to Submit a Comment:
Comments may be submitted with one of the following methods, or during the public scoping meeting. Comments must be received by April 30, 2021.

Web: <https://matanzascreekdrehab.com/>
Email: jenna.j@jonesanddemille.com
Mail: Jones & DeMille Engineering
Attn: Jenna Jorgensen
1535 S. 100 W., Richfield, UT 84701
Phone: (435) 896-8266

83812 - Pub Mar 31, 2021 1ti.



Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Supplemental Watershed Plan Sonoma County, California

Agency/Stakeholder Notice - Fact Sheet

Project Information

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), is considering alterations to the Matanzas Creek Dam to bring the structure into compliance with current NRCS design criteria. Matanzas Creek Dam was designed and constructed under the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan that was approved by Congress in 1958. Alterations to bring the dam into compliance with current NRCS criteria will require a supplement to the 1958 Plan, which was implemented with assistance from the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS).

The NRCS will assist Sonoma Water in preparing a supplemental watershed project plan and environmental document, which will be combined into a single document, called the Supplemental Plan-ED. The Supplemental Plan-ED will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Technical studies are currently being conducted, with a Draft Plan-ED anticipated in the spring of 2022.

Additional information can be found at the project website: <https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

Questions and comments can be directed to:

Web: <https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

Email: jenna.j@jonesanddemille.com

Mail: Jones & DeMille Engineering
Attn: Jenna Jorgensen
1535 S. 100 W., Richfield, UT 84701

Phone: (435) 896-8266

Preliminary Scoping Meeting

Agencies and stakeholders who may have interest or involvement in the project are invited to attend a virtual meeting:

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Place: Online at zoom.us

Meeting ID: 918 7470 0293

Call-in Number: (346) 248-7799

Project Area Overview





Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Supplemental Watershed Plan

Sonoma County, California

Public Notice - Fact Sheet

Project Information

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), is considering alterations to the Matanzas Creek Dam to bring the structure into compliance with current NRCS design criteria. Matanzas Creek Dam was designed and constructed under the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan that was approved by Congress in 1958. Alterations to bring the dam into compliance with current NRCS criteria will require a supplement to the 1958 Plan, which was implemented with assistance from the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS).

The NRCS will assist Sonoma Water in preparing a supplemental watershed project plan and environmental document, which will be combined into a single document, called the Supplemental Plan-ED. The Supplemental Plan-ED will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Technical studies are currently being conducted, with a Draft Plan-ED anticipated in the spring of 2022.

At this time, we are requesting comments on the project to identify issues and resource sensitivities. Written comments can be submitted during the open period starting March 29, 2021, and ending on April 30, 2021.

Questions and comments can be directed to:

Web: <https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

Email: jenna.j@jonesanddemille.com

Mail: Jones & DeMille Engineering
Attn: Jenna Jorgensen
1535 S. 100 W., Richfield, UT 84701

Phone: (435) 896-8266

Preliminary Scoping Meeting

Those members of the public who may have interest or involvement in the project are invited to attend a virtual meeting:

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Place: Online at zoom.us

Meeting ID: 915 9994 8880

Call-in Number: (346) 248-7799

Project Area Overview



Appendix B. Scoping Meeting Presentation Slides



Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation - Preliminary Scoping Meeting -

Sponsor: Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water)



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Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Welcome and Introductions

Sponsor – Sonoma Water

Aaron Fulton Project Manager

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Ernesto De La Riva State Watershed Engineer

Jones & DeMille Engineering

Darin Robinson Project Manager

Jenna Jorgensen Planning Lead

Ricky Anderson Water Resources Engineering Lead



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Sonoma Water

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

To submit a question:
Click on the Q&A button at the bottom of the screen



Type your question in the Q&A window



United States
Department of
Agriculture

3

Sonoma Water

Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Website:
<https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

United States
Department of
Agriculture

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PL-566 Program Overview

Public Law 83-566; the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended

General Purposes

- Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment
- Furthering conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- Furthering conservation and proper utilization of land

PL-566 Program Overview

Authorized Purposes

★ **Watershed structure rehabilitation** ★

Flood prevention (flood damage reduction)

Watershed protection

Public recreation

Public fish and wildlife

Agricultural water management

Municipal and industrial water supply

Water quality management

Purpose and Need

Purpose: Preserve and increase flood protection downstream of Matanzas Creek Dam.

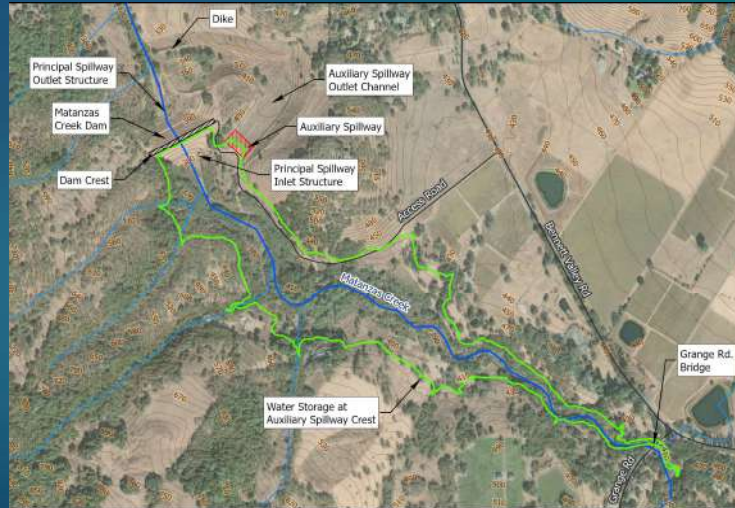
Need: Bring the dam and spillway facilities into compliance with federal standards.

Matanzas Creek Dam History

- Constructed in 1964 as part of Central Sonoma Watershed PL 566 project
- Flood protection for Santa Rosa and Sonoma County
- Controls/reduces peak flows and flooding along Matanzas Creek and Santa Rosa Creek

