San Lorenzo Valley WATER DISTRICT

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Redwood Park Tank Common Facts, Answers, and Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ is a summary of the SLVWD's responses to comments received during the Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) public review period. To review the comment letters and detailed responses or to review the Final IS-MND visit the District's website here:

https://www.slvwd.com/home/pages/redwood-park-tank-project-swim-tanks

Project justifications:

1. Why are the two 20,000 gallon leaking water storage tanks being replaced by a 125,000-gallon bolted steel tank?

   The two 20,000 gallon tanks are undersized and do not offer adequate fire flow for the service area. The Ben Lomond Fire District and the County of Santa Cruz assessed fire flow needs for the neighborhood and determined a 125,000-gallon water tank is needed in the vicinity of the project site. This tank size is considered to be a standard tank size for fire flow requirements in the county.

2. Why does the project propose to replace 400 linear feet of 8-inch water pipeline during the water tank construction? Why would the District choose high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and how will they protect it from potential fire damage?

   The 400 linear feet of 2-inch main pipeline currently servicing the homes off of Country Club Drive is near its maximum life expectancy and has been causing the area loss of water through leaks and associated out-of-waters during repairs. The new pipeline will not only prevent reoccurring leaks but also efficiently connect the original tank site to the new tank site and the larger mainline in the roadway.

   The current pipeline is also undersized for fire flow requirements; currently two-inch diameter pipeline. The project would upgrade the pipeline to an eight-inch diameter increasing fire flow and exceeding the four-inch diameter minimum set by the County and Ben Lomond Fire requirements.

   After further consideration, the District has decided to use a ductile steel pipeline instead of the previously chosen HDPE. This update will be reflected in the IS-MND before the document is finalized. The proposed pipeline would be installed entirely underground, approximately three feet below the ground's surface, where it would be further protected from wildfire conditions.

3. Why is the original site of the water storage tanks (located at 1045 Country Club Drive) not being used for the new tank? Why is the new tank site (Assessor's Parcel Number 078-233-05, located northwest of the intersection of Country Club Drive and Dundee Avenue) being chosen?

The proposed project site was chosen by SLVWD for the following reasons:

- The site is located near existing tie-in infrastructure and is large enough to accommodate the needed 125,000-gallon water tank;
- The site offers a much more cost-efficient solution compared to alternate sites in the area while meeting standard fire flow tank size requirements;
- The site is situated at the correct elevation for water delivery throughout the neighborhood;
- The slope at the site is relatively flat, and the geotechnical investigation determined it would be feasible to construct the proposed project without grading; and
- As compared to other potential sites in the area, the proposed site would require fewer trees to be removed to accommodate the proposed infrastructure.

Traffic & Essential Services Access:

1. What hours will construction occur? When will the project begin and how long will it take to complete?

   Construction of the proposed project would occur during the working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents, emergency services (e.g., medical, fire, police), and other services (e.g., mail delivery, garbage and recycling pickup) would have coordinated access to Country Club Drive, and surrounding streets throughout the construction period.

   Construction is estimated to commence in Spring 2021 and last for 12 months. Temporary traffic delays are proposed only during pipeline construction, which would take approximately two weeks to complete. Road access would not be blocked for the entire two-week duration of construction. As noted in the Master Traffic Response, residents would be contacted before roadway construction begins to schedule services around daily roadway openings and establish communication protocols with SLVWD for accommodating unscheduled access needs.

2. How will residents access their homes? Will roads be closed?

   No roadblocks are proposed during the construction of the water tank. However, temporary traffic delays are proposed during pipeline construction, which would take approximately two weeks to complete. Road access would still be passable for the entire two-week duration of construction, as there would be scheduled times in which vehicle access would be restored. The portion of the roadway under construction would be re-opened for traffic for increments of 15 minutes once every 45 minutes to one hour. In emergency access or evacuation scenarios, steel plates placed alongside active trenches would quickly be used to restore vehicle access in the roadway.

Per standard SLVWD practice for projects in roadways, outside the active construction hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., steel roadway plates would cover open pipeline trenches, and vehicle access would be restored.

If residents have a special request for timed access (e.g., a scheduled time they need to leave or return to their home, scheduled construction at their home, etc.), they can contact SLVWD to accommodate road access at the scheduled time.

3. How does the District accommodate emergency, postal, garbage, and recycling services during construction?

   Service providers (including emergency personnel, postal service, garbage, and recycling) would be contacted before roadway construction begins to schedule services around daily roadway opening and establish communication protocols with SLVWD for accommodating unscheduled access needs.

