

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)

TO: Affected Agencies (via Certified Mail)
Property Owners within 1,000 Feet of the Affected Property (via US Mail)
Interested Organizations and Persons (via US Mail)

FROM: Town of Windsor

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

LEAD AGENCY: Town of Windsor **CONSULTANT:** CH2M HILL
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Windsor, CA 95492 Suite 106
(707) 838-5332 Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Contact: Craig Scott (415) 541-7220 x37023
cscott@townofwindsor.com **Contact: Andrea Gardner**
 agardner@ch2m.com

PROJECT TITLE: Eastside Road Storage Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: Town of Windsor

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Windsor will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the project described below. We are requesting comments on the scope and content of this SEIR. The Town authorized detailed study of the project in August 2007 and will use this SEIR, supporting environmental studies, and detailed engineering studies when considering final approval of the project.

Please provide comments on the scope of this SEIR to **Craig Scott**, Project Manager for the Town of Windsor, at the address shown above. Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than **December 6, 2007**.

Further notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, a Public Scoping Session will be held to accept comments from Responsible Agencies and the public about the scope of the SEIR on **November 28, 2007 at 6:00 PM, in the Town Council Chambers at 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400**.

INTRODUCTION: The purpose of an EIR is to inform decision-makers and the general public of the environmental effects of a project. The SEIR process is intended to provide environmental information sufficient to evaluate a project and its potential to cause significant effects on the environment; examine methods of reducing adverse environmental impacts; and consider alternatives to the project.

In 2001 the Town of Windsor certified its *Water Reclamation Master Plan for Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Environmental Impact Report* (Master Plan EIR). The project (previously known as Ponds S and T) was included in the alternatives studied in the Master Plan EIR and in the alternative (Alternative 4X) ultimately approved by the Town. The Master Plan EIR states that its evaluation of environmental impacts is project specific with regards to Pond T and no new

CEQA documentation would be required if the project and impacts were to remain the same as those studied in the 2001 document. However, due to anticipated changes in the project and changes in environmental conditions, subsequent environmental review is warranted for Air Quality, Biological Resources, Climate Change, Soils and Geology, and Paleontology. According to CEQA, SEIRs can be prepared and need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised and/or in the changed circumstances. The proposed project will therefore tier its environmental impact analysis from Master Plan EIR in a SEIR, which will include the following:

- Summary of the project and its potential environmental effects;
- Description of the project;
- Reference to the incorporation of environmental impact analyses performed in the Master Plan EIR;
- Description of the existing environmental setting, potential environmental impacts of the project, and mitigation measures for new project impacts not studied in the Master Plan EIR; and
- CEQA conclusions.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the Eastside Road Storage Project (ERSP) is to provide essential storage of recycled water for the Town of Windsor in a reliable, feasible manner that encourages the best use of water resources and assures long-term recycled water supply. The Town wishes to use recycled water in a manner that facilitates reuse opportunities. The project would meet reuse and disposal permit requirements, as well as significantly contribute to the reduction of freshwater demand on the Russian River.

The 2001 Master Plan was created to assess the future needs of Windsor's water reclamation management program. The Eastside Road Storage Project (previously known as Ponds S and T) was included in the Master Plan as the cornerstone of the selected program alternative (Alternative 4X) by the Town. In accordance with the Town Council's direction, other program elements were pursued before the ERSP in order to defer significant and unavoidable impacts associated with that project, and to reflect other Town priorities for use of the Town's recycled water system. However, due to problems and delays in implementing some of the other recycled water system alternatives, the Town now needs to move ahead with the ERSP.

The ERSP would be part of the existing recycled water program and serve as a storage pond. Tertiary-treated effluent not discharged to Mark West Creek under the Town's existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be stored and used for seasonal irrigation of various land uses. The function of the proposed storage pond is to balance inflow of the treated effluent with outflows to irrigation and to discharge.

