NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Distribution List

From: City of Santa Rosa
Department of Community Development
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 94501

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project

The City of Santa Rosa will be the Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project identified below. Concurrently with the preparation of the EIR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the EIR which is germane to your agency's responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/EIS when considering pertinent permits or other approvals for the project. The project location, description, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to this Notice of Preparation must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. If a response is not received from you within 30 days, it will be assumed in accordance with section 15082(b-2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that you have no response to this Notice of Preparation.

Please send your written response to the City of Santa Rosa at the address shown above or deliver comments to the Department of Community Development at City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. In the response we will need the name of the contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project
Project Applicant: City of Santa Rosa

Date: October 21, 1994 **Signature:** Marie Meredith

Title: Environmental Coordinator
Name: Marie Meredith
Telephone: (707) 543-3181

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14, Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION

SANTA ROSA SUBREGIONAL LONG-TERM WASTEWATER PROJECT

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The City of Santa Rosa (City) is developing a long-term wastewater project for the expansion of headworks capacity (pumping of effluent from the plant intake to the treatment facilities) and effluent disposal from the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant ("Laguna Plant") through the year 2010.

The Laguna Plant is part of the Subregional Water Reclamation System ("Subregional System") that is operated by the City and treats wastewater collected from the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and the Southpark Sanitation District. The Laguna Plant also treats septic waste from most of Sonoma County. The Laguna Plant is a tertiary treatment plant and is currently permitted to treat 18 million gallons per day (mgd) average dry weather flow (ADWF). The treated effluent is disposed through agricultural irrigation, created wetlands, urban irrigation and discharge to the Russian River. A reclaimed water distribution system which is part of the Subregional System carries the effluent from the Laguna Plant to the end users.

The existing disposal system does not reliably dispose of existing flows under all weather conditions. The Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project is intended to provide for disposal of existing flows and increased wastewater flows generated by increased population expected at buildout of the General Plans of the entities making up the Subregional System. Wastewater flows through the Laguna Plant are projected to increase to 22.5 mgd ADWF by the year 2010 after reductions due to water conservation. This projected increase results in an annual average flow of 9,800 million gallons (mg), an increase of 40 percent over the current annual average flow of 7,000 mg.

The Subregional System currently uses a combination of reuse and discharge for disposal of the treated effluent. A distribution system carries reclaimed water from the Laguna Plant to users for agricultural irrigation, on over 5,000 acres of land located primarily in the Santa Rosa Plain, golf course irrigation, and urban landscape irrigation. A portion of the reclaimed water is also used for the management of two created wetland areas in the Santa Rosa Plain. The Subregional System is supported by storage facilities which hold the treated wastewater until it can be reused or discharged.

Discharge from the Laguna Plant is to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Santa Rosa Creek which eventually flows into the Russian River approximately 10 miles north of the plant. Ordinarily, the discharge to the Russian River is limited to a maximum of 1 percent of river flow (5 percent with the permission of the Regional Water Quality Control Board) and storage is provided to hold treated wastewater so that maximum legal discharge is not exceeded. However, due to a combination of weather conditions which may occur during the October 1 - May 14 discharge

season, discharge to the Russian River currently has the potential to exceed the legal maximum. These conditions, although infrequent, occur during winters characterized by periodic light rain, but overall drier-than-normal conditions. As a result, the current Subregional System is weather-dependent, leaving it without a reliable, legally sanctioned, wastewater disposal option.

By 1999 the Subregional System must put in place a disposal solution to meet future capacity needs, no matter what weather conditions occur. The Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project is intended to provide this solution.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities (BPU), as the governing body of the Subregional System, adopted the following project objectives on December 16, 1993 and reaffirmed them on May 27, 1994.

Overall project objectives are:

- Provide wastewater treatment and disposal for the Santa Rosa Subregional Wastewater System to accommodate projected growth as indicated in the currently adopted General Plans of each of the Subregional entities; and
- Develop and operate the wastewater treatment and disposal system in ways that protect public health and safety.

Supporting project objectives are:

- Maximize reclamation and reuse of advanced treated wastewater to the greatest extent feasible;
- Reclaimed water that is not reused will be disposed of in a manner that protects beneficial uses of receiving waters;
- Optimize water resource conservation where practical;
- Operate the wastewater treatment plant and disposal system successfully under all foreseeable weather conditions;
- Satisfy applicable regulatory agency and institutional guidelines and requirements;
- Develop a disposal system that is manageable and reliable; and
- Develop a program that can be successfully financed and is economically feasible.