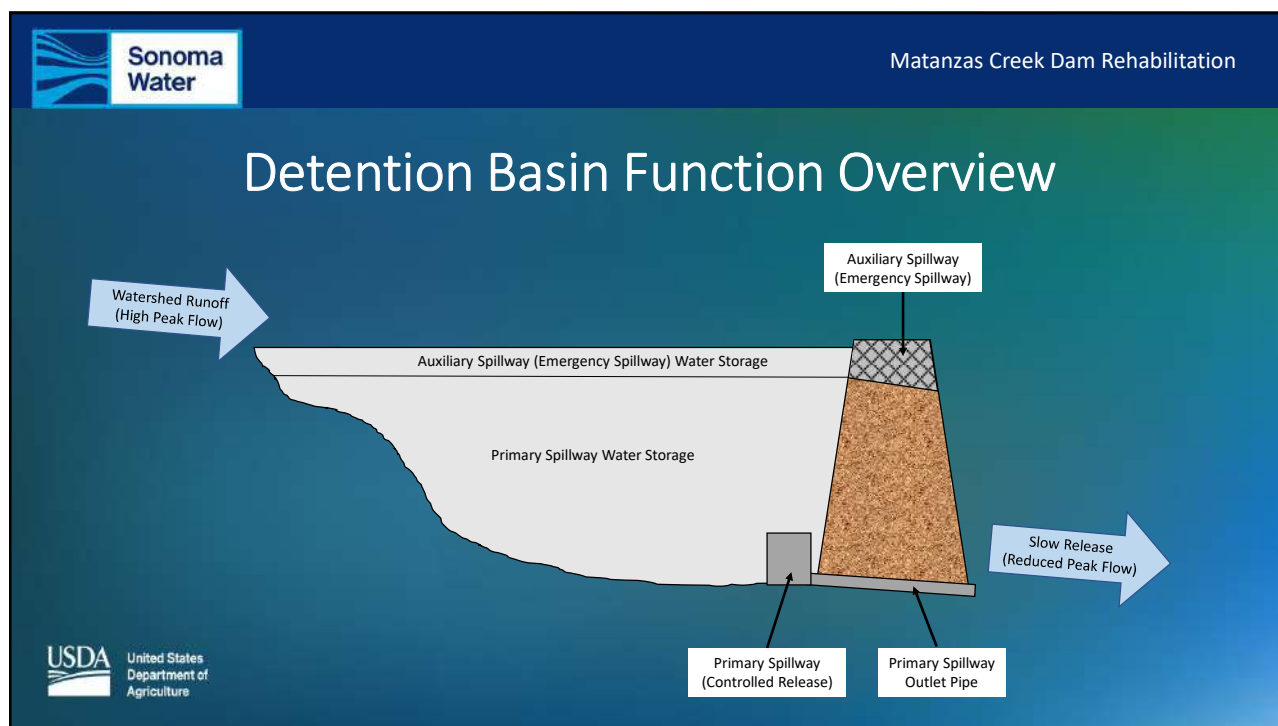


Matanzas Creek Dam Facility Overview

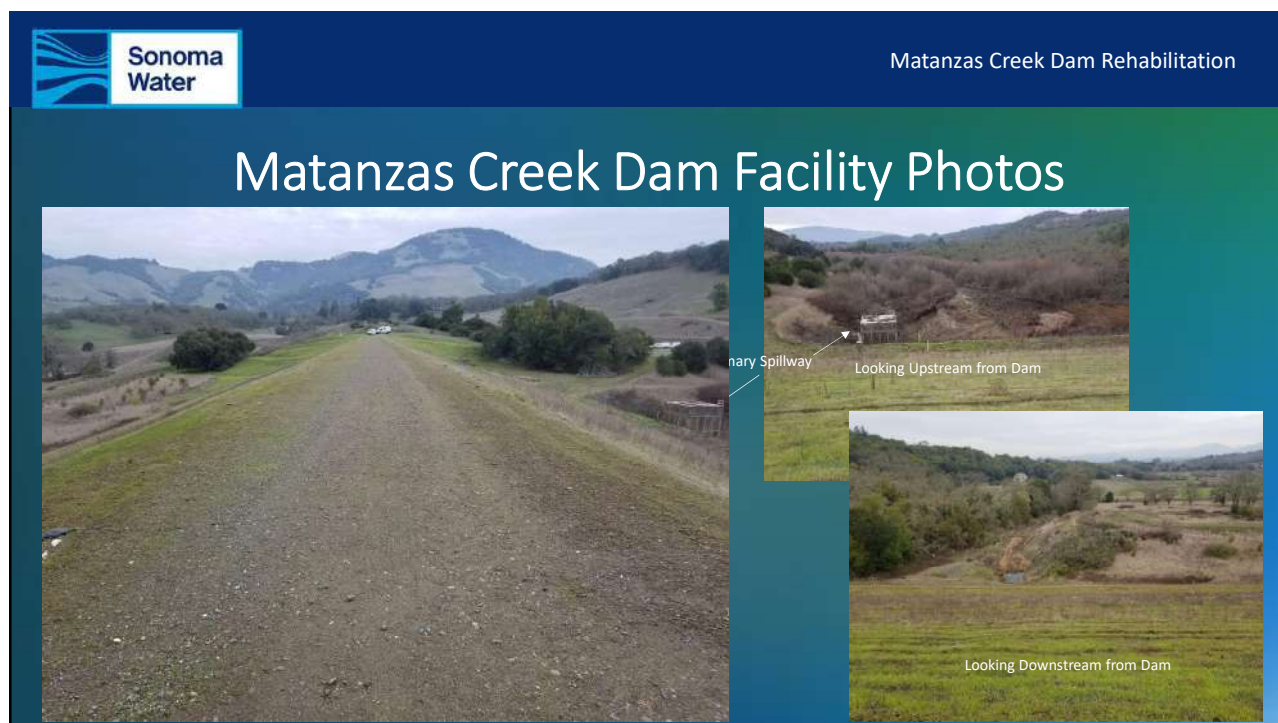


Matanzas Creek Dam – 2005 Flood Event





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Matanzas Creek Dam Facility Photos

Looking at upstream face of dam



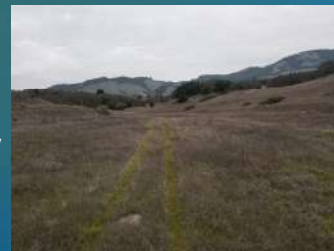
Looking across auxiliary spillway



Looking at downstream face of dam



Looking down auxiliary spillway



Rehabilitation Concepts being Considered

1. Increase storage
 - Removal of sediment, debris, etc.
 - Raise the auxiliary spillway and dam elevation (increased water surface elevations)
2. Modify spillways
 - Increase capacity (release rate) of principal spillway (increased flows in downstream channel)
 - Increase efficiency of auxiliary spillway (increase crest elevation but hold dam crest elevation)
3. Combination of the concepts above

Purpose of this Planning Phase

Federal funds = NEPA

(National Environmental Policy Act)

*Federal lands and federal permits also invoke NEPA requirements

State-level compliance efforts (CEQA, permitting) will follow

NEPA aims to:

1. Consider environmental consequences
2. Inform the public

40 CFR 1501.9 - Scoping

“Agencies shall use an early and open process to determine the scope of issues for analysis . . .”

Issues to consider



Air Quality



Cultural Resources



Water Resources



Land Uses



Visual Resources



Policy and Regulation



Economics



Wildlife



Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Alternatives to Consider

PL-566 Standard Alternatives (for comparison):

1. Rehabilitation (30% design)
2. Non-Structural
3. Federal Decommissioning
4. No Federal Action



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Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Questions to identify the scope:

- Are there concerns with the possible outcomes?
- What are the most important environmental concerns?
- Is there any controversy?
- What other environmental laws apply?
- When does the decision need to be made?



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Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Schedule

Public scoping comment period:
March 29 – April 30, 2021 (32 days)

Draft Plan-ED/30% Design: 45 days (estimated
Spring 2022)

Final Plan-ED & Decision: estimated Fall 2022



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Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Comments

Online: <https://matanzascreekdamrehab.com/>

Email: comment@matanzascreekdamrehab.com

Call: Jenna Jorgensen @ (435) 896-8266

Mail: Jenna Jorgensen
Jones and DeMille Engineering
1535 S. 100 W., Richfield, UT 84701



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Appendix C. Attendee Lists

Name in Zoom	Entity	Meetings attended
Jon Stead	AECOM	Agency
Seth Gentzler	AECOM	Agency and Public
Craig Weightman	CDFW	Agency
Jessie Maxfield	CDFW	Agency
Eric Larson	CDFW	Agency
Ryan Watanabe	CDFW	Agency
Claire Myers	City of Santa Rosa	Agency
Steve Brady	City of Santa Rosa	Agency
Andy Zellinger	EPA	Agency
Darin Robinson	JDE	Agency and Public
Jenna Jorgensen	JDE	Agency and Public
Ricky Anderson	JDE	Agency and Public
Valerie Quinto	Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Agency
Carlos Velasquez	NRCS	Agency and Public
Darren Holguin	NRCS	Agency
Ernesto De La Riva	NRCS	Agency and Public
Julia Grim	NRCS	Agency and Public
Steve Hill	NRCS	Agency and Public
Andrew Loganbill	NRCS Petaluma Field Office	Agency
John Mack	Permit Sonoma	Agency
Oriana Hart	Permit Sonoma	Agency
Elise Howard	City of Santa Rosa	Agency
Flannery Banks	City of Santa Rosa	Agency
Sean McNeil	City of Santa Rosa	Agency
Aaron Fulton	SCWA	Agency and Public
Anne Crealock	SCWA	Agency and Public
Barry Dugan	SCWA	Agency and Public
Carlos Diaz	SCWA	Agency and Public
Jessica Martini-Lamb	SCWA	Agency and Public
Kent Gylfe	SCWA	Agency and Public
Susan Haydon	SCWA	Agency and Public
Robert Pennington	Permit Sonoma	Agency
Caryl Hart	Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District	Agency
Bert Whitaker	Sonoma County Regional Parks	Agency
Craig Harrison		Public
Daniel Derdula		Public
Kevin Cooper		Public

