



WATER DEPARTMENT

212 Locust Street, Suite C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ♦ 831-420-5200

City of Santa Cruz Water Department NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: Santa Cruz Water Rights Project

The City of Santa Cruz as the Lead Agency has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Santa Cruz Water Rights Project (Proposed Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Proposed Project is located within Santa Cruz County and is generally bounded by the unincorporated communities of Aptos and Le Selva Beach on the east, Bonny Doon Road on the west, Boulder Creek on the north, and the Pacific Ocean on the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project would improve flexibility in operation of the City's water system while enhancing stream flows for local anadromous fisheries. The Proposed Project includes components that are considered in the EIR at a "project" level (project components) and components that are considered at a "programmatic" level (programmatic components). The primary project and programmatic components of the Proposed Project include: (1) water rights modifications related to place of use, method of diversion, points of diversion and rediversion, underground storage and purpose of use, extension of time, and stream bypass requirements for fish habitats (referred to as Agreed Flows); (2) water supply augmentation components, including new aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facilities at unidentified locations, Beltz ASR facilities at the existing Beltz well facilities, and water transfers and exchanges and intertie improvements; and (3) surface water diversion improvements, including the Felton Diversion fish passage improvements and the Tait Diversion and Coast Pump Station improvements.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR found that implementation of the Proposed Project may result in potentially significant environmental impacts related primarily to construction of the infrastructure components and include impacts in the following categories: biological resources; cultural resources and tribal cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards, hazardous materials, and wildfire; hydrology and water quality; land use, agriculture and forestry, and mineral resources; noise and vibration; and utilities and energy, which would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures identified in the EIR in most cases. The Draft EIR found that implementation of the Proposed Project may result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to noise and utilities associated with temporary ASR well-drilling during the construction of these facilities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS: Two public information meetings regarding the Proposed Project and Draft EIR will be held, and the content provided at both meetings will be the same.

- **Wednesday, July 14, 2021 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM.**
- **Tuesday, July 20, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.**

Meeting log-in information can be found at the project website:
<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/water/water-rights-4231>

There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the CEQA review process at the end of each meeting. Written comments on the Draft EIR can be submitted (see instructions below).

REVIEW AND COMMENT: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is June 10, 2021 through July 26, 2021.

Comments on the Draft EIR must be received in writing by email or mail to the contact listed below by 5:00 PM on July 26, 2021. **Please include a return address and contact name.**

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Online review of the Draft EIR is encouraged. The Draft EIR and information on how to comment are available for review online at: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/waterenvdocs> and at the Santa Cruz Public Library at: <https://catalog.santacruzpl.org/polaris/>.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR may be reviewed at the City of Santa Cruz Water Department Engineering Counter (212 Locust Street, Suite C in Santa Cruz) by appointment. Please email waterengineering@cityofsantacruz.com or call (831) 420-5210 to schedule an appointment.

A hard copy of the Draft EIR is also available at the libraries below; check with <https://www.santacruzpl.org/> or call 831.427.7713 for library hours and document access information:

- Downtown, located at 224 Church Street, in Santa Cruz
- Aptos, located at 7696 Soquel Drive, in Aptos
- Boulder Creek, located at 13390 W. Park Avenue, in Boulder Creek
- Felton, located at 6121 Gushee Street, in Felton
- Capitola, located at 2005 Wharf Road, in Capitola
- La Selva Beach, located at 316 Estrella Avenue, in La Selva Beach
- Live Oak, located at 2380 Portola Drive, in Santa Cruz
- Scotts Valley, located at 251 Kings Village Road, in Scotts Valley