These supporting objectives are intended to further define the overall project objectives and to provide guidance in the development and evaluation of project alternatives.

PROJECT LOCATION

On May 27, 1994, the BPU adopted five preliminary alternative configurations of the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project for purposes of analysis in the EIR. The five alternatives together with a No Project alternative (as required by CEQA) encompass a large geographic area in Sonoma County and in a portion of northern Marin County. As shown in Figure 1, this area is focused on the areas which are adjacent to the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati and Sebastopol, but also extends from the Geysers area north of Healdsburg to the San Pablo Bay Flats located southeast of Petaluma.

DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

A two-step approach is being used for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will evaluate the preliminary range of alternatives for the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project.

The Step I Scoping Phase includes:

- Identification of Alternative Components;
- Identification of Alternatives;
- Pre-evaluation of Alternatives;
- Selection of Alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR; and
- Determination of analysis to be conducted in the EIR.

Step II is the design and pre-engineering of the project alternatives, preparation of related scientific and engineering studies and preparation of the EIR.

Circulation of the Notice of Preparation is part of the scoping phase, and comments received will be used to further define and refine the analysis to be included in the EIR. At the conclusion of the Scoping Phase, a final Scoping Report will be prepared which will summarize the work completed in Step I.

To ensure that an appropriate range of alternatives would be considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the BPU directed screening of alternatives which represent a wide spectrum of potential solutions to the Subregional System's need to dispose of wastewater. This screening process considered extremes which included a 20 percent discharge rate to the Russian River, construction of large reservoirs in South County and/or West County, and minimal, experimental, aggressive and State-mandated conservation alternatives. Several maximum inflow alternatives were included to indicate the environmental effects of large storage or reuse components.

The alternatives for screening were developed through the review of alternatives previously considered by the BPU, with input from the public obtained at four workshops held in September 1993 and two workshops held in November 1993, and from communications with individuals

and groups in interviews, written correspondence, and meetings. The BPU considered 75 alternatives suggested prior to March 1993, and an additional 79 alternative components that have been recommended by the public, Santa Rosa City staff, and individuals and agencies consulted since March 1993.

The proposed alternatives were carefully reviewed to develop a manageable list of alternatives for screening. The two main objectives in developing alternatives were:

- To include all feasible components suggested by the public in the September and November workshops in at least one alternative; and
- To develop a "reasonable range of alternatives" that would meet CEQA requirements for alternative analysis in the EIR.

A suggested list of 20 alternatives was published on December 29, 1993 and was distributed to the public for review and comment to ensure that all alternative components that were nominated for consideration were represented. The list of alternatives was then presented to the BPU at a meeting held on January 13, 1994. To allow time for further public comment, the BPU continued the discussion of alternatives to the following week. During the public review period, an additional 10 alternatives were suggested and were presented to the BPU at their meeting on January 20, 1994. At that meeting, the BPU directed that all 30 alternatives be screened. Two additional alternatives were developed to address the request from the public that multiple small reservoirs be evaluated as an option.

The Draft Screening Report (available by request from the City of Santa Rosa) evaluated all 32 alternatives according to criteria adopted by the BPU, and was completed and distributed for review in March 1994. Five public workshops were conducted in April and May 1994 to assist in the selection of a reasonable range of alternatives to be studied in the EIR. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), Technical Review Group (TRG) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) each advised the BPU and reviewed and provided comment on the Screening Report. Two joint study sessions on the Screening Report were held and public and agency comments were received orally and in writing on the alternatives that should be carried forward for review in the EIR.

Based upon the Screening Report and comments from the public and agencies, the BPU at its May 27, 1994 meeting, determined that potential project alternatives and components for the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project were either to be retained or eliminated from further review in the EIR process, and selected five alternatives which along with the No Project/No Action Alternative are to be carried forward in the preparation of the EIR. These alternatives are described in the following section.

It is now proposed that a Public Participation Plan also be implemented with the Environmental Study Phase of the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project EIR/EIS. This phase will conclude with the certification of the Final EIR by the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities and the publication of a Corps of Engineers, acting as Co-Lead Agencies under California and Federal law. As with the Assessment Phase, Santa Rosa has chosen early, frequent and extensive

pub participation for the Study Phase. It is vitally important that as many interested individuals, organizations and agencies participate in the process as early as possible.