Appendix D. Comments

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
1	Bill Pisenti Jr.	Financing	Is there going to be another parcel tax to finance this project? I already have \$800 plus in parcel taxes already so, I don't need any more.	An important part of the watershed plan is an economic analysis that considers the costs for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project; the analysis will be disclosed in the Plan-EA and made available for public review. As a federal dam rehabilitation project funded under PL-566, the USDA-NRCS will consider financial assistance for a portion of the construction costs. An estimate of Sonoma Water's construction cost share will be disclosed in the Plan-EA. Sonoma Water's financing will be determined separate from the NEPA process.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
2	CDFW (in chat during meeting)	Agency coordination	Just a reminder that Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify CDFW prior to beginning any activity that may do one or more of the following: • Divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; • Change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; • Use material from any river, stream, or lake; or • Deposit or dispose of material into any river, stream, or lake.	This requirement will be addressed during the design phase. Permits for any activities that impact jurisdictional areas will be acquired by Sonoma Water.
3	Craig Harrison	Wildlife impacts	My purpose in providing these comments is to alert you to the existence of at least five aquatic or riparian species in the Matanzas Creek watershed that are identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species under federal or state law, or both. I hope that your activities will avoid adversely affecting them directly or through habitat modifications.	Listed and special status species will be addressed as a part of the NEPA and CEQA evaluation processes. Informal and formal consultations with relevant agencies, including permit applications and determination of mitigation, will be completed as needed. Specifically, NRCS will consult with USFWS regarding potential effects to species listed under federal law. Sonoma Water will ensure special status species identified under state law are evaluated for potential effects from the project alternatives.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
4	Craig Harrison	Wildlife impacts	This includes controlling invasive species such as bull frogs.	Invasive species will be addressed in the Plan-EA as they relate to the project area and project activities. The Plan-EA will identify the presence of invasive species, the potential for invasive species to spread, and measure that will be taken to prevent potential spread.
5	Craig Harrison	Wildlife habitat	Perhaps more important, I hope that there may be ways that your project can enhance habitat for rare and endangered species. I suggested on the April 13 call that it would be helpful to keep some water in the reservoir year-round, as I believe was once was the case.	NRCS TR-210-60 – <i>Earth Dams and Reservoirs</i> outlines the design criteria for earth dams and associated spillways. Since Matanzas Creek Dam was designed as a flood detention basin and is not permitted for joint use, it must be drained within 10 days to meet the required criteria per TR-210-60. There is no extra storage capacity available for a year-round water pool; the entire available storage capacity is necessary for flood detention. Draining of the reservoir is critical to providing downstream flood protection. Although Matanzas Creek Dam once operated with a reservoir pool, the practice was discontinued in 2006 as part of the Matanzas Creek Detention Reservoir Sediment Removal Project when it was determined that there is not adequate storage capacity for this practice.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
6	Craig Harrison	Available water supply	As wildland fires increase (the Nuns Fire burned in Bennett Valley in October 2017), having additional water supplies to fight fires is an advantage to our community.	See the response to comment #5. Providing water for emergency use is beyond the primary purpose of the dam and evaluation for such is outside the scope of this project.

