



City of Healdsburg

## Notice of Preparation of Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)

**To** Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
Responsible and trustee agencies  
Adjacent property owners  
Interested parties

**From** City of Healdsburg Planning & Building Department

**Date** August 1, 2018

**Project Name:** City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

**Project Location:** Unincorporated Sonoma County, south of the City limits (see attached Exhibit 1).

**Applicant Name:** City of Healdsburg, Municipal Utility Department

**Project Description:** The City of Healdsburg (City) will serve as the lead agency under CEQA for the preparation of a SEIR for the proposed Wastewater Reuse Project. The SEIR supplements the *City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project Environmental Impact Report* (2005 EIR), which assessed the potential environmental impacts of implementing a water recycling program as part of a larger wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade. The 2005 EIR was certified on June 13, 2005 (State Clearinghouse Number 2002072083).

In 2009, a subsequent Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to the 2005 EIR was prepared. The IS/MND addressed the seasonal irrigation of several additional properties and a revision to the pipeline alignment connecting the additional properties and the WWTP, which were not previously analyzed in the 2005 EIR. In addition, two subsequent Addenda to the 2005 EIR were prepared in April 2014 and March 2016. In the 2014 Addendum, the City considered delivery of recycled water for seasonal irrigation on up to 25,000 additional acres of agricultural land during the 2014 and 2015 irrigation seasons and the use of trucks (in addition to pipelines) to deliver some of the recycled water. In the 2016 Addendum, the City considered the use of recycled water for irrigation on 600 additional acres of agricultural land during the 2016-2020 irrigation seasons via a new recycled water pipeline and the continued hauling of recycled water for irrigation of up to 25,000 acres of agricultural land.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15163 states that a lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a subsequent EIR if proposed changes meet the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and if only minor additions and changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequate.

The City must reduce the volume of treated wastewater discharged to surface waters from its municipal WWTP. At present, the WWTP discharges a portion of its annual effluent to the Russian River. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has ordered the City to eliminate surface water discharges to protect water quality and associated beneficial uses.

In 2005, the City implemented a water recycling program that made a portion of the treated wastewater available to nearby water users. Uses of the treated wastewater are limited to vineyard irrigation, commercial landscaping, and landscape irrigation. Treated wastewater is

conveyed from the City's WWTP to several places of use via two pipelines that extend north and south of the WWTP and via trucks, which haul water to additional users. In the 2005 EIR, the City considered recycled water deliveries to irrigate 1,356 acres.

The City is now proposing to increase the volume of water in the water recycling program. To increase the volume of water and to eliminate discharges to surface waters, the City proposes to:

- Install recycled water conveyance pipelines;
- Add approximately 2,100 acres of land that could receive recycled water through new pipelines (2018 Proposed Area) to the program;
- Expand the list of water uses beyond those currently allowed in the water recycling program to potentially include:
  - Ø orchards (apple, peach, plum/prune);
  - Ø cannabis;
  - Ø irrigated pasture;
  - Ø direct livestock watering (not including dairy cows);
  - Ø frost protection; and
  - Ø other agricultural uses occurring in the vicinity of the WWTP.
- Add 2,630 acres of land that potentially could receive recycled water at a future date (2018 Program Expansion Area).

The locations of the proposed conveyance pipeline alignments, 2018 Proposed Area, and 2018 Program Expansion Areas are shown on attached Exhibit 2.

**Probable Environmental Impacts:** Because the City has determined that a SEIR will be prepared for the proposed project, an Initial Study has not been prepared (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]). The 2005 EIR comprehensively addressed impacts associated with implementation of a water recycling program. The SEIR would provide additional information to supplement the analysis presented in the 2005 EIR. When combined with the 2005 EIR, the SEIR would address construction of new or modification of existing conveyance pipelines and new lands and new uses that may receive recycled water supplies. Changes in CEQA that have occurred since the 2005 EIR was certified will also be addressed in the SEIR. The City anticipates that the SEIR would focus on additional information on the following environmental resources: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Agriculture, Fisheries Resources, Terrestrial Biological Resources, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Water Quality.

The City does not anticipate new or more extensive impacts associated with these topics from those previously identified in the 2005 EIR. However, additional information would be provided to ensure the analysis and reporting in the SEIR is current and fully addresses the proposed changes to the City's water recycling program.

The City of Healdsburg will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a SEIR for the project identified above. Responsible and trustee agencies may need to use the SEIR when considering a permit or other approval for the project.