   In emergency access or evacuation scenarios, steel plates placed alongside active trenches would quickly be used to restore vehicle access in the roadway. As noted in Section 17, Transportation, of the Draft ISMND, "per the SLVWD construction contractor specifications, contractors would be responsible for basic traffic control measures to ensure the safety of vehicle traffic and material delivery, including providing flag persons at affected roadway segments and/or intersections and traffic control signage." These traffic safety measures would minimize risks associated with traffic backups which could limit access for emergency services.

4. Will construction personnel vehicles be parked on roadways causing additional traffic issues?

   SLVWD's standard contractor specifications include provisions requiring the roadway not to be blocked by parked construction personnel vehicles. The SLVWD will implement standard traffic safety controls through its construction consultant to ensure no vehicles block the roadway.

Noise:

1. How will construction contribute to neighborhood noise? Will residents be affected on weekends and holidays?

   Construction of the proposed project would occur during the working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday only, excluding holidays. The project includes several measures to reduce construction noise. Construction equipment would be required to install equipment shielding and noise mufflers. All contractors would be required to maintain and tune-up all construction equipment to minimize noise emissions. Unnecessary engine idling (over five minutes) would be prohibited. Construction-generated noise was modeled in the IS-MND using worst-case assumptions about equipment usage. As confirmed by the noise modeling,

construction-generated noise levels would not exceed the daytime noise threshold and impacts would be less than significant.

2. How much noise will the new pump station contribute to the neighborhood? Will I be able to hear the pumps from my home?

   The proposed water pumps would be operational for up to three hours per day. The pumps would not operate continuously during nighttime hours. Based on reference noise level measurements taken at existing water pump stations at other locations, pump stations with one to two water pumps generate noise levels between approximately 55 dBA Leq[1] at a distance of five feet from the pumps. At the tank site property line, noise levels associated with the operation of the new pump station were conservatively modeled to be approximately 43 dBA Leq, and would not exceed the County's threshold of 75 dBA. In addition, the proposed pumps would be located inside a concrete pump station, the walls of which would further attenuate (decrease) noise levels associated with the proposed pumps.

   For the full results of the noise analysis, including modeled noise levels at nearby residences, see the IS-MND at the District's website. For a better understanding of dBA, see the summary decibel level comparison chart below:

Decibel Level Comparison Chart

Environmental Noise	*dBA*
Jet engine at 100'	140
Pain Begins	*125*
Pneumatic chipper at ear	120
Chain saw at 3'	110
Power mower	107
Subway train at 200'	95
Walkman on 5/10	94
Level at which sustained exposure may result in hearing loss	*80-90*
City Traffic	85
Telephone dial tone	80
Chamber music, in a small auditorium	75-85
Vacuum cleaner	75
Normal conversation	60-70
Business Office	60-65
Household refrigerator	55
Suburban area at night	40
Whisper	25
Quiet natural area with no wind	20
Threshold of hearing	0

[1] When people make relative judgments of the loudness or annoyance of a sound, their judgments correlate well with the "A-weighted" levels of those sounds. The "dBA" is understood to identify the A-weighted decibel. The Leq is the one-hour equivalent noise level.

Project Staging:

Where will project staging occur? Will staging affect traffic in the neighborhood?

Construction staging of smaller equipment and materials would occur primarily within the boundaries of the project site. Larger equipment (e.g., water tank) may be temporarily staged at the large, flat, previously graded turnout off State Route (SR) 9 across from Highlands County Park at 8500 CA-9 in Ben Lomond. Construction staging would not involve ground disturbance. In addition, temporarily staged equipment would not occupy the entire turnout area. No lane closures of SR 9 would be required. Staging should not affect parking or traffic within the neighborhood.

Tank Size:

Why is the tank proposed to be 125,000 gallons?

The Ben Lomond Fire District and the County of Santa Cruz assessed fire flow needs for the neighborhood and determined a 125,000-gallon water tank is needed in the vicinity of the project site. This tank size is considered to be the standard tank size for fire flow requirements in the county. The County's fire flow requirements are based on a fire occurring at a single residence and do not account for wildland fires. However, the improvement of tank capacity to the standard 125,000 gallons of storage (from 40,000 gallons) for the neighborhood would significantly improve fire protection to all homes. Increased tank size allows for more water security and decreases the chance of the tank emptying. The automatic pump to fill the tank is also set to begin pumping when the water level drops to a certain height. This adds additional water security and will help maintain water levels in case of an emergency.