7	Craig Harrison	Wildlife habitat	The Matanzas Creek watershed is relatively undisturbed compared to many other areas in Sonoma County. I am attaching four reports and letters, prepared for other purposes, that provide helpful background for your assessment of the species in this area. First, a biological assessment for 3803 Matanzas Creek Lane (on Matanzas Creek) prepared by Darren Wiemeyer provides much information on the biological resources in this area. He found that Matanzas Creek and its riparian corridor provides good refuge habitat for amphibians and reptiles, and identified five rare species that are found in this watershed: California giant salamander (special concern); foothill yellow-legged frog (candidate threatened); red-legged frog (federal threatened); red-bellied newt (special concern); and California freshwater shrimp (federal endangered). I have found a dead California giant salamander on the road near my home at 4953 Sonoma Mountain Road, which runs along the South fork of Matanzas Creek. I have also identified on my property over the years many red-bellied newts and one yellow-legged frog. A letter from California Department of Fish and Wildlife dated March 17, 2021 (especially protection of biotic species, pp. 9-11) and a letter from NOAA dated February 26, 2021 provide some good current information on Sonoma County, including water, rare species, and habitat issues. Finally, a Sonoma Land Trust baseline documentation report for the Drake Family for 7400 Bennett Valley Road provides good information on plant communities in the watershed.	Effects to protected species will be evaluated for each alternative within the Plan-EA. It is standard practice for the NRCS to identify the potential for protected species to be present in the project area and avoid impacts whenever possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, measures will be taken to minimize any potential effects and then mitigate for those effects if they are significant.
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#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
8	Craig Harrison	Wildlife habitat	The piecemeal diminution of aquatic habitat is why the species that live in this habitat are listed as threatened, endangered, or are being considered for listing. A factor the California Department of Fish and Wildlife considers in listing a Species of Special Concern is when they occur in small, isolated populations or in fragmented habitat, and are threatened by further isolation and population reduction. That is the situation in the Matanzas Creek watershed, and it is vital to preserve this habitat to avoid further fragmentation. Preserving year-round water flows, summer water flows, and avoiding elevated water temperatures are important to these creatures.	See the response to comment #5. Providing stored water for habitat use is beyond the primary purpose of the dam and evaluation for such is outside the scope of this project.
9	Craig Harrison	Wildlife habitat	There was a time when river otters were common in the reservoir behind the dam. It would be nice to create such a reservoir again.	See the response to comment #5 providing stored water for habitat use is beyond the primary purpose of the dam and evaluation for such is outside the scope of this project.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
10	Edmund B MacDonald Jr.	Public acquisition of waste material	(5525 Bennett Valley Road) I own the above referenced property, an historic ranch of 475 acres. It lies in Sonoma County, California directly across from what will be the Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation project on Bennett Valley Road. I would be willing to purchase excavated dirt from your project in order to create a long berm (as much as 500' long for a berm 3' to 4' high) to partially shield my residence and property from noisy road noise and create a safety barrier protecting me from dangerous cars. I would open an entry onto my property directly across from the dam project site exit so Sonoma Water dump trucks could easily offload the soil onto my property. I would then distribute the soil from there to create the berm. Please contact me if this might work to the advantage of your project and be otherwise possible.	Thank you for the inquiry. This proposal will be considered during the final design phase and you may be contacted.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
11	Daniel Derdula	Wildlife habitat	Even though it's not a "natural" landscape per se, it's a unique ecosystem and is well populated. It's an oasis for wildlife in the area. It also protects some amazing heritage oaks. So as far as concerns, the issue of habitat protection/restoration is my main one. I assume that the study and planning phase will take these issues into consideration and I assume you will be consulting with local experts. The dam and reservoir area are home to many species including an active mountain lion population which is collared and tracked. I hope the county has data to provide on their territory. If not there is an expert who has given lectures to local residents on co-existing with the big cats in our area. His name escapes me at the moment but I can get his contact info to you if needed.	Wildlife habitat will be considered in the NEPA and/or CEQA process. Effects to local species and their habitats, including heritage oaks and mountain lions, will be evaluated for each alternative within the Plan-EA. The information you provided is informative and will receive consideration as effects are analyzed. It is standard practice for the NRCS to identify the potential for protected species to be present in the project area and avoid any effects whenever possible. If effects cannot be avoided, measures will be taken to minimize any potential effects and then mitigate for those effects if they are significant.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
12	Daniel Derdula	Rehabilitation	Also, I know that the county planted the oaks and willows which I assume was meant as a step towards restoration, but they have never been cared for maintained. I do hope that the new proposals will include plans for tree planting and re-establishing of native plants, especially wildflowers to support bee and insect populations. Certainly the CA Native Plant Society would be a great partner.	Rehabilitation will be included in the project description and analyzed for each alternative within the Plan-EA. Existing vegetation will be inventoried and assessed for effects from the project. NRCS makes every effort to preserve native vegetation and make improvements that are within the scope of the project. A revegetation plan will be developed and tied directly to the selected design alternative. The revegetation plan will follow standard recommendations obtained through consultation with state and local agencies and replacement of riparian/bank vegetation will occur at a greater than 1:1 ratio.
13	Daniel Derdula	Noise	There's one issue that isn't of immediate concern but when the project is finally approved and construction starts can affect local residents and that is noise. Some years ago (maybe 10?) the county dredged the reservoir and spread the silt the whole length of the auxiliary spillway. This involved 5 or 6 graders operating nonstop 8 hrs a day for several months! The noise of beeping equipment was absolutely terrible and almost caused us to sell our property. So just something to be aware of as that phase approaches.	Noise effects will be evaluated in the NEPA and/or CEQA process. Noise generated from project activities is a required consideration under CEQA and will receive a full analysis to identify measures that can be taken to reduce the effects. The analysis will be disclosed in the Plan-EA that is provided to the public for review.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
14	Daniel Derdula	Dam failure and design need	given that the water level has never (in the past 20 years) reached even close to the level of the auxiliary spillway, are there actually concerns about dam failure? I appreciated the explanations given during the meeting but I'm curious about how well the dam was monitored over the years by the county and how accurate the data and assumptions are heading into a redesign.	The dam is being evaluated to current criteria outlined in NRCS TR-210-60 – <i>Earth Dams and Reservoirs</i>. The evaluation of the dam will identify the purpose and need for the project in order to bring the dam into compliance with TR-210-60. Documentation of the evaluation and dam failure risk will be addressed in the NEPA process. The dam is regularly inspected as required by CA Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). Also, this effort includes topographic surveys, hydrology and hydraulics modeling, and a geologic/geotechnical investigation, the results of which are used to assess the risk of dam failure with a high degree of confidence.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
15	EPA	Sedimentation/ Siltation	Discuss sediment loading and how the project will or will not contribute to watershed goals to reduce sediment loading in Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. Quantify project impacts to sediment loading as necessary. The EPA recommends reviewing the total maximum daily loads for sedimentation/siltation for the Laguna de Santa Rosa wetland area in Sonoma County, CA (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2014_16state_ir_reports/03306.shtml). The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed is located within the 8-digit Hydrologic Unit 18010110 (Russian Watershed), and occupies a total area of 255.5 square miles (163,528 acres), including the city of Santa Rosa. The 2015 EPA analysis suggests that the sediment loading rate to Matanzas Reservoir is higher than the loading rate for the Santa Rosa Creek watershed in general. The additional load in this area is likely associated with channel incision and gully processes. Consider project alternatives which help reduce erosion and further sedimentation to this watershed.	Thank you for the information; it will be included in the evaluation of potential impacts of alternatives. Sedimentation into the reservoir is a critical component of design, and the potential impacts of the alternatives on downstream streambank stability, bank erosion, and sediment yield to Laguna de Santa Rosa will also be considered to meet sedimentation criteria per TR-210-60. Sedimentation considerations will be addressed and documented in the NEPA process.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
16	EPA	Listed species and migratory birds	EPA recommends the document identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species and critical habitat that might occur within the project area. Quantify which species or critical habitat might be directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affected by each alternative. We understand the project may include potential river restoration, flow and channel modifications, changes to wetlands hydrology, and potential habitat fragmentation. The EPA recommends engaging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service as early in the analysis as possible to ensure that the proposed alternatives account for the following: • Species habitat requirements, including Steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>; • Migratory Bird Treaty Act compliance; and • Protection from invasive species.	These recommendations will be implemented in the NEPA process. It is standard practice for the NRCS to identify the potential for protected species and migratory birds to be present in the project area and avoid impacts whenever possible. If effects cannot be avoided, measures will be identified in consultation with federal and state regulatory agencies to minimize any potential effects and then mitigate for those effects if they are significant.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
17	EPA	Air Quality	The project would take place in a federal nonattainment area for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). A portion of Sonoma County is designated as non-attainment for multiple National Ambient Air Quality Standards pollutants. This includes 2021 designation of marginal non-attainment for the 8-Hour Ozone (2008), marginal non-attainment for the 8-hour Ozone (2015), and moderate non-attainment for PM_{2.5} (2006). EPA's General Conformity Rule, established under Section 176(c)(4) of the Clean Air Act, provides a specific process for ensuring that federal actions do not interfere with a state's plans to attain or maintain NAAQS. For any criteria pollutants in the air basin of the project area where the air quality status is in nonattainment or attainment – maintenance, complete a general conformity applicability analysis (i.e., a comparison of direct and indirect emissions for each alternative with de minimis thresholds of 40 CFR 93.153). We recommend including a draft general conformity determination in the Draft EA to fulfill the public participation requirements of 40 CFR 93.156.	The recommended analysis will be completed and disclosed in the Plan-EA.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
18	EPA	Air Quality	We encourage the USDA-NRCS to consider opportunities to reduce dust and exhaust emissions during the project. In general, we recommend committing to the best available emissions control technologies for project equipment. We encourage the USDA-NRCS to create and append a Fugitive Dust Control Plan as part of the Draft EA and clearly list all measures to be taken to reduce fugitive dust and exhaust emissions. Creating a clear plan before construction begins will best manage and minimize fugitive dust. (Additional details provided in letter).	Potential air quality impacts of alternatives considered will be evaluated in the NEPA/CEQA process. Dust control and exhaust reduction measures will be incorporated into the action alternatives to reduce emissions.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
19	EPA	Environmental Justice	The EPA recommends that the Draft EA identify whether the proposed project may disproportionately and adversely affect low income or minority populations in the surrounding area and discuss appropriate mitigation measures for any adverse impacts. The EPA recommends the following for development of the EJ analysis: • Consider Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews when developing the EJ section of the Draft EA. • Include a description of the area of potential impact used for the environmental justice impact analysis and provide the source of demographic information. • Consider using the EPA's EJ Screen tool found at: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/. • Include opportunities for incorporating public input to promote context sensitive design, especially in minority and low-income communities. • Survey and inventory cultural resources which might be impacted by the project and describe the results in the Draft EA. • Document the process used for community involvement and communication, including all measures to specifically reach out to low-income and minority communities. Include an analysis of results achieved by this outreach.	This resource concern is not considered in the environmental document per EPA's EJ Screen tool, the California Executive Orders 14148 and 14173, the Environmental Protection Agency's CalEnviroScreen tool, and the scoping process; analysis will be disclosed in the Plan-EA. Tribal, cultural, and historic resources will be evaluated through a formal consultation process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the results will be summarized in the Plan-EA. All public scoping documents will be appended to the Plan-EA. Cultural resource inventories will be conducted in accordance with state and national requirements.

#	Commenter	Comment Topic	Comment	Response
20	EPA	Consultation with Tribal Governments	The EPA recommends beginning consultation with tribal governments near the project area by sending letters to tribal governments to determine their interest in consulting on the Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project. The EPA recommends that the Draft EA describe the outcome of tribal consultation between the USDA-NRCS and tribal governments of Sonoma County including, but not limited to: • Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California • Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians • Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria • Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria • Lytton Rancheria of California • Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria	The NRCS is in the process of initiating tribal consultation with interested federally recognized and other California tribes as identified by the Native American Heritage Commission. The list of tribes provided by EPA will also be considered. A summary of tribal consultation as well as consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be included in the Draft EA and may be ongoing. The Project Sponsor (Sonoma Water) is responsible for completing tribal consultation according to CEQA and AB 52.

Appendix A.5. NHPA Section 106 Consultation Documents

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**Armando Quintero, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000

FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov

www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

February 14, 2025

VIA EMAIL

In reply refer to: NRCS_2024_0617_001

Carlos Suarez
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
430 G Street, #4164
Davis, CA 95616-4164

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Matanzas Creek Dam Watershed and Flood
Prevention Operations Rehabilitation Project, Sonoma County, California

Dear Mr. Suarez:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is in receipt of your letter dated February 5, 2025, regarding the above referenced undertaking. The NRCS initiated consultation on June 17, 2024, with the SHPO to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. The NRCS requested SHPO comment on its determination of the Area of Potential Effects (APE), concurrence on determinations of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(c)(2), and a finding of *no adverse effect* to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).

The Sonoma County Water Agency, who owns and operates the facility and is the project sponsor, proposes to fully rehabilitate the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility. The undertaking will include:

- Raising the dam crest by 7.4 feet and raising the auxiliary spillway crest by 4 feet using material imported from an existing permitted or commercial source.
- Constructing a roller-compacted concrete spillway crest/apron and concrete cutoff wall near the crest.
- Grading the auxiliary spillway to an average -5.8 percent grade.
- Removing approximately 104 acre-feet of accumulated sediment from past floodwater events.
- Installing upstream and downstream embankment stability buttresses to address seismic and liquefaction issues.
- Extending the primary spillway conduit by 175 feet upstream and 181 feet downstream and constructing a new inlet and stilling basin on the primary spillway conduit.