PROJECT LOCATION: The ERSP site is located on a Town-owned 168-acre parcel southwest of Windsor near the intersection of Eastside Road and Trenton-Healdsburg Road (see Attachment 1). The parcel is bounded by Eastside Road to the west, Mark West Station Road to the south, agriculture and rural residential to the east, and open space to the north. The Russian River is located approximately ½ mile to the west. The Sonoma County Water Agency's Ocean View Reservoir is just east of the parcel. The Windsor Water District acquired the parcel in 1991 for future use as a water reclamation storage pond site, and the site was annexed into the Town limits in 2000 as a utility parcel. The property is well situated relative to the location of many of

the Town's irrigation customers, the recycled water pipeline, and the Town's existing discharge facilities at Mark West Creek.

The recycled water storage pond site (the Pond T location in the Master Plan EIR) is located in a central intermittent drainage of the parcel between east-west trending ridgelines of approximately 260 feet in elevation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project includes a storage pond with a capacity of approximately 215 million gallons (MG) of storage and an onsite pump station. The pond would be established by constructing an earthen dam located at the western end of the drainage, near Eastside Road, to maximize the amount of storage available (see Attachment 2). Construction earthwork activities would include clearing an approximate 26-acre construction area, excavation of the embankment site and impoundment (pond) area, scarification and recompaction of impoundment area, and construction of earthen embankments. This work will entail an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of cut and fill volume. Construction activities also include concrete work for the inlet, outlet, and overflow structures, installation of a new booster pump station and associated piping, and application of crushed rock to access roads. Construction would last approximately 14 to 18 months.

Approximately ½ mile of a new 20-inch diameter mainline along Eastside Road would be constructed to connect the storage pond to the existing recycled water system along Mark West Station Road (see Attachment 1). The new pump station, which would be on the project site near the storage pond at a location to be determined, would move water out of the storage pond and into the recycled water system and bring the water back up to the pressure of the mainline irrigation system. The storage pond would be filled and emptied depending upon seasonal discharge and irrigation conditions. Typically, the pond would be empty in late summer after irrigation has peaked and filled again during the winter and spring.

The project may include habitat restoration activities in portions of the 168-acre parcel and offsite habitat restoration activities at locations to be determined, as part of project mitigation measures.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: New information acquired since Master Plan EIR certification in 2001 indicates that the project may have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR and that significant effects previously examined may be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR. It is anticipated that the project may have potentially significant environmental effects and will require additional evaluation in the following resource areas:

- Air Quality –emissions of ozone precursors and diesel particulates; odor effects on sensitive resources from project operation; and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Biological Resources – loss of trees and oak woodland; impacts to the intermittent drainage; and impacts to special-status species, including loss of potential spotted-owl habitat.
- Soils and Geology – effects of pond infiltration on nearby wells.
- Paleontology – an assessment of potential for sensitive paleontological resources to occur onsite.

Each of these environmental topics will be analyzed in the SEIR, which focuses on environmental topics not previously addressed in the Master Plan EIR. Additional subject areas may be analyzed based on responses to this Notice of Preparation and/or findings of the analysis.

