

CITY OF HEALDSBURG

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HEALDSBURG ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HEALDSBURG WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT AND MAKING REQUIRED FINDINGS

WHEREAS, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan and related National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requires the City of Healdsburg (City), to limit discharges to the Russian River of tertiary treated wastewater between May 15 and October 1st each year; and

WHEREAS, municipal reuse of the City's high-quality recycled water for turf irrigation is a beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Final Environmental Impact Report prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project (Project) addressed municipal turf irrigation uses of recycled water; and

WHEREAS, the Project includes construction of a pipeline to deliver recycled water for irrigation of municipal turfs; and

WHEREAS, the City has been awarded a grant from the State Department of Water Resources to design and construct a pipeline to deliver recycled water for municipal turf irrigation; and

WHEREAS, a small portion of the Project as designed may temporarily impact agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the Project also requires a minor design modification affecting the pipeline alignment;

WHEREAS, the attached addendum (Addendum) analyzed the potential impacts of the Project modification and modifies the 2005 FEIR Mitigation Measure 3.1-3 to allow the City to consult with landowners to appropriately compensate landowners for temporary losses in agricultural production resulting from project construction activities, ensuring that impacts continue to be mitigated to a less than significant level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg hereby adopts the Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project based on the following:

1. The City has considered the scope of the proposed modification to the Project, as well as the potential environmental effects the proposed modifications may produce.
2. The City concludes based on substantial evidence that the modifications do not involve “substantial” changes to the project and will not involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified environmental effects, and none of the conditions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(b) are met.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Healdsburg this 16th day of January 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: (5) Edwards, Herrod, Kelley, Mitchell and Mayor Hagele

NOES: Councilmembers: (0) None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: (0) None

ABSTAINING: Councilmembers: (0) None

SO ORDERED:



David Hagele, Mayor

ATTEST:



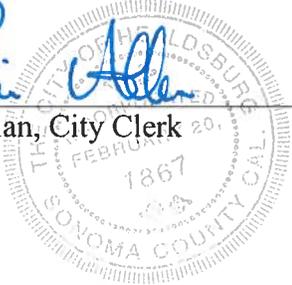
Raina Allan, City Clerk

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I, RAINA ALLAN, City Clerk of the City of Healdsburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution No. 4-2024 adopted by the City Council of the City of Healdsburg on the 16th day of January, 2024.



Raina Allan, City Clerk



06/29/2023

Addendum to Final Environmental Impact Report
City of Healdsburg Municipal Recycled Water Pipeline

City of Healdsburg Utilities Department
June 2023

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I. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the City of Healdsburg ("City") certified the final Environmental Impact Report ("2005 EIR") for its Wastewater Treatment Plant ("WWTP") Upgrade Project ("Project"). A component of the Project analyzed in the 2005 EIR was a proposal to beneficially reuse water recycled from the WWTP to meet seasonal irrigation demands in urban and agricultural areas. More specifically, the 2005 EIR studied the potential impacts of seasonal irrigation reuse of recycled water on up to 1,350 acres of land in the rough vicinity of the WWTP. The City concluded that the Project, including the seasonal irrigation reuse component, would not result in any significant, unavoidable environmental impacts.

In 2014, the City prepared an addendum to the 2005 EIR ("2014 Addendum") to cover a proposed minor modification of the Project: expansion of the agricultural areas to which recycled water could be applied for seasonal agricultural irrigation during the 2014 and 2015 irrigation seasons. Under the 2014 Addendum, the City was permitted to deliver recycled water to up to 25,000 acres within a larger approximately 100,000-acre area comprising the Alexander, Dry Creek, and Russian River Valleys, and recycled water could be trucked to its place of use.

In 2016, the City prepared a second addendum to the 2005 EIR ("2016 Addendum") to cover a proposed minor modification of the Project: to deliver recycled water to up to 25,000 acres within a larger approximately 100,000-acre area comprising the Alexander, Dry Creek, and Russian River Valleys during the 2016-2020 irrigation seasons. The 2016 Addendum addressed transport of water by truck and construction of a pipeline extension to provide piped delivery of recycled water to 600 of the 25,000 acres that are eligible for recycled water.

The City prepared and circulated a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) in 2019 that analyzed the proposal to increase the volume of recycled water supply and eliminate the seasonal discharges to surface waters between May 15 to September 30 each year. The City proposed extending recycled water distribution pipelines by 6,000 linear feet, adding 1,160 additional acres of land to receive recycled water via pipeline, the construction of recycled water distribution system to irrigate 150 acres of pasture lands and vineyards, and to expand recycled water uses to include: orchards (apple, peach, plum/prune), cannabis, irrigated pasture, direct livestock watering (not dairy cows), frost protection, and other agricultural uses occurring in the vicinity of the Water

Reclamation Facility (WRF). The SEIR also analyzed future expansion of the recycled water program onto another 3,540 acres; and to make permanent a temporary program that allows trucks to haul recycled water for irrigation of up to 25,000 acres within an area of approximately 103,000 acres.

The City has prepared this Addendum (“2023 Addendum”) to address the expansion of the City’s recycled water distribution pipeline north from Kinley Drive and into the City to be used on parks, school play fields, athletic fields, and cemetery turf.

