

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Clerk of the Board Use Only**  
**Meeting Date**                      **Held Until**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Agenda Item No:**                      **Agenda Item No:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:**  
 Sonoma County Water Agency

( ) 4/5 Vote Required

**Contact:** Marc Bautista      **Phone:** (707) 547-1998      **Board Date:** 05-05-09

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**  
 North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project: Release of Draft EIR/EIS for Public Review

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):**  
 Authorize General Manager/Chief Engineer to release the North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review, establish a 45-day public review period, set public hearings, and file a Notice of Completion.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$	-0-	<b>Contingencies</b>	\$
			(Fund Name: )	
<b>Amount Budgeted</b>	\$	-0-	<b>Unanticipated Revenue</b>	\$
			(Source: )	
<b>Other Avail Approp (Explain below)</b>	\$		<b>Other Transfer(s)</b>	\$
			(Source: )	
<b>Additional Requested:</b>	\$	-0-	<b>Add'l Funds Requested:</b>	\$ -0-

**Explanation (if required):**

- Prior Board Action(s):**
- 12/11/07 Resolution authorizing North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project EIR/EIS Phase II
  - 10/24/06 North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project EIR/EIS Phase I
  - 09/28/04 North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project Feasibility Project Grant Funding Agreement
  - 04/27/04 Board Resolution declaring support for North Bay Water Reuse Program
  - 08/26/03 North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project Feasibility Study

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:**  
 If the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Project is not completed, the Feasibility Study for the Project cannot be completed and the District would not be eligible for federal funding to construct the Project.

**Background:** Draft EIR/EIS and Notice of Completion on file with the Clerk

The North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA), established under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August 2005, comprises four wastewater utilities and one water utility as member agencies: the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, the Novato Sanitary District, the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (SVCSD), the Napa Sanitation District, and the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency), which also acts as the administrative agency. Although not signatory to the MOU, both North Marin Water District and Napa County are contributing funds and staff time to the current planning effort. Under the MOU, the NBWRA is exploring “the feasibility of coordinating interagency efforts to expand the beneficial use of recycled water in the North Bay Region thereby promoting the conservation of limited surface water and groundwater resources.”

The Agency, acting as the administrative agency for the NBWRA, is proposing to develop the North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project (Project). The purpose of the Project is to promote and expand the beneficial use of recycled water in the North San Pablo Bay Region by using recycled water that would otherwise be discharged into San Pablo Bay and its tributaries.

The Project would provide recycled water for agricultural, urban, and environmental uses thereby reducing reliance on local and imported surface water and groundwater supplies and reducing the amount of treated effluent releases to San Pablo Bay and its tributaries. The Project area extends approximately 10 to 15 miles inland from the San Pablo Bay within Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties.

The Agency is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Agency and Reclamation have prepared a combined Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) analyzing the Project’s potential environmental impacts.

The Draft EIR/EIS analyzed several project alternatives and identified both short-term and long-term impacts to the environment associated with construction and operation of the Project. Depending upon the location of the specific project component (e.g., treatment upgrades within the treatment facilities, pipeline alignments, pump stations, and storage facilities), some of the potential impacts include increases in noise, erosion and runoff, increase in truck and vehicular traffic, disruption to access to nearby recreational facilities, impacts to biological resources such as sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands) and special-status species.

B1  
Continued...

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Completion

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**

**Background (continued):**

The proposed Project would build on commitments to long-term inter-agency cooperation to address common needs related to reliable water supplies and enhanced environmental restoration. As implementation of the Project would likely require external funding assistance, the investigation and development of the Project is being carried out in conformance to the requirements of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation Public Law 102-575, Title XVI, which provides a mechanism for federal participation and cost-sharing in approved water reuse projects.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize release of the Draft EIR/EIS for public review. Staff recommends a public review period of 45 days, beginning May 5, 2009, and ending June 19, 2009. During the public review period, public hearings will be held in accordance with the Agency's *Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA*. To provide for ease in public input, throughout the project area, Staff recommends conducting three public hearings, one each in Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties. Representatives from the NBWRA from each county will act as hearing officers for each meeting. Staff recommends that the public hearings be held as follows:

**Marin County**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
Margaret Todd Senior Center, Room 3  
1560 Hill Road  
Novato, CA 94945

**Sonoma County**

Wednesday, June 10, 2009  
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
Sonoma Community Center, Room 110  
276 East Napa Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Napa County**

Thursday, June 11, 2009  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
Napa Elks Lodge  
2840 Soscol Avenue  
Napa, CA 94558A

Notice of Public Hearing will be sent to all agencies and individuals on the mailing list for the project, published in regional newspapers, and posted on the Agency's internet site. The Draft EIR/EIS will be available for review at the Agency's administrative office, as well as at all NBWRA member agencies administrative offices, and at regional libraries in the Project area. An electronic version of the Draft EIR/EIS will be available on the Agency's internet site, the NBWRA website, and hard copies will be available for purchase.

At the completion of the review period, the General Manager/Chief Engineer will evaluate and respond to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS and prepare a Final EIR/EIS for the Board's consideration.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):**

Authorize General Manager/Chief Engineer to release the North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review, establish a 45-day public review period, set public hearings, and file a Notice of Completion.