

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: District Manager

SUBJECT: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION; RALSTON WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

DATE: October 25, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and adopt the attached resolution approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, for the Ralston Water Tank Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Mitigated Negative Declaration, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that was agendized at the October 18, 2007 regular Board of Directors Meeting was continued to the November 1, 2007 meeting.

The adopted annual budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 provides funding for the Ralston Water Tank Replacement Project. The proposed project includes the relocation and replacement of the existing Ralston Water Storage Tank generally located along Ralston Ridge Road, Boulder Creek. The proposed project also includes the installation of approximately 1,000 lineal feet of new 8-inch water distribution mainline. The new water mainline would extend from the Ralston Water Storage Tank to Timberwood Road.

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has a policy which requires County Planning Commission review of any water main extension intended to serve property in the Mountain Residential, Open Space or Timber Production Zone Districts. The purpose of this review is to ensure conformity with the County General Plan. The Timberwood Road area is designated as Mountain Residential. In October 2004 the District submitted a request to the Planning Commission for review of a proposed water mainline extension in the Timberwood Road area as to conformity with the General Plan. In March 2005 the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission determined the proposed water mainline extension to Timberwood Road was consistent with the County General Plan.

Staff engaged the services of Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc., Planning and Environmental Consultants, Monterey, California to conduct an Initial Study for the proposed project pursuant to the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of an Initial Study is to determine if the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. The District is the "Lead Agency" relative to the proposed project and responsible for implementation of CEQA requirements. The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects on the environment. Pursuant to CEQA, the District prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Mitigated Negative Declaration addresses all identified potential environmental effects of the proposed project and finds, based upon agreed revisions

to the project which clearly mitigate the effects, there will not be a significant effect on the environment. The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project has determined that there will not be a significant effect on the environment. A copy of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is transmitted under separate cover for your review and consideration.

On August 28, 2007 a copy of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was submitted to the State Clearinghouse and public notice given in accordance with CEQA guidelines. Pursuant to the "Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration" dated August 28, 2007, written comments could be submitted to the District on or before the close of the 30-day public review period. The public review period closed on September 28, 2007. The District received no verbal or written comments from the public during the review period.

When approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Lead Agency must also adopt a monitoring or reporting program for the mitigation measures made a condition of the project approval to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects. As required by CEQA, the District has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Ralston Water Storage Tank Replacement Project. See Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and adopt the attached resolution approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, for the Ralston Water Tank Replacement Project.

James A. Mueller
District Manager

JAM/bsb

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. (07-08)

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE RALSTON WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, The Ralston Water Tank Replacement Project (the "Project") consists of the replacement and relocation of the Ralston Water Storage Tank generally located along Ralston Ridge Road, Boulder Creek, California; and

WHEREAS, the Project also includes the installation of approximately 1,000 lineal feet of new 8-inch water distribution mainline along Timberwood Road and;

WHEREAS, in March 2005 the District received a determination from the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission that the proposed Project was consistent with the County General Plan; and

WHEREAS, an environmental review of the Project was conducted in accordance with the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, said environmental review resulted in the preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration identified appropriate measures to mitigate the identified impacts to a level that is less than significant; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was available for public review from August 28, 2007 to September 28, 2007; and

WHEREAS, no verbal or written comments were received by the District relative to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has reviewed and considered all environmental documents composing the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program including public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors finds said documents fully comply with all requirements of CEQA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District as follows:

1. The Board finds that the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared pursuant to CEQA; and

2. The Board of Directors has review and considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process prior to acting on the Project; and
3. The Board of Directors finds that, based on the whole of the record before it, including all documents and comments, there is substantial evidence the Project will not have a significant impact on the environment with the incorporation of the mitigation measures included therein; and
4. The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ralston Water Tank Replacement Project, incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted; and
5. The documents which constitute the record of proceedings for approving this Project are located at the District Office, 13060 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, California; and
6. The Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program, incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit B, is hereby adopted.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, on the 1st day of November 2007, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Brandon Barchi
District Secretary
San Lorenzo Valley Water District