The APE for this undertaking encompasses the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility for construction activities and the maximum projected floodwater retention area for the Preferred Alternative. The horizontal extent of the APE measures approximately 120 acres. Construction activities to implement the Preferred Alternative would take place within the existing footprint of the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility as well as the area downstream of the dam where accumulated sediment will be removed. Existing facility access roads and maintenance areas will be utilized for staging and transport of equipment and materials. A viewshed APE was not defined because the proposed modifications to the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility would be consistent with its rural setting.

Efforts to identify historic properties included a records search at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, a review of historic maps and existing archaeological literature, a pedestrian survey, the preparation of an archaeological survey report, and the preparation of a historical resources inventory and evaluation report prepared by the sponsor's consultants. As a result of the identification efforts, the following resources were identified within the APE:

Resource ID	Description	NRHP Eligibility
ALTA2020-107-01	Road grade and tree alignment	Not eligible
ALTA2020-107-02	Wooden platform and spring house	Not eligible
ALTA2020-107-03	Habitation/debris site ca 1950s	Not eligible
ALTA2020-107-04	Sparse lithic scatter	Not eligible
Central Sonoma Watershed Project (CSWP) Historic District	Discontiguous historic district	Eligible (Criterion A)
Matanzas Creek Dam Facility	Contributing element of CSWP Historic District (Includes ALTA2020-107-01)	Individually not eligible; Contributing element to the CSWP District
P-49-1109	Complex lithic scatter	Assumed eligible (Criterion D)
P-49-1864	Talbot Farmstead, late 19th century farm complex	Not eligible
ISO-1	Barbed wire fence segment	Not eligible

ISO-3	Isolated obsidian nodules (n=2)	Not eligible
ISO-4	Isolated obsidian flakes (n=2)	Not eligible
ISO-5	Picket fence segment	Not eligible
ISO-6	Barbed wire fence segment	Not eligible
ISO-7	Hog wire fence segment	Not eligible

Two historic properties were identified in the APE, the CSWP Historic District and archaeological site P-49-1109:

- CSWP Historic District: The CSWP Historic District is a discontinuous district comprised of nine associated flood control facilities of the Sonoma County Water Agency's CSWP, constructed between 1958 and 1988. The district was evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with important events in regional California history. The CSWP prevented the destructive periodic flooding that had impacted the communities of the Santa Rosa Creek watershed. The Matanzas Creek Dam Facility was evaluated as a contributing resource of the district but not individually eligible.
- Site P-49-1109: This site is a lithic scatter recorded in 1979 along Matanzas Creek on private land during planning for a bridge replacement project. The site was later tested and evaluated as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D, and artifacts were collected and curated. The site was not re-evaluated for this undertaking as it is located on private land and access was not provided. The NRCS is proposing to treat the site as eligible for the NRHP for the purposes of this undertaking.

The sponsor's consultant applied the criteria of adverse effect relative to the proposed rehabilitation of the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility (Preferred Alternative) and recommends that the undertaking would not result in an adverse effect to the Matanzas Creek Dam Facility or the CSWP historic district. The NRCS agrees with the recommendation. The archaeological consultant recommended physical avoidance of site P-49-1109 to avoid potential adverse effects. The site is situated outside of the construction work area but within the 120-acre floodwater retention zone for the Preferred Alternative. The NRCS has determined that temporary inundation of the site in the event of a flood event would not constitute an adverse effect.

Based on their review of the attached documentation and recommendations, the NRCS proposes a finding of *no adverse effect* to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).

The NRCS initiated consultation on February 17, 2023, with the following Native American tribes identified as having ancestral/cultural ties to the project area: the Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians, the Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, the Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians, the Federated Indians of

Graton Rancheria, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, the Koi Nation of Northern California, the Lytton Rancheria, the Middletown Rancheria, and the Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley. Correspondence regarding Native American consultation is maintained at the NRCS State Office. The NRCS letter dated February 5, 2025, stated that consultation with Native American tribes is considered to be confidential and would not be provided to SHPO as requested.

NRCS has requested SHPO review and comment on the delineation of the APE and concurrence on their determinations of eligibility and finding of effect. The NRCS is reminded that the views of Indian tribes are based on expertise and information not available and/or possessed by our staff but are critical to informing the Section 106 review process. The NRCS remains responsible for consulting with and considering the views of Indian tribes. The SHPO requests that the NRCS provide our office with a summary of any views conveyed by Indian tribes that are not in agreement with SHPO's response, and in so doing SHPO reserves the right to exercise our responsibility to respond to new information and modify our findings, as necessary.

Following review of the submittal, I offer the following comments:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(1), I do not object to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(c)(2), **I concur** with the determinations of NRHP eligibility made above;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(d)(1), I do not object to a finding of no adverse effects to historic properties.

Please consider that NRCS may have additional responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 in the event of a post-review discovery, project redesign, or upon receipt of comments by Indian tribes not in agreement with the SHPO's response. If you require additional information, please contact Brendon Greenaway, Senior State Archaeologist, at Brendon.Greenaway@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Appendix A.6. Agency Coordination Letters



7/22/2024

Janet Whitlock
Regional Environmental Officer
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Sacramento, Region IX
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Notification of a planning process, per the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566) as amended through P.L. 115-334, Dec. 29, 2018, Section 12.

Ms. Whitlock,

This letter is to notify the Department of Interior of a "Small Watershed" PL 566 planning project in the Matanzas Creek sub-watershed (HUC 18010110), Sonoma County; with the local sponsor Sonoma Water Agency based in Santa Rosa, CA. The planned project activities are focused on the Matanzas Flood Control Dam; with potential effects, mainly improved reliability of flood protection for rural and urban areas in and near the city of Santa Rosa, and ground disturbance near the dam.

Inquiries may be directed to State Conservation Engineer, Ernesto De La Riva, at Ernesto.delariva@usda.gov or 530-792-5680.

Sincerely,

Carlos Suarez
State Conservationist

Cc:

RaeAnn Dubay, Deputy State Conservationist, NRCS, Davis, CA
Ernesto De La Riva, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Davis, CA
Allen Curry, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Salinas, CA
Chase Garcia, District Conservationist, NRCS, Petaluma, CA
Desi Ramirez, Area Engineer, NRCS, Salinas, CA



1/23/2025

Col. Timothy W. Shebesta
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
450 Golden Gate Ave, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Notification of a planning process, per the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566) as amended through P.L. 115-334, Dec. 29, 2018, Section 12.

Colonel Shebesta,

This letter is to notify the United States Army Corps of Engineers of a "Small Watershed" PL 566 planning project in the Matanzas Creek sub-watershed (HUC 18010110), Sonoma County; with the local sponsor Sonoma Water Agency based in Santa Rosa, CA. The planned project activities are focused on the Matanzas Flood Control Dam; with potential effects, mainly improved reliability of flood protection for rural and urban areas in and near the city of Santa Rosa, and ground disturbance near the dam.

Inquiries may be directed to State Conservation Engineer, Ernesto De La Riva, at Ernesto.delariva@usda.gov or 530-792-5680.

Sincerely,

CARLOS SUAREZ
State Conservationist

Cc:
RaeAnn Dubay, Deputy State Conservationist, NRCS, Davis, CA
Ernesto De La Riva, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Davis, CA
Allen Curry, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Salinas, CA
Chase Garcia, District Conservationist, NRCS, Petaluma, CA
Desi Ramirez, Area Engineer, NRCS, Salinas, CA



7/22/2024

Janet Whitlock
Regional Environmental Officer
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Sacramento, Region IX
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Notification of a planning process, per the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566) as amended through P.L. 115-334, Dec. 29, 2018, Section 12.

Ms. Whitlock,

This letter is to notify the Department of Interior of a “Small Watershed” PL 566 planning project in the Matanzas Creek sub-watershed (HUC 18010110), Sonoma County; with the local sponsor Sonoma Water Agency based in Santa Rosa, CA. The planned project activities are focused on the Matanzas Flood Control Dam; with potential effects, mainly improved reliability of flood protection for rural and urban areas in and near the city of Santa Rosa, and ground disturbance near the dam.

Inquiries may be directed to State Conservation Engineer, Ernesto De La Riva, at Ernesto.delariva@usda.gov or 530-792-5680.