It is important to note, however, that both the California Environmental Quality Act (California Law) and the National Environmental Policy Act (Federal law) provide for a formal public participation process, which begins with the release of the Draft EIR/EIS and concludes with certification of the EIR (in the case of CEQA) and publication of the Notice of Availability (in the case of NEPA). Following release of the Draft EIR/EIS, there will be a period of time during which written comments upon the Draft EIR/EIS will be received and during which noticed public meeting will be held for receiving oral comment.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 - No Project/No Action

CEQA requires that a "No Project" alternative be analyzed in detail in the environmental document. The No Project alternative is an evaluation of impacts that would occur if no project is implemented. In this case, the No Project alternative is the existing wastewater disposal system and Interim Master Plan components. (See Figure 2)

The existing wastewater disposal system utilizes a combination of direct discharge to the Russian River; urban irrigation; discharge/reuse through created wetlands in the Santa Rosa Plain; and reuse for agricultural irrigation.

Additional reuse components which are to be implemented as part of the Interim Master Plan are:

Agricultural Irrigation - an additional 350 acres;
Urban reuse at the Santa Rosa Country Club Golf Course - 150 acres; and
Urban irrigation in Rohnert Park - 300 acres.

These components are scheduled to be completed by 1996 and are part of an Interim Master Plan for the Subregional System which will also provide upgrading of treatment facilities at the Laguna Plant. This alternative also assumes continuation of efforts by the City to improve water conservation practices thereby reducing wastewater flow.

Alternative 2 - South County Reclamation

The South County Reclamation alternative focuses on the reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation in areas south and east of Santa Rosa. Under this alternative, discharge to the Russian River would be maintained with consideration of a range of maximum discharge rates between 1% and 20% of river flow (See Figure 3).

Primary additional reuse and discharge components of this alternative (in addition to existing reuse and discharge) are:

- Agricultural irrigation (at normal volume with average rates of 0.67 million gallons/acre annually) of 5,665 acres of land in areas east of Rohnert Park; east of Adobe Road; east of Lakeville Highway; and in the San Pablo Bay flats; and
- Agricultural irrigation (at low volume with average rates of 0.05 million gallons/acre annually) of 2,000 acres of land in the vineyard areas east of the Sonoma Mountains between Schellville and Sears Point; and
- Storage of treated wastewater in a reservoir to be constructed along Tolay Creek south of Highway 116 (Site S39, Tolay) for seasonal reuse in agricultural irrigation or stream augmentation.

This alternative also includes expansion of capacity at the Laguna Treatment Plant to provide for a total capacity of 22.5 mgd average dry weather flow (ADWF).

In addition, this alternative assumes the following components to reduce wastewater flow will continue:

- Installation of water conservation devices or new fixtures to reduce water consumption and subsequent wastewater flows through expansion of the Subregional Retrofit Program; and
- Implementation of other programs to improve water conservation practices in accordance with State regulations.

Other components which may be included as options in this alternative are:

- Reservoir sites to be considered in optional configurations in place of or in conjunction with the primary reservoir site (Site S39, Tolay).

  These sites are:

  - Site S26, Vast Oak (located along Copeland Creek between Petaluma Hill Road and Roberts Road); and
  - Site S27, Adobe Road (located east of Adobe Road and South of Sonoma Mountain Road); and
  - Site S31A, Lakeville Hillside (located east of Lakeville Highway at Old Lakeville Road No. 3); and
  - Site S35, Sears Point (located along Tolay Creek north of Highway 121).

Possible reservoir configurations also include a smaller reservoir at the S39 Tolay site in conjunction with one or more of the other sites; a combination of the S27 Adobe Road and S35 Sears Point sites; and a combination of the S27 Adobe Road and S31A Lakeville Hillside sites.

- Urban irrigation projects involving large irrigable areas such as the Bennett Valley Golf Course; and
- Creation of wetlands where necessary to provide reuse capacity or to polish wastewater through filtration for other reuse; and
- Flow augmentation of streams including Tolay, Adobe, Lichau/Willow Brook and Lynch Creeks, during periods of low stream flow; and
- Discharge of treated wastewater into aquifers for storage prior to reuse or for recharge of the aquifer.

The feasibility of these optional components will be further studied during the preparation of the EIR for possible inclusion in the selected alternative.

Alternative 3 - Community Separator/South County Reclamation

The Community Separator/South County Reclamation alternative focuses on the reuse of treated wastewater for a combination of wetlands creation; agricultural irrigation; urban irrigation; and stream flow augmentation. Under this alternative, discharge to the Russian River would be maintained with consideration of a range of maximum discharge rates between 1% and 20% of river flow (See Figure 4).

