

State Water Resources Control Board

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency Consideration and Adoption

Project Information

Project Title: Palomino Estates Water System Upgrade Project (Project)

CEQA Document Title: Palomino Estates Water System Improvements

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

Applicant: Palomino Estates Mutual Water Company (Applicant)

Project Number: 1206002-001C

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022070069

Project Location: In the unincorporated area of Palomino Estates, Humboldt County.

Project Description: The Applicant is proposing to improve water treatment, storage, and distribution components of the community of Palomino Estates' existing water system. The Project's elements would occur within the existing right of way or replace existing facilities.

The Project activities include:

- Accumulated gravel, sand and silt would be removed from the bottom of the caisson (existing well). The existing submersible pump would be removed, interior plumbing modified, and a five horsepower (HP) submersible pump would be installed. A new electrical panel, pump controls and a manual generator transfer switch and receptacle would be installed. New water transmission piping would be installed to replace the existing segment uphill of East Branch Road and continue to a 5,000-gallon raw water treatment tank installed on a new concrete slab adjoining the east end of the treatment building.
- The existing treatment building would be retained and be used to house the new water treatment facilities. A total of four WallSpring units (ultrafiltration) would be installed, each unit with a flow meter and pressure gauges to monitor individual unit performance. The units would be supplied by a one HP pump which would vary pump rates depending on the number of units in service. The treatment system would typically be operated between 16 and 24 gallons per minute. The common supply line to the bank of units would be connected to a hydro-pneumatic tank to serve as a supply source for membrane flushing. Backwash

Palomino Estates Water System Upgrade Project
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

and instrument water recycle systems would be installed to recycle water generated during treatment unit backwash and flushing. Pump controls and a manual generator transfer switch and receptacle would be installed. Batteries would be installed to power the supervisory control and data acquisition system during brief outages to allow for remote monitoring of storage.

- A temporary 10,000-gallon plastic tank would be installed easterly of the work area to maintain service during construction. The existing storage tank would then be demolished, the tank pad expanded, and an 82,000-gallon bolted steel tank would be erected, generally within the footprint of the existing tank. The tank would be approximately 26 feet in diameter with an approximately 24-foot-high side shell with an operating water level of 20 feet. Anchorage for seismic protection would be required for a tank of this configuration. Once the tank is completed, finish water piping would be disconnected from the temporary tank and rerouted to the new tank. The temporary tank would be retained and relocated to its permanent home next to the new tank for water storage redundancy.
- New distribution piping would be installed throughout the service area. The system would include four fire hydrants, all capable of flowing at least 1,000 gallons per minute. New metered services would be installed to all improved parcels and reconnected to existing private service piping. A total of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of new main would be installed, all in existing roadways and driveways.

Adoption of CEQA Document

The State Water Board is the Lead Agency under CEQA for this Project. The State Water Board, in coordination with the Applicant, has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) titled Palomino Estates Water System Improvements for the Project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 6. As the Deputy Director for the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, I have been delegated the authority to approve and execute financing agreement and to perform all acts for projects that are routine and non-controversial. The authority to adopt CEQA documents necessarily accompanies the delegation to approve and execute the financing agreement for this Project.

The IS/MND was circulated through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse (No. 2022070069) for a 30-day public review period beginning July 6, 2022 and ending August 4, 2022. No written comments were received during the review period.

I have considered the IS/MND, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and all comments that were received during the public review period. Based on the whole of the records, I hereby find that there is no substantial evidence in the records

Palomino Estates Water System Upgrade Project
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

before me that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment. The IS/MND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the State Water Board Staff.

The IS/MND and MMRP for the Project are hereby adopted pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 6, section 15074. The State Water Board will decide whether to approve and carryout the Project in a separate action.

A final copy of the IS/MND, MMRP and comments and responses for the Project are available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento CA 95814.

Signature: _____ Signature on file

Joe Karkoski, Deputy Director
Division of Financial Assistance