Sincerely,

Carlos Suarez
State Conservationist

Cc:

RaeAnn Dubay, Deputy State Conservationist, NRCS, Davis, CA
Ernesto De La Riva, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Davis, CA
Allen Curry, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Salinas, CA
Chase Garcia, District Conservationist, NRCS, Petaluma, CA
Desi Ramirez, Area Engineer, NRCS, Salinas, CA

Appendix A.7. Draft Plan EA Comments

Appendix A.7. -Plan EA Comments Received and NRCS Responses

Email Comment – July 31, 2026, Valerie Stanley, THPO, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Comment 1:

Dear Mr. Rivas,

Please see the attached letter submitted by the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians on the Draft Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 – Environmental Assessment for the Central Sonoma Watershed – Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project.

Sincerely, Jessica Martini-Lamb

Environmental Resources Division Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

"Friday, July 31, 2026

Jessica Martini-Lamb, Public Affairs Manage

Sonoma Water

404 Aviation Boulevard

Santa Rosa, California 95403,

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

This correspondence is from the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians in response to the public meeting notice for the Matanzas Creek Dam.

The Tribe has no further cultural input. This project is outside of our territory.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Valerie Stanley, THPO

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Shabaldano Kai

Response 1: The comment indicates the project is outside the territory of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and that the Tribe has no additional cultural input. No further response or revision to the Environmental Assessment is required.

Public Meeting Written Comment Card – August 11, 2026

Comment 2: *Is there any public access guided tours or limited access in any form? Would be useful and good public relations.*

David Smith

Response 2: The comment requests information about public access tours and expresses an opinion that tours could establish positive public relations. In the future, the sponsor may consider public tours at the site that are consistent with security and safety requirements of an active flood control facility.

The comment is acknowledged; however no further response or analysis is required because public access, guided tours, or limited access fall outside the scope of the project.

Public Meeting Written Comment Card-August 11, 2026

Comment 3: *What types of access are contemplated?*

David Smith

Response 3: The comment requests information about the types of [public] access currently being contemplated as part of the project. The Draft Plan-EA evaluated actions that bring Matanzas Creek Dam into compliance with State and Federal dam safety criteria. Public access improvements are not included in any of the project alternatives. The Sponsor, as owner and operator of the site, may consider future public access which would be a separate and unrelated action subject to environmental review.

The comment has been acknowledged but no further response or analysis is required because [public] access falls outside the scope of the project.

Public Meeting Written Comment Card-August 11, 2026

Comment 4: *(Do) Cost estimates include local road damage to repair due to heavy equipment?*

Mike Treinen

Response 4: The comment asks whether cost estimates include local road damage to repair due to heavy equipment. Heavy equipment use is not expected to occur outside of the footprint of the construction site, therefore damage from heavy equipment to local roads is not anticipated. For that reason, cost estimates during this planning stage do not include local road damage due to heavy equipment. For hauling impacts to local roads, see response 7.3 for these comments.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Public Meeting Written Comment Card-August 11, 2026

Comment 5: *Is there any increased risk to upstream structures created by the preferred alternative compared to a no improvement approach?*

R. Faust

Response 5: The comment asks whether the preferred alternative will increase the risk to structures upstream of Matanzas Creek Dam compared to the No Action alternative. The proposed alternative will increase upstream 100-year and 500-year water surface elevations (WSEs) to 423.8 and 425.9 (NAVD 88 ft), respectively. However, no structures were identified within the preferred alternative inundation footprint and therefore the upstream structures are not expected to be inundated as a result of the preferred alternative. Please see Appendix C, Figures C19-Index through C19-11 for a comparison of the No Action Alternative and the preferred alternative inundation levels upstream of Matanzas dam.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Email Comment – August 13, 2026

Comment 6:

To whom it may concern,

We am [sic] the neighbors immediately north of the dam. We've lived here for over 30 years. We have experienced multiple years of heavy rainfall. We have never experienced any flooding or spillway activation. It is our opinion that the damn [sic] needs maintenance not rehabilitation. Clearing out the sediment and brush on a regular basis is all that we believe is necessary. We do not support spending \$30-\$40 million on raising the dam.

Nancy and Kevin Cooper

Response 6.1: The comment notes an observation of the lack of flooding or historical spillway activation and opines that regular maintenance of sediment and brush is necessary rather than raising the dam. The purpose and need of the Proposed Action is to bring Matanzas Creek Dam into compliance with current Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and California Division of Dam Safety (DSOD) standards. Maintenance actions alone, including increasing storage through sediment and brush removal actions, will not establish the level of storage needed nor address other deficiencies needed to meet contemporary dam safety criteria. The comment does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the Draft Plan-EA analysis .

The comment is acknowledged but no further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Response 6.2: The comment expresses general opposition to spending funds to raise the dam, but does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the analysis presented in the Draft Plan-EA.

No further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Email Comment – August 14, 2026

Comment 7:

Perhaps the following information is contained in the draft EA, but I could not readily find it.

Is there an estimate of the amount of material (truckloads; tonnage for each load) that will be trucked offsite from the project? Where will that material go? Does the project include funds to rehabilitate Bennett Valley Road, Grange Road-Crane Canyon Road, and any other road that will be impacted by this level of trucking?

Craig S. Harrison
SOSroads.org

Response 7.1: The comment requests an estimate of the amount of material that will be removed and hauled offsite during construction. Based on the Plan EA, estimated sediment that will be excavated and removed from the site includes approximately 175,000 cubic yards (volume) of material.

The comment requests information about the project but does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the analysis presented in the Draft Plan-EA. The comment has been addressed & no further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Response 7.2: The comment requests information about where off-hauled material will be taken. The location of off-hauled material is currently undetermined. Because availability, capacity, and acceptance criteria of disposal and/or reuse facilities may vary over the course of construction, materials may be transported to multiple locations rather than a single designated facility. Potential receiving locations would be selected based on the type and characteristics of the material, applicable regulatory requirements, facility capacity, reasonable routes, and the feasibility of transportation.

The environmental document evaluates the reasonably foreseeable construction activities associated with excavation and off haul of spoils. Any material management activities would be conducted in compliance with applicable permits and regulations.

The comment is acknowledged and no further response or revision to the Environmental Assessment is required.

Response 7.3: The comment asks if funds have been included to rehabilitate surrounding roads impacted by construction. The planning-level construction cost estimates do not specifically include line items for repairing local roads impacted by construction. However, existing roads and their condition upon commencement of construction will be documented during pre-project construction management inspections. Damage that occurs during construction and attributed to contractor actions (hauling material, operation and transport of heavy equipment, etc.) will be repaired to County of Sonoma Standards as a condition of the construction contract agreement.

The comment has been addressed and No further response or revision to the Environmental Assessment is required.

Comment 8:

I support "alterations to the Matanzas Creek Dam to bring the structure into compliance with current NRCS and Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) design criteria." I agree that "the proposed actions will improve dam safety and increase flood storage capacity for the City of Santa Rosa and surrounding communities." Since, "Matanzas Creek Dam was designed and constructed under the Central Sonoma

Watershed Work Plan that was approved by Congress in 1958. Alterations funded by NRCS to bring the dam into compliance with current NRCS and DSOD criteria will require a supplement to the 1958 Plan", I think it is important to do this structural update to the dam.

Sonoma Water is a top flight organization, very well-prepared and professional. The project is well conceived and can be executed well by Sonoma Water. As a Santa Rosa resident who lives along Brush Creek below the Brush Creek reservoir, I support the Matanzas Creek Dam rehab proposals.

Frederick C Allebach

"We don't know where we're going but we have to stick together in case somebody gets there." Ken Kesey

Response 8 : The comment expresses general support for the project and does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the analysis presented in the Draft Plan-EA. No further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Email Comment – August 17, 2026

Comment 9:

Good day Richard,

I'm contacting you regarding the upcoming Matanzas Creek Dam rehabilitation project. Thank you for holding the helpful presentation at the BVGC on August 11th.

Our community has a few questions and concerns. I'd appreciate hearing back from you on these topics:

1) Is there an estimate of the amount of material (truckloads; tonnage for each load) that will be trucked offsite from the project?

2) Where will that material go?