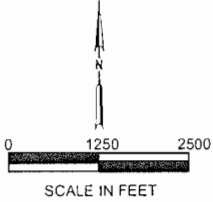
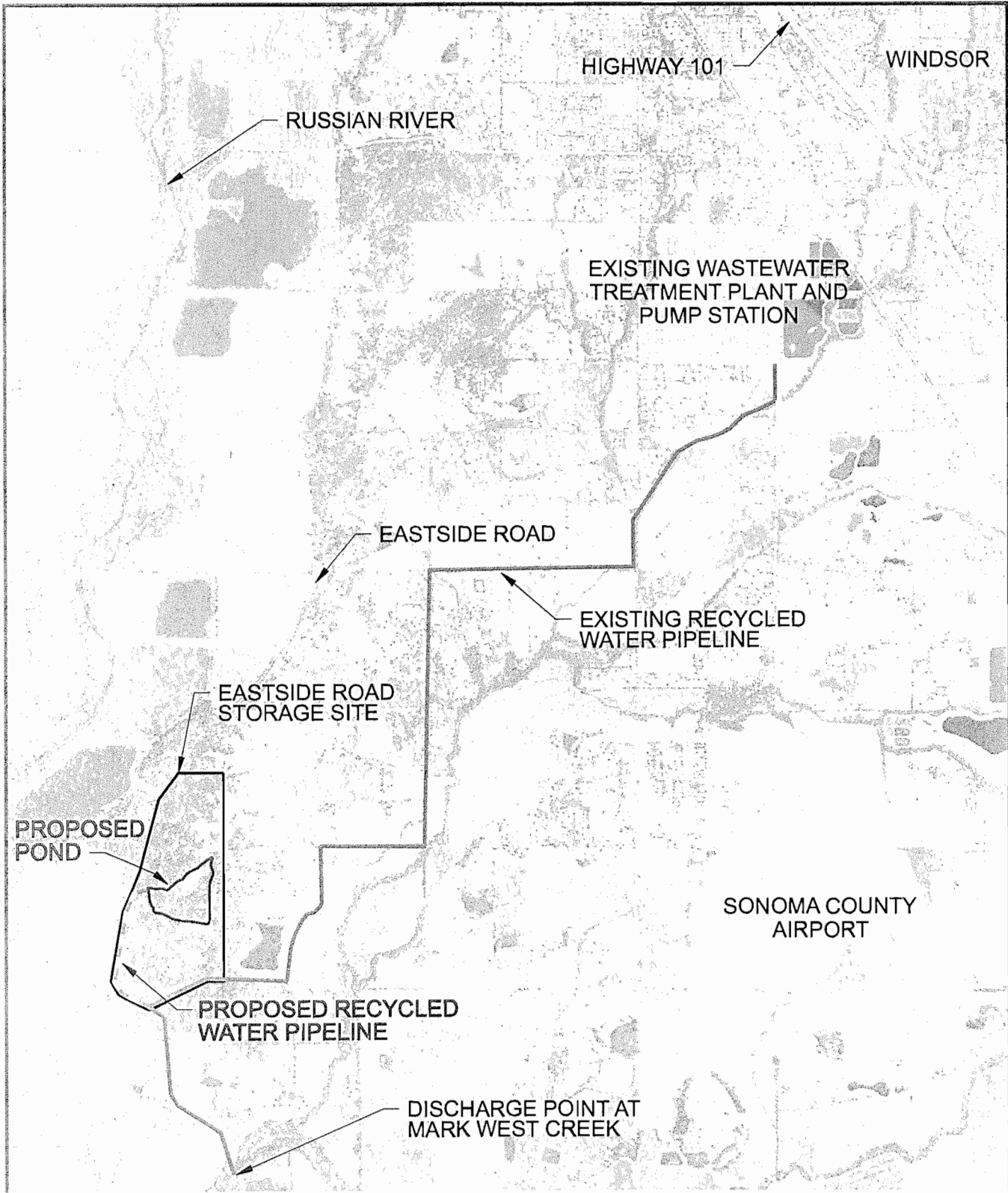
DATE: November 1, 2007.

SIGNATURE: 