Primary additional reuse and discharge components of this alternative (in addition to existing reuse and discharge) are:

- Agricultural Irrigation (at normal volume with average rates of 0.67 million gallons/acre annually) of 3,500 acres of land in areas east of Rohnert Park, east of Adobe Road and east of Lakeville Highway;
- Agricultural Irrigation (at normal volume with average rates of 0.67 million gallons/acre annually) of 1,500 acres of land in areas west of Sebastopol;
- Storage of treated wastewater in a reservoir to be constructed east of Adobe Road and south of Sonoma Mountain Road (Site S27, Adobe Road) for seasonal reuse through agricultural irrigation or stream flow augmentation;
- Storage of treated wastewater in aquifers east of Rohnert Park or in the Santa Rosa Plain for reuse in agricultural irrigation, stream flow augmentation, or for recharge of the aquifers;
- Creation of 500 acres of new wetlands in the Santa Rosa Plain using treated wastewater (the location of new wetland sites will be determined through analyses conducted as part of the EIR preparation);
- Urban irrigation in the Bennett Valley and Fountain Grove areas using treated wastewater for the irrigation of existing or new parks, school grounds, golf courses and street landscaping.

This alternative also includes expansion of capacity at the Laguna Treatment Plant to provide for a total capacity of 22.5 mgd ADWF.

In addition, this alternative assumes the following components to reduce wastewater flow will continue:

- Installation of water conservation devices or new fixtures to reduce water consumption and subsequent wastewater flows through expansion of the Subregional Retrofit Program; and
- Implementation of other programs to improve water conservation practices in accordance with State regulations.

Other components which may be included as options in this alternative are:

- Reservoir sites to be considered in optional configurations in place of or in conjunction with the primary reservoir site (Site S27, Adobe Road) on aquifer storage.

  These sites are:

- Site S26, Vast Oak (located along Copeland Creek between Petaluma Hill Road and Roberts Road);
- Site S35, Sears Point (located along Tolay Creek north of Highway 121); and
- Site S39, Tolay (located along Tolay Creek south of Highway 116).

Possible reservoir configurations also include a smaller reservoir at the S39 Tolay site in conjunction with the S35 Sears Point site.

- Urban irrigation projects involving large irrigable areas such as the Bennett Valley Golf Course;
- Creation of additional wetlands where necessary to provide reuse capacity or to polish wastewater through additional filtration for other reuse; and
- Flow augmentation of streams including Tolay, Adobe, Lichau, Willow Brook, Bencher, Crane, Copeland and Hinebaugh Creeks during periods of low stream flow.

The feasibility of these optional components will be further studied during the preparation of the EIR for possible inclusion in the selected alternative.

Alternative 4 - West County Reclamation

The West County Reclamation alternative focuses on the reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation in areas west of Cotati and Petaluma. Under this alternative, discharge to the Russian River would be maintained with consideration of a range of maximum discharge rates between 1% and 20% of river flow (See Figure 5).

Primary additional reuse and discharge components of this alternative (in addition to existing reuse and discharge) are:

- Agricultural Irrigation (at normal volume with average rates of 0.67 million gallons/acre annually) of 5,965 acres of land in areas along Stemple and Americano Creeks, and in the Chileno Valley; and
- Storage of treated wastewater in a reservoir to be constructed along a tributary of Stemple Creek north of Walker Road (Site S20, Two Rock) for seasonal reuse through agricultural irrigation or stream flow augmentation.

This alternative also includes expansion of capacity at the Laguna Treatment Plant to provide for a total capacity of 22.5 mgd ADWF.

In addition, this alternative assumes the following components to reduce wastewater flow will continue:

- Installation of water conservation devices or new fixtures to reduce water consumption and subsequent wastewater flows through the expansion of the Subregional Retrofit Program; and
- Implementation of other programs to improve water conservation practices in accordance with State regulations.

Other components which may be included as options in this alternative are:

- Reservoir sites to be considered in optional configurations in place of or in conjunction with the primary reservoir site (Site S20, Two Rock).

  These sites are:

  - Site S40, Bloomfield (located north of Bodega Highway and west of Bloomfield Road);
  - Site S44, Huntley (located south of Bodega Highway along Martinoni Road);
  - Site S46, Meacham (located north of Meacham Road and southwest of the intersection of Hammel Road);
  - Site S56, Carroll Road North (located on Carroll Road, north of Bodega Highway); and
  - Site S53, Valley Ford East (located north of Bodega Highway at Highway 1).