3) Does the project include funds to rehabilitate Bennett Valley Road, Grange Road-Crane Canyon Road, and any other road that will be impacted by this level of trucking? If so what are the budget plans, and what is the source of the funding?

4) Is there some way our community could be provided advance notice on all road closures or lane closures? Perhaps a plan for this could be shared with us well in advance and we could share with our community via our Voice electronic community newsletter which reaches over 650 households. We are especially sensitive to our road use/maintenance and access regarding evacuation routes for our community so we appreciate as much information and advance notice as possible (we were severely impacted by 2017 wildfires and evacuation routes always important to us).

5) *Truck trips on BV Roads: further to #3 above, one of our board members did a quick analysis and projected over 8,000 truck trips for this project. Do you have an estimate your team is using you could share? His analysis also stated:*

- *For scale, using ordinary 15 to 20 cubic-yard dump-truck capacities, the 175,000 cubic yards of sediment alone implies roughly 8,750 to 11,700 loaded outbound truck trips. The 142,000 cubic yards of identified select fill for the stability berms and dam raise could represent another roughly 7,100 to 9,500 loaded inbound trips if all arrives by truck. That gives an order-of-magnitude estimate of about 16,000 to 21,000 loaded movements, before accounting for concrete, gravel, topsoil, equipment, workforce traffic, empty return trips, or other materials.*

Clearly the maintenance and repairs needed to our narrow rural roadways is a top concern for our community, especially since they were repaired and paved fairly recently.

Overall our community understands and supports this project, and we greatly appreciate how details are clearer since Aug 11th presentation. The safety implications of flood control and environmental for silt management are significant.

Again, we thank you for the helpful presentation with Sonoma Water. We look forward to partnering with the leads for the project to best achieve a smooth and safe process for our community.

*Thank You,
Moir*

*Moir Jacobs
President, Bennett Valley Community Association*

Response 9.1: The comment requests an estimate of amount of material to be trucked from the project site. See Response 7.1 to address comment.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Response 9.2: The comment requests information about where off-hauled material will be taken. See Response 7.2 to address comment.

The comment is acknowledged and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Response 9.3: The comment asks if funds have been included to rehabilitate surrounding roads impacted by construction. See Response 7.3 to address comment.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Response 9.4: The comment requests future public outreach to communicate road closure and construction-related traffic information to surrounding residents. Road and lane closures for construction activities are not anticipated. If required, contractors will obtain any associated permits and approvals and conduct any needed traffic notifications or public outreach requirements.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Response 9.5: The comment requests the assumed number of truck trips required to construct the project. According to initial evaluations of preliminary project design and preliminary construction plans, approximately 17,840 truck trips will be needed to complete the project.

The comment requests information about the project but does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the analysis presented in the Draft Plan-EA.

The comment has been addressed and no further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Email Comment – August 17, 2026

Comment 10

Good Afternoon Jessica,

The Lytton Rancheria of California appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Supplemental Watershed Plan No. 1 – Environmental Assessment for the Central Sonoma Watershed – Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project. The Tribe recognizes the important public-safety objectives of rehabilitating the Matanzas Creek Dam and does not object to the project’s objective of bringing the dam into compliance with current federal and state safety standards. The Tribe submits the following comments to ensure that cultural resources and the federal government’s tribal consultation responsibilities remain adequately protected as the project proceeds through final design and construction.

Comment 10.1. First, *the Tribe requests that NRCS confirm that its Section 106 consultation and finding of no adverse effect addressed the project that is currently proposed. The February 14, 2025 State Historic Preservation Officer correspondence describes the undertaking as raising the dam crest by 7.4 feet and the auxiliary spillway crest by 4 feet. The current Draft Plan-EA, however, describes the Preferred Alternative as raising the auxiliary spillway crest by 11.4 feet, to elevation 424 feet. Project mapping also identifies 424 feet as the Preferred Alternative auxiliary spillway crest elevation. NRCS should clarify this discrepancy in the final administrative record and confirm that the APE, identification efforts, effects analysis, and consultation with SHPO and consulting Tribes considered the current project configuration. If the present design reflects a change from the undertaking previously reviewed through Section 106, NRCS should undertake any supplemental review and consultation required by 36 C.F.R. Part 800 before completing the Section 106 process.*

Comment 10.2. Second, *the Tribe requests that the final Plan-EA and project construction documents expressly preserve physical avoidance of archaeological site P-49-1109. NRCS is treating P-49-1109, a complex lithic scatter, as eligible for the National Register under Criterion D. Although the site is outside the identified construction work area, it lies within the floodwater retention area of the Preferred Alternative, and the archaeological consultant recommended physical avoidance to prevent adverse effects. The Tribe requests that avoidance be carried forward as an enforceable project commitment, including appropriate protection from construction staging, access, sediment-removal activities, grading, equipment operation, or other ground disturbance. Any proposed activity within the site or an*

appropriate protective buffer should be subject to further consultation with NRCS and consulting Tribes before work occurs.

Comment 10.3. *Third, the Tribe supports inclusion of the Unanticipated Discoveries Procedures in Appendix E.2, including immediate cessation of construction in the area of a discovery. Because the project will involve substantial ground disturbance and sediment removal, the Tribe requests that the procedures be strengthened to provide for prompt notification to consulting Tribes when potentially Native American archaeological materials, cultural resources, or human remains are encountered. Work within the protected discovery area should not resume until NRCS has completed the applicable review under 36 C.F.R. § 800.13 and appropriate tribal consultation. The final construction specifications should make these requirements binding on all contractors and subcontractors.*

Comment 10.4. *Finally, consultation should remain ongoing as the project moves from environmental review into final engineering and construction. NRCS has included Lytton Rancheria among the Tribes consulted regarding cultural resources for this undertaking. The Tribe requests notification and an opportunity for further consultation if final design alters the construction footprint, APE, inundation area, sediment-removal limits, staging or access areas, or otherwise creates the potential for effects to cultural resources that were not evaluated in the present review. This is particularly appropriate here because SHPO expressly recognized that additional responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800 may arise in the event of a project redesign, post-review discovery, or comments from consulting Tribes.*

Comment 10.5. *The Tribe also notes that the project's Principles, Requirements and Guidelines analysis defines cultural services to include spiritual values and tribal values, but concludes that no cultural services were identified for this project. In light of the identified archaeological resources and the federal government's consultation with Tribes regarding ancestral and cultural ties to the project area, the Tribe requests that this statement be reconsidered or clarified in the final document. At a minimum, the absence of previously identified impacts should not be interpreted as an affirmative determination that the project area lacks tribal cultural values.*

The Tribe appreciates NRCS's consideration of these comments and its continued government-to-government consultation as the project proceeds. The Tribe supports efforts to improve the safety and reliability of the Matanzas Creek Dam while ensuring that cultural resources are appropriately identified, protected, and addressed throughout project implementation.

Brenda L. Tomaras
Tomaras & Ogas, LLP

Response 10.1: Section 106 consultation was conducted on the currently proposed and configured Preferred Alternative analyzed in the Draft Plan-EA (Alternative 3) (undertaking), and there have been no changes to the design. As the commenter points out, there was an unfortunate error (typo) in correspondence letters relating to construction specifics (spillway crest height) that did persist in subsequent communications. However, the Agency's defined APE and subsequent finding of effect provided in the supporting documentation were consistent throughout consultation.

No further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Response 10.2: There are no mitigation measures stipulated in the Draft Plan-EA as there were no adverse impacts to cultural resources identified (see Table 6-3). Site P-49-1109 is outside of any

proposed construction activities, and the only (not adverse) effect that was identified being short term inundation associated with 100 year flooding events. The NRCS has included specific mitigation measures such as defined physical avoidance areas in the Final Plan-EA.

Response 10.3: The Draft Plan-EA Preferred Alternative impact analysis did not result in the need for an unanticipated discovery mitigation measure. The consultant's report in Appendix D.7 of the Draft Plan-EA contains a standard unanticipated discovery recommendation (see report Appendix E.2). The NRCS follows 36 CFR § 800.13 and CA SHPO-NRCS PPA Stipulation VII for WP projects in the case of unanticipated discoveries; these are referenced in the Final Plan-EA.

Response 10.4: This is standard practice in fulfillment of the NRCS's Section 106 compliance responsibility.