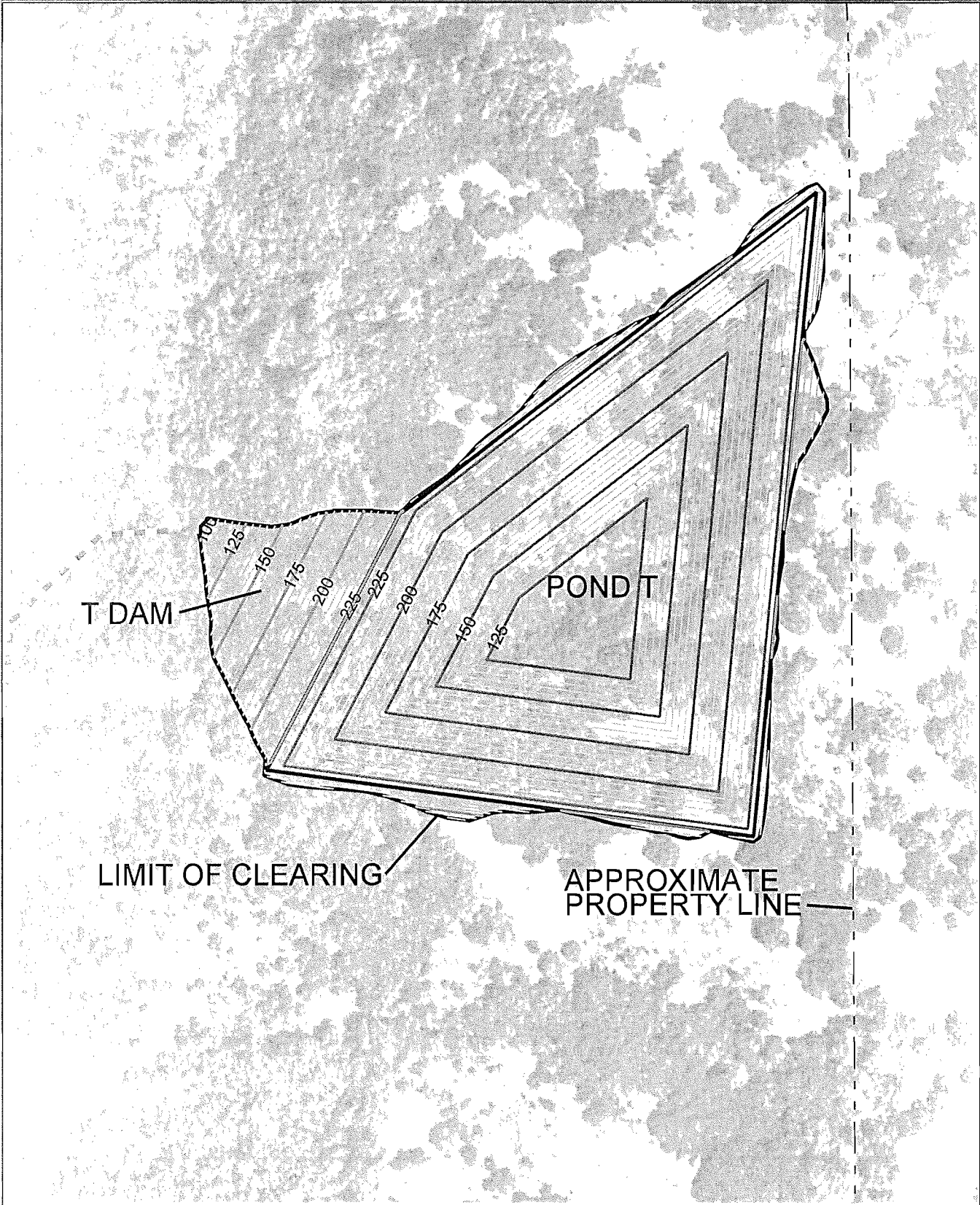
Attachments

1 - Regional Site Location






2 - Site Plan

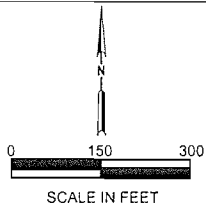


**ATTACHMENT 1
 REGIONAL SITE LOCATION
 EASTSIDE ROAD STORAGE PROJECT
 TOWN OF WINDSOR
 SONOMA COUNTY**



LEGEND

-  LIMIT OF CLEARING
-  PURPLE/LT BLUE - POND AREA
-  RED/GREEN - CUT AND EMBANKMENT CONTOURS
-  MAXIMUM WATER SURFACE ELEVATION
-  NEW RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE



**ATTACHMENT 2
SITE PLAN
EASTSIDE ROAD STORAGE PROJECT
TOWN OF WINDSOR
SONOMA COUNTY**

CH2MHILL