The City would like to know your views as to the significant environmental issues and possible mitigation measures that should be included in the SEIR.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. **The public review period is from August 1, 2018, to August 31, 2018.**

Please send your response to the following person.

Patrick Fuss, Water/Wastewater Principal Engineer  
City of Healdsburg  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

The City will hold a public scoping meeting to obtain comments regarding the content and scope of the SEIR. Public agencies, organizations, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate at this meeting.

This scoping meeting will take place on August 21, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the following location:

City Council Chambers  
Healdsburg City Hall  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Contact Patrick Fuss at 707.217.3218 or pfuss@ci.healdsburg.ca.us if you need further information regarding this notice.

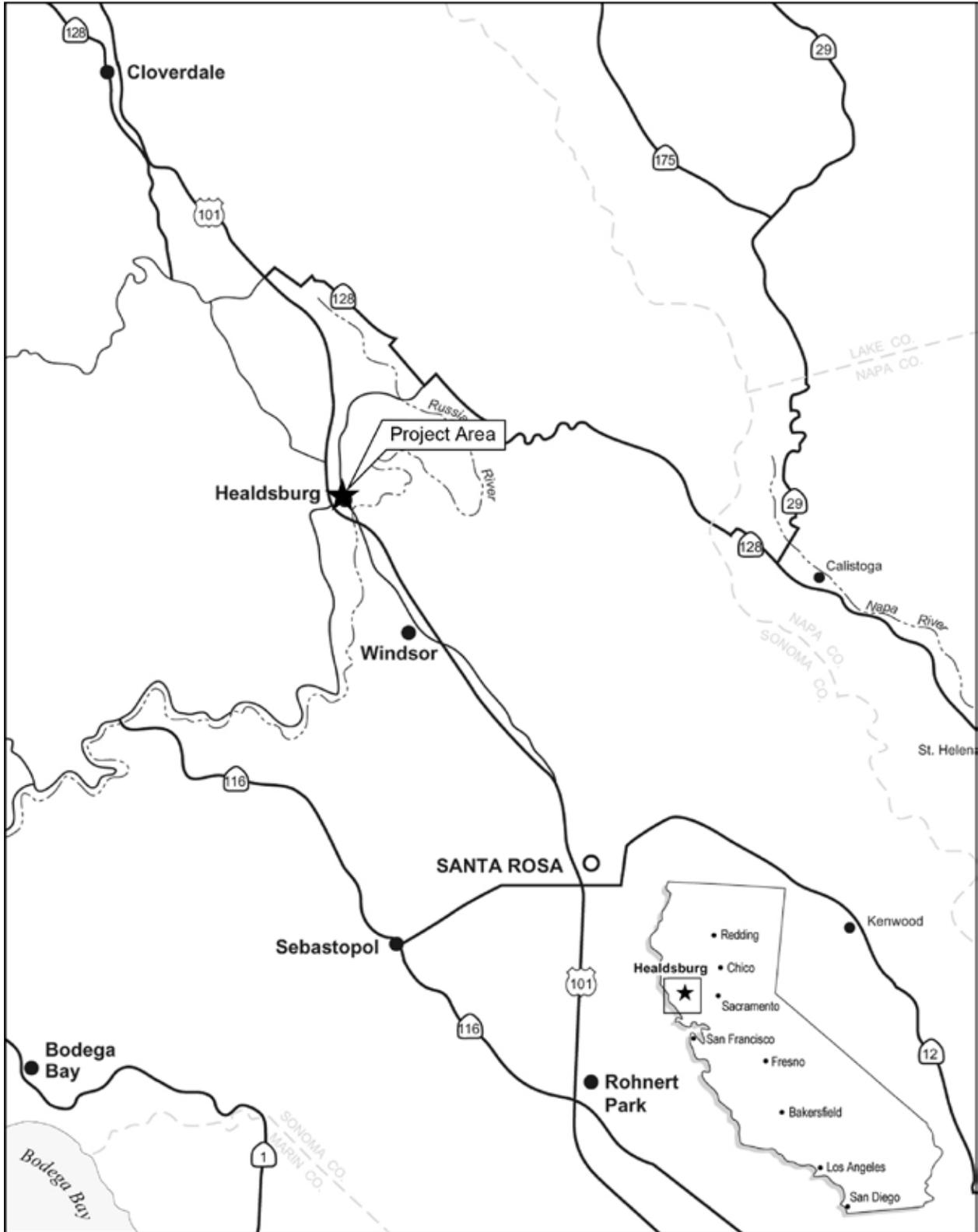
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Maya DeRosa, Director  
Planning & Building Department