No further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Response 10.5: The comment highlights some unfortunate imprecise language that resulting from guidance presented in the Agency's manual and handbook. Section 4.19.4 has been revised in the Final Plan-EA to acknowledge the cultural resources identified in the Affected Environment as having cultural heritage value to Native American communities consulted and that the ES analysis identified no changes from the Preferred Alt.

Email Comment – August 19, 2026

Comment 11:

Dear Mr. Richard Rivas, and Mr. Eric Pullman

Please see the attached comments by Save Our Sonoma Roads concerning the draft EA for Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

*Craig S. Harrison
SOSroads.org*

See Comment 11 attachment information on last page of this document which includes the same comments as comments 7.1, 7.2. & 7.3.

Is there an estimate of the amount of material (truckloads; tonnage for each load) that will be trucked offsite from the project?

Where will that material go?

Does the project include funds to rehabilitate Bennett Valley Road, Grange Road-Crane Canyon Road, and any other road that will be impacted by this level of trucking?

Response 11: See responses 7.1, 7.2, & 7.3 for these comments.

Email Comment – August 22, 2026

Comment 12:

*Thank you for the presentation on the dam alternatives..
I think alternative #3 is the best way to go, but the unlined spillway causes me concern.
Could the spillway be lined with riprap rather than concrete for a modest cost?
The Oroville dam spillway scenario comes to mind.*

*Thanks
Roger Hamlin*

Response 12: Comments noted. The feasibility, reasonability, and cost of lining the spillway with riprap may be assessed during a later stage of design development.

The comment is acknowledged and no further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Email Comment – August 24, 2026

Comment 13:

*Hi Jessica,

Can you please add me to your distribution list for this project?*

*Thank you,
Shay*

--

*Shay Richardson
Water Rights Coordinator
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region (3)*

Response 13: The commentor requests to be added to the project distribution list but does not identify a specific environmental issue or error in the analysis presented in the Draft Plan-EA. The commentor will be added to the project distribution list.

No further response or revision to the environmental document is required.

Email Comment – August 25, 2026

Comment 14:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the proposed Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation. Our property is adjacent to the back side of the auxiliary spillway so the work being proposed is literally in our backyard and will directly affect our quality of life for the duration of the construction process.

I attended the recent public meeting on August 11, 2026. I also attended the online meeting in 2021 that was open to the public. I appreciate that Sonoma Water has presented clear and understandable information on both these occasions.

I voiced my main concerns at the 2021 meeting on the topics of wildlife habitat, rehabilitation, noise and need for rehabilitation. (Pages D8-D10 of Scoping document) and I was satisfied with the response at that time.

My current question concerns dewatering and groundwater management and its possible effects on local aquifers. I would like a clearer explanation of the process described as:

"Removal of the remaining water resting on the fine-grained soils and bedrock will be performed by installing sumps and routing the water via trenches to the closest well or sump."

I would also like to reiterate my concern about noise and the designation of work hours as during "daylight". The start of work at 6:00 am during the previous dredging work was highly disturbing. I would like for the work hours to be more clearly defined and for there to be a defined process for communicating about noise and ways it can be addressed during construction.

Thank you.

Daniel Derdula

Response 14.1: The comment asks for further explanation of dewatering activities and provides a general concern for dewatering activity impacts to local aquifers. Table A-1 of the Draft Plan-EA describes the water removal conservation measure (Dewatering 1) to be employed. If encountered, water resting on fine-grained soils or bedrock would either be pumped to a temporary discharge location (percolation pond) and allowed to percolate or would be drained away from work areas with trenches or a series of trenches and pumps to maintain a dewatered work environment. Turbid and sediment laden water would not be released to surface waters and would instead be contained so it can percolate into the underlying shallow groundwater. Fine sediment, including clay, sand, and small gravels would be filtered by underlying soil profile which would reduce turbidity before reaching the underlying aquifers that may be connected to water supply wells. It should be noted that this process of filtration through native substrate (gravel, sand, clay, etc.) already naturally occurs within the Matanzas Creek Reservoir after storm events that bring turbid waters into the reservoir. Overall, localized temporary percolation of construction-related water will not adversely effect shallow aquifers.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Response 14.2: The comment raises a general noise-related concern because allowable work hours are defined as “during daylight hours” in the Draft Plan-EA. More specifically, the comment asks for work hours to be more clearly defined and to establish a process for communicating noise impacts during construction.

As mentioned in Section 6.8.2, and included as conservation measure Noise 2, a noise analysis would be completed during the CEQA process to identify additional noise mitigations to be employed that reduce noise levels at adjacent residences which may include quiet work zone hours, limitations on equipment startup and idling, or other measures.

The comment has been addressed and no updates to the environmental document are required.

Comment 11 Attachment information

*Richard Rivas, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Eric Pullman Sonoma County Water Agency*

Re: Comments on Draft EA for Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation

Dear Mr. Rivas and Mr. Pullman:

Save Our Sonoma Roads (SOSroads), founded in 2011, is an all-volunteer grassroots citizens’ group that advocates for an improved allocation of public funds to Sonoma County roads.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation. We focus on road issues.

Last week I sent the following email to you and I have received no response:

Perhaps the following information is contained in the draft EA, but I could not readily find it.

Is there an estimate of the amount of material (truckloads; tonnage for each load) that will be trucked offsite from the project?

Where will that material go?

Does the project include funds to rehabilitate Bennett Valley Road, Grange Road-Crane Canyon Road, and any other road that will be impacted by this level of trucking?

SOSroads strongly believe that any project that damages Sonoma County or city roads should be required as part of the scope of the project to mitigate those damages by returning those roads to their pre-existing condition before the project began. This includes the Matanzas Creek Dam Rehabilitation. As you may know, Pacific Gas and Electric Company paid the County to rehabilitate roads after the 2017 wildland fires. Some of those funds were spent on fixing roads in Bennett Valley because trucks caused

wear and tear when debris from burned out homes was trucked to the landfill. In addition, trucking companies pay annual fees to the county for wear and tear on the roads that serve the quarry. A Bennett Valley resident made the following observations and calculations, which serve as a baseline for this discussion: 2

The project site will be accessed from an existing entrance directly off Bennett Valley Road, and the engineering estimate calls for excavation of approximately 175,000 cubic yards of sediment plus approximately 95,000 cubic yards of select fill for stability berms and another 47,000 cubic yards for the dam raise. The EA expressly says excavated sediment will be exported off-site and suitable fill imported from permitted or commercial sources.

For scale, using ordinary 15 to 20 cubic-yard dump-truck capacities, the 175,000 cubic yards of sediment alone implies roughly 8,750 to 11,700 loaded outbound truck trips. The 142,000 cubic yards of identified select fill for the stability berms and dam raise could represent another roughly 7,100 to 9,500 loaded inbound trips if all arrives by truck. That gives an order-of-magnitude estimate of about 16,000 to 21,000 loaded movements, before accounting for concrete, gravel, topsoil, equipment, workforce traffic, empty return trips, or other materials.

This is a massive amount of material. A fully loaded tractor-trailer weighs 80,000 pounds, 20 times more than a typical passenger car at 4,000 pounds. Large trucks do vastly more damage to roads than passenger vehicles, with estimates of 10,000 times total damage per trip compared to a passenger vehicle.

It is unclear where the material will go. Assuming it will be transported to the County Landfill on Meacham Road, the most direct route would result in significant wear and tear to Bennett Valley Road, Grange Road, Crane Canyon Road, Petaluma Hill Road, East Railroad Avenue, Stony Point Road, and Meacham Road. All of these, except for East Railroad Avenue, are included in Sonoma County's Primary Road System (the most important 200 miles of its 1,368-mile road system). The project will cause major damage to the County road system.

We believe that the roads that are used to transport materials for this project should be rehabilitated to at least their pre-existing condition. The most recent Pavement Condition Indices (PCI) of these roads can be found in the report by Harris & Associates entitled "County of Sonoma, 2024-25 Pavement Management Program Update Final Report" (April 4, 2025). Bennett Valley Road has a PCI of 73; Grange Road a PCI of 84-91; and Crane Canyon Road a PCI of 81 to 90.

SOSroads has worked hard to persuade the county supervisors to improve these roads during the past 15 years, and we will loudly object to any project that deteriorates them.

Sincerely

Craig S. Harrison
President and Co-Founder