II. NEED FOR THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION

Persistent, severe drought conditions in California have dramatically impacted regional water supplies. In 2021 the City suspended the use of outdoor irrigation of turf on City and private property due to the City’s surface water rights being curtailed from low water reserves. The City considers municipal turf functional rather than ornamental, as it provides a substantial benefit to the community for recreation. Irrigating the City’s municipal facilities with recycled water would allow these turf facilities to be used continuously, even during years of drought. Additionally, irrigating these turf areas with recycled water rather than potable water will reduce demand on the potable water system.

III. PROPOSED CHANGE

The 2005 EIR addressed the impacts of beneficially reusing recycled water for seasonal agricultural irrigation on approximately 1,350 acres. The 2014 and 2016 Addenda covered a modification that allowed recycled water to be used for seasonal agricultural irrigation on up to an additional 25,000 acres (located within the larger 100,000-acre area comprising the Alexander, Dry Creek, and Russian River Valleys) during the 2014 and 2015 irrigation seasons, with the use of trucks to haul water for irrigation. Hauling of water by trucks was covered by both addenda, however, the 2016 addendum also covered a 2.5-mile pipeline extension for piped delivery of recycled water to an additional 600 of the 25,000 acres that are eligible for recycled water. The 2019 SEIR addressed specific project and programmatic impacts resulting from the expansion of the City’s recycled water program to allow expansion of the recycled water program, including proposed recycled water facilities and operations. The 2005 EIR, 2014 and 2016 Addenda, and the 2019 SEIR together are referred to as the “Certified EIR” in this 2023 Addendum.

This 2023 Addendum addresses the construction and operation of approximately 2 miles of 12-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) recycled water pipeline that would be installed within Kinley Drive, Kennedy Lane, Healdsburg Avenue, South University Street, Hudson Street, Front Street, 1st Street, Piper Street, and Cemetery Lane. The pipeline would cross underneath Highway 101 from Kinley Drive to Kennedy Lane, and underneath existing railroad tracks from South University Street to Hudson Street using trenchless boring. The pipeline alignment would continue northward through residential streets via open trench construction and end at the Healdsburg Golf Club and at Tayman Park. The revised project also includes a new bulk filling station along Healdsburg Avenue, adjacent to the proposed recycled water pipeline alignment. The proposed recycled water pipeline would include connection points used to irrigate turf at Healdsburg Elementary School, Healdsburg Recreation Center, Giorgi Park, Oak Mound Cemetery, and the Healdsburg Golf Club at Tayman Park.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Under Public Resources Code section 21166 and section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, when an EIR has been certified for a project, a subsequent or supplemental EIR for that project is not required unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows the project will have significant impacts not discussed in the previous EIR or that will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR, or that

feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce one or more significant effects of the project.

These conditions are addressed in turn below.

1) The City has considered the scope of the proposed modification to the Project, as well as the potential environmental effects the proposed modification may produce. The City concludes that the modification does not involve “substantial” changes to the Project and will not involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified environmental effects.

The proposed modification involves the same type of activity that was analyzed in previous environmental documentation for the project: construction of a recycled water pipeline for the distribution of recycled water for agricultural irrigation and urban reuse. No new water right is required to accomplish the modification. The proposed modification will not involve new significant environmental effects. Application of water to additional areas will not produce new environmental effects, because the soils and drainage characteristics of the additional areas are similar to the areas addressed in the Certified EIR. For the same reasons, the City finds that the proposed modification will not substantially increase the severity of any of the environmental effects identified in the Certified EIR.

Finally, while the extension of the pipeline may also produce “new” environmental effects, the City also finds that such effects will not be significant because the pipeline will be constructed within the City’s right-of-way that is previously disturbed with little vegetation removal required. All relevant mitigation from the Certified EIR will be applied during implementation of the project modification. There is potential for temporary impacts to agricultural land from construction; however, the City would consult with the property owner to appropriately compensate for any losses in agricultural production that would result from the temporary impact. Minor modifications to the text of mitigation measure 3.1-3 are identified below using underline.

Mitigation Measure 3.1-3: Avoid Potential Disruption of Existing Agricultural Operations

- a. Construction activities shall be restricted to periods outside the growing season (i.e., growing and harvesting periods). Construction activities shall be undertaken in an expedient fashion, and associated construction staging areas shall be located outside of the agricultural fields. The City shall consult with landowners to appropriately compensate landowners for temporary losses in agricultural

production resulting from project construction activities.

- b. Topsoil removed during construction activities on Important Farmland that is to be retained in agricultural production shall be properly salvaged, maintained, and redistributed by the construction contractor.
- c. Pipelines shall be placed at a depth beyond the typical depth of ground disturbance that occur as a part of the agricultural operations.

For the same reasons, the City finds that proposed modification will not substantially increase the severity of any of the environmental effects identified in the Certified EIR.

2) There has been no substantial change with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is undertaken that requires major revision to the Certified EIR due to new or increased significant environmental effects. Even if the continued drought conditions constitute a “substantial change” in the circumstances of the Project, the impacts of the Project have not substantially changed or increased due to the drought conditions. Thus, the drought conditions do not affect the analysis of the Certified EIR regarding the effects of the Project.

3) Finally, there is no new information before the City regarding the Project that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Certified EIR was certified.

V. CONCLUSION

There is no substantial evidence showing that any of the conditions set forth in section 21166 of the Public Resources Code or section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines are present: instead, substantial evidence demonstrates that none of those conditions are present. The City therefore finds that it is not required to prepare a subsequent or supplemental EIR for the proposed modification to the Project. Accordingly, the City has caused this Addendum for the proposed modification to be prepared in compliance with section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, and will consider this Addendum with the Certified EIR prior to making a decision on the proposed modification.