**Attachments:**

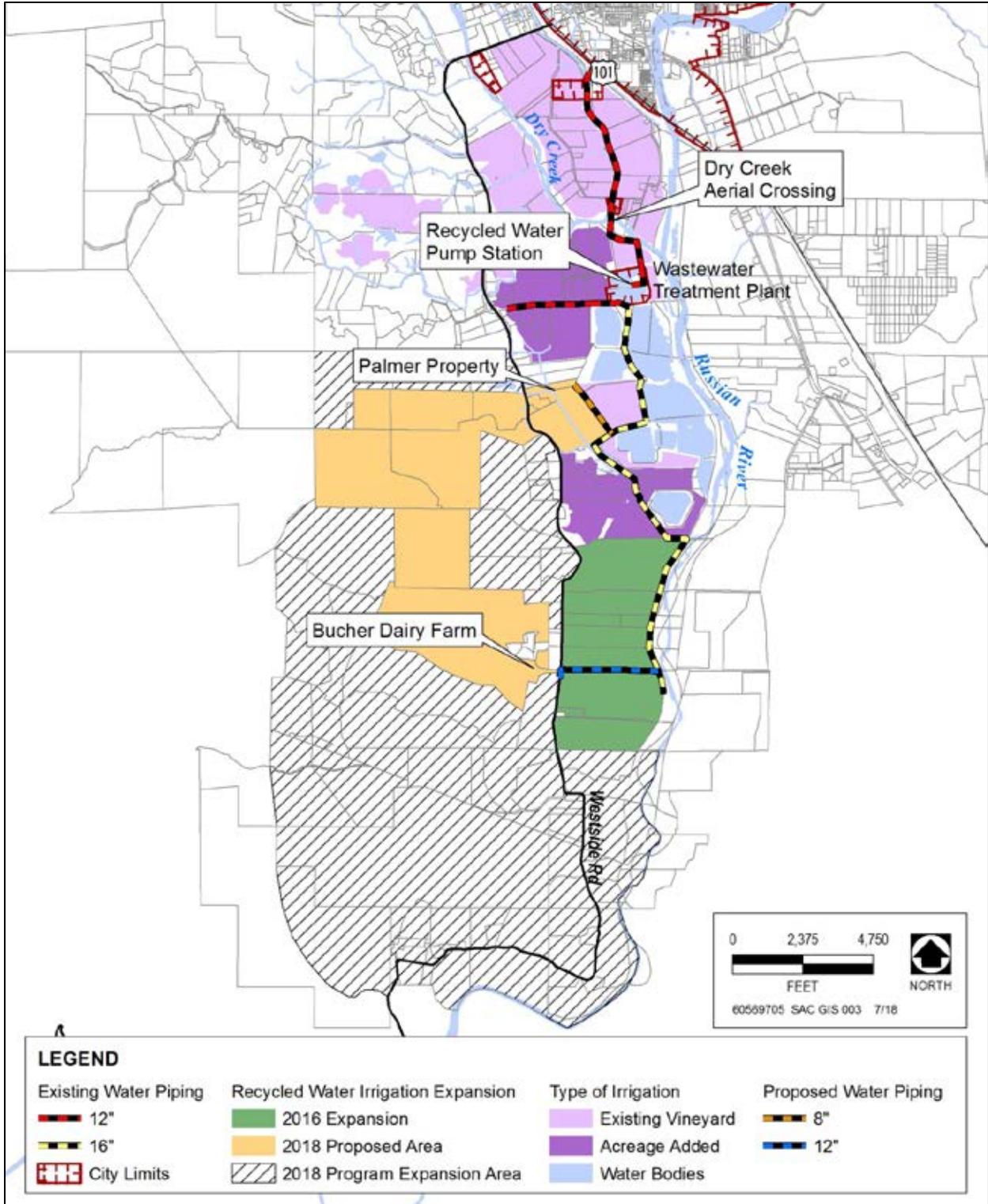
Exhibit 1. Regional Location

Exhibit 2. Recycled Water Program Expansion Map



Source: EDAW 2004

**Exhibit 1. Regional Setting**



Source: City of Healdsburg 2018

**Exhibit 2. Recycled Water Program Proposed Expansion Map**