

July 23, 2019

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Jeff Pratt
Agency Director

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Transportation
David Fleisch, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

Subject: **Certification of Board Review of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Santa Rosa Road No. 2 Debris Basin Decommissioning Project; Find the Project Incorporates Measures to Reduce or Avoid Potentially Significant Impacts; Find There is No Substantial Evidence that the Project Will Have a Significant Effect on the Environment; Approval of the Project and Adoption of the Final MND; Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring Program; Authorization for the Watershed Protection District (District) Director to Sign and File the Notice of Determination; Designate the Clerk of the Board as the Custodian of Records for the Proceedings in this Matter (WPD Project 86903); Authorization for the District Director to Take All Actions Necessary to Carry Out the Approved Project; Supervisorial District No. 2; WPD Zone No. 3.**

Recommendations:

1. Certify that your Board has reviewed and considered the Santa Rosa Road No. 2 Debris Basis Decommissioning Project (Project) Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) (Exhibit 1) and has considered all comments received.
2. Find that, on the basis of the whole record before your Board, including the Initial Study and public comments received, there is no substantial evidence the Project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment, and the Final MND reflects the independent analysis and judgment of your Board.
3. Approve and adopt the Final MND along with the MMP.



4. Incorporate the Final MND mitigation measures into the Project and approve the Project.
5. Authorize the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) Director to sign and file a Notice of Determination for the Project.
6. Designate the Clerk of the Board as the Custodian of Records for the proceedings in this matter.
7. Authorize the District Director to take all actions necessary to carry out the Project as approved in Recommendation No. 4.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this item at the present time. The District will provide a full fiscal analysis when it returns to your Board to request award of the construction contract. Construction is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Discussion:

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to decommission and remove the Santa Rosa Road No. 2 Debris Basin facility, including an earthen dam, minimize flood risk, and reduce future maintenance costs. The proposed project would meet this purpose and eliminate the potential flood risk associated with dam failure. The proposed project consists of the removal of the debris basin facility and associated infrastructure, extension of the existing reinforced concrete (RC) box culvert that crosses beneath Santa Rosa Road, earthen channel reconstruction, and recontouring and revegetation of the site. In addition, the project would realign a portion of the Bridlewood Trail that currently traverses through the facility.

Dam removal will recreate 150 feet of stream channel, which offsets impacts from the 45 linear feet of new concrete box channel installed to improve safety and equestrian access. About 800 linear feet of earthen channel/basin facility will be slightly recontoured to create a 14-foot wide low flow channel with 2:1 to 2.5:1 (horizontal: vertical) banks. A total of 1,250 linear feet of the facility will be revegetated with native riparian plants. The District will conduct periodic maintenance upstream of the box culvert to ensure that the entrance does not become obstructed and will conduct annual weed abatement in compliance with County requirements. Overall, the project results in a reduction of potential flood hazards to life and property while increasing riparian habitat and ecosystem services.



Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The District prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) pursuant to Sections 15070-15075 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Ventura Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines for the proposed project. The MND documents the District's finding that there are no significantly adverse unavoidable impacts associated with the proposed project, and the project does not require the preparation of an environmental impact report. The Initial Study identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts for identified subject areas. Potentially significant, but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the areas of biological resources, archaeological resources, and recreation. The Mitigation Monitoring Program is included in the Final MND pursuant to Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This Program was designed to ensure CEQA compliance during project implementation.

Summary of Public Outreach

The District has consulted with the Bridlewood Home Owners Association (BHOA), the Santa Rosa Valley Riders Association, coordinated with the Office of Supervisor Linda Parks, and attended BHOA and Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings. In addition, the District conducted an on-site question and answer session and prepared a white paper "*Questions Re: Levee/Debris Catch Basin Removal Project from Bridlewood HOA*" to address the BHOA questions and concerns. Furthermore, the District coordinated extensively with the BHOA members, Directors, and President prior to and during project design. Most recently, the District presented the project design and CEQA information at the June 20, 2019 Santa Rosa Valley MAC Meeting, where the MAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project by your Board.

Summary of Public Comments

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the CEQA, the District accepted written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the Draft MND. The 30-day public comment period closed on April 22, 2019. The District received five comment letters on the Draft MND, which have been addressed as part of the Final MND.

Your Board is requested to review and approve the Final MND, including the MMP, then authorize the District Director to sign and file a Notice of Determination and to take all actions necessary to carry out the project.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's office and County Counsel.



If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 654-2040.



Glenn Shephard, PE
Director, Watershed Protection District

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Santa Rosa Road No. 2 Debris Basin Decommissioning Project Final MND
with Appendices