  Possible reservoir configurations for this alternative also include a smaller reservoir at the S20 Two Rock site in conjunction with one or more of the other sites; a combination of

the S40 Bloomfield and S53 Valley Ford East sites; and a combination of the S40 Bloomfield site and the S44 Huntley site.

- Urban irrigation projects involving large irrigable areas such as the Bennett Valley Golf Course;
- Creation of wetlands where necessary to provide reuse capacity or to polish wastewater through additional filtration for other reuse;
- Flow augmentation of streams including Blucher and San Antonio Creeks during periods of low stream flow; and
- Discharge of treated wastewater into aquifers for recharge of the aquifer.

The feasibility of these optional components will be further studied during the preparation of the EIR for possible inclusion in the selected alternative.

Alternative 5 - Geysers Recharge

The Geysers Recharge alternative provides for transmission of the treated wastewater to the Sonoma Geysers, located northeast of Healdsburg, for recharge of the geysers that are currently used as a source of geothermal energy. This alternative would not involve discharge of treated wastewater to the Laguna de Santa Rosa or Russian River, and no additional storage is currently planned for this alternative (See Figure 6).

This alternative also includes expansion of capacity at the Laguna Treatment Plant to provide for a total capacity of 22.5 mgd ADWF.

In addition, this alternative includes the following components to reduce wastewater flow:

- Installation of water conservation devices or new fixtures to reduce water consumption and subsequent wastewater flows through expansion of the Subregional Retrofit Program; and
- Standard water conservation practices in accordance with State regulations.

Other components which may be included as options in this alternative are:

- Urban irrigation projects involving large irrigable areas such as the Bennett Valley Golf Course; and
- Discharge of treated wastewater into aquifers for recharge of the aquifer.

The feasibility of these options will be further studied during the preparation of the EIR.

Alternative 6 - 20% Maximum Russian River Discharge

This alternative provides for the discharge of treated wastewater to the Russian River at a maximum rate of 20% of river flow. Under this alternative no additional reuse or storage of treated wastewater would be required (See Figure 7).

Discharge to the Russian River would be accomplished through one of the following methods:

- Transmission of treated wastewater and direct discharge to the Russian River at a location above the Sonoma County Water Authority intakes;
- Transmission of treated wastewater and discharge through rapid infiltration beds to the Russian River at a location above the Sonoma County Water Authority intakes; and
- Discharge of treated wastewater to the Laguna de Santa Rosa at the existing discharge locations.

This alternative also includes expansion of capacity at the Laguna Plant to provide for a total capacity of 22.5 mgd ADWF.

In addition, this alternative includes the following components to reduce wastewater flow.

- Installation of water conservation devices or new fixtures to reduce water consumption and subsequent wastewater flows through expansion of the Subregional Retrofit Program; and
- Implementation of other programs to improve water conservation practices in accordance with State regulations.

Other components which may be included as options in this alternative are:

- Urban irrigation projects involving large irrigable areas such as the Bennett Valley Golf Course; and
- Discharge of treated wastewater into aquifers for recharge of the aquifer.

The feasibility of these optional components will be further studied during the preparation of the EIR.

The NOI that is enclosed is the Draft NOI prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Final NOI is published in the Federal Register on October 21, 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BILLING CODE: 3710-FS

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBREGIONAL LONG-TERM WASTEWATER PROJECT BY THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA IN SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project (Project). The purpose of the Project is to provide for effluent disposal from the Subregional Sewerage System wastewater treatment facilities operated by the City of Santa Rosa. The Project would implement

a program to dispose of tertiary treated wastewater from system members and customers through the year 2010. The City of Santa Rosa has applied for a Department of Army (DA) permit for authorization to discharge dredged and fill material, and to work in navigable waters of the United States in association with construction of the Project. The DA permit application process, scoping process, and preparation of the Draft EIS will be conducted by the Regulatory Branch of the San Francisco District.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions about the proposed action and Draft EIS can be answered by Wade Eakle at the Corps of Engineers (Telephone 415-744-3325, ext. 222).

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action.

The Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit from the City of Santa Rosa to discharge dredged and fill material, and to work in navigable waters of the United States in association with construction of a Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project. Project implementation could include construction of embankments to create a wastewater storage reservoir; construction of a

groundwater infiltration basin; construction of pipelines to distribute reclaimed water; construction of irrigation drainage facilities; and construction of berms to create or restore wetlands.

The Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by the City of Santa Rosa provides tertiary treatment for approximately 16 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd) average dry weather flow (ADWF) from the Subregional Sewerage System. This results in an average annual flow of 7,000 million gallons (mg). Wastewater flows are projected to increase to approximately 22.5 mgd ADWF by the year 2010, including consideration for lower flows due to water conservation. This results in an average annual flow of 9,800 mg.

Disposal of treated wastewater from the Laguna plant is through agricultural irrigation, created wetlands, urban irrigation, and discharge to the Russian River through the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Ordinarily, discharge to the Russian River is limited to a maximum of 1 percent of river flow (5 percent with the permission of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board), and storage is provided to hold treated wastewater so that maximum legal discharge is not exceeded. However, due to a combination of conditions which may occur during the October 1 - May 14 discharge season, discharge to the

Russian River may exceed the legal maximum.

These conditions can occur during winters characterized by periodic light rain but overall drier-than-normal conditions. As a result, the current Subregional System is weather-dependent, leaving it without a reliable, legally sanctioned wastewater disposal option. By 1999 the City of Santa Rosa must put in place a disposal solution to meet future capacity needs, no matter what weather conditions occur. The purpose of the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project is to provide this solution.

The DA permit application will be processed by the Regulatory Branch of the San Francisco District, Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) the Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and therefore requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. A combined EIS/EIR (Environmental Impact Report) will be prepared with the Corps of Engineers as the Federal lead agency

and the City of Santa Rosa as the lead agency for the EIR.

2. Alternatives

The Project alternatives under consideration are:

a. No Project/No Action

b. South County Reclamation

c. Community Separator/South County Reclamation

d. West County Reclamation

e. Geysers Recharge

f. 20% Maximum Russian River Discharge

g. Other project proposals that are identified as feasible during the public scoping process.

Components of the alternatives to be analyzed for the Project may include: water conservation through compliance with state regulations and an expanded subregional retrofit program; expanded agricultural irrigation; flow augmentation of existing

streams during periods of low flow; increased storage capacity, including new reservoir sites or use of below ground aquifers; expanded urban irrigation reuse; injection and reuse of treated wastewater at the Sonoma Geysers; and increased discharge to the Russian River (up to a maximum of 20 percent of river flow) either directly, through rapid infiltration in the river plain, or through the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

3. Scoping Process

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, agency planning for Federal or Federally permitted projects must include a "scoping" process. Scoping primarily involves determining the scope of issues to be addressed, and identifying the significant issues for in-depth analysis in the Draft EIS. The scoping process includes public participation to integrate information regarding public needs and concerns into the environmental document.

The Corps of Engineers and the City of Santa Rosa will hold public scoping meetings on November 17, 1994 at 3 pm and 7 pm at the Steele Lane Recreation Center, 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, California 95403. A formal presentation will precede the request for public comment. Representatives from the Corps of Engineers, the City of Santa Rosa, and Harland Bartholomew &

Associates (the consultant preparing the EIS/EIR) will be available at these meetings to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern that should be addressed in the environmental document. Further public participation is planned, but not currently scheduled.

Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the scoping meetings. To be most helpful, the scoping comments should clearly describe specific environmental issues or topics which the commentator believes the document should address. Written comments should be mailed no later than December 1, 1994 to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 211 Main Street, San Francisco, California, 94105 ATTN: Wade Eakle.

a. Significant Issues

The following issues have been identified as potentially significant and will be evaluated in the Draft EIS/EIR. However, the scope of analysis is not limited to these issues.

(1) Geologic conditions

(2) Hydrology, water quality and supply

(3) Traffic and transportation

(4) Air quality

(5) Noise conditions

(6) Biological resources, including endangered species, and fish and wildlife habitat

(7) Visual resources

(8) Cultural and historic resources

(9) Land use, including agricultural activity

(10) Public services and utilities

(11) Public health and safety hazards

(12) Recreational opportunities

(13) Socioeconomics

(14) Energy

b. Environmental requirements

Environmental review and other consultation requirements applicable to the proposed action include:

(1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq., 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and all implementing regulations.

(2) Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1344.

(3) Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 403.

(4) Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1536, 50 CFR 402.

(5) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470.

(6) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 651-667.

(7) Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. 1456.

(8) Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 33 CFR Parts 320-330.

(9) Environmental Protection Agency's Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material, 40 CFR Part 230.

(10) California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq., and all subsequent implementing regulations.

(11) Chapter 1600 of the Fish and Game Code.

4. Availability of EIS:

The Draft EIS should be available for public review in October 1995.

Michael J. Walsh
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

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