



Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project

Addendum to the Rancho Cañada Replacement Project
Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration
SCH#2020080552

prepared by

Carmel Area Wastewater District

P.O. Box 221428

Carmel, California 93922

Contact: Rachél Lather, PE

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

437 Figueroa Street, Suite 203

Monterey, California 93940

November 2020



RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers

rinconconsultants.com

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Background	3
3	Proposed Text Amendments	5
4	Environmental Analysis	7
5	Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project.....	9
6	Conclusion.....	13
7	References and Preparers.....	15

Figures

Figure 1	Location of Third Access Road	6
----------	-------------------------------------	---

1 Introduction

This document is an Addendum to the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) (State Clearinghouse No. 2020080552) certified in October 2020. In accordance with Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, a Lead Agency shall prepare an Addendum to an IS-MND if some changes or additions are necessary that will not have significant new impacts or substantially increase previously identified significant impacts. Specifically, the *CEQA Guidelines* state:

- The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously Approved IS-MND if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred (Section 15164[a]);
- An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration (Section 15164[c]);
- The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project (Section 15164[d]); and
- A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence (Section 15164[e]).

This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with relevant provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended) and the *CEQA Guidelines*.

According to Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, an addendum to a previously certified EIR or IS-MND is the appropriate environmental document in instances when “only minor technical changes or additions are necessary” and when the new information does not involve new significant environmental effects beyond those identified in the previous IS-MND.

This Addendum describes the details of proposed amendments to the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project and compares impacts resulting from these amendments to those identified in the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project IS-MND. The analysis demonstrates that the environmental impacts of the proposed text amendment are within the scope of the impacts of the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project.

This page left intentionally blank.

2 Background

This section provides an overview of the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project and its IS-MND to provide context for this Addendum.

Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project

In October 2020, the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) Board approved the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project (proposed project). The proposed project would replace an existing sewer main within Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRP) and in portions of private land in the Carmel Valley. The existing water main currently experiences capacity issues and surcharging because of current flows. Project consists of replacing an existing sewer main with installation of a total of 4,240 linear (LF) of new gravity sewer mains and 790 LF of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer main, the majority of which would be located alongside the existing alignment. Sewer lateral connections to the existing sewer main would be reconnected to the new sewer main.

Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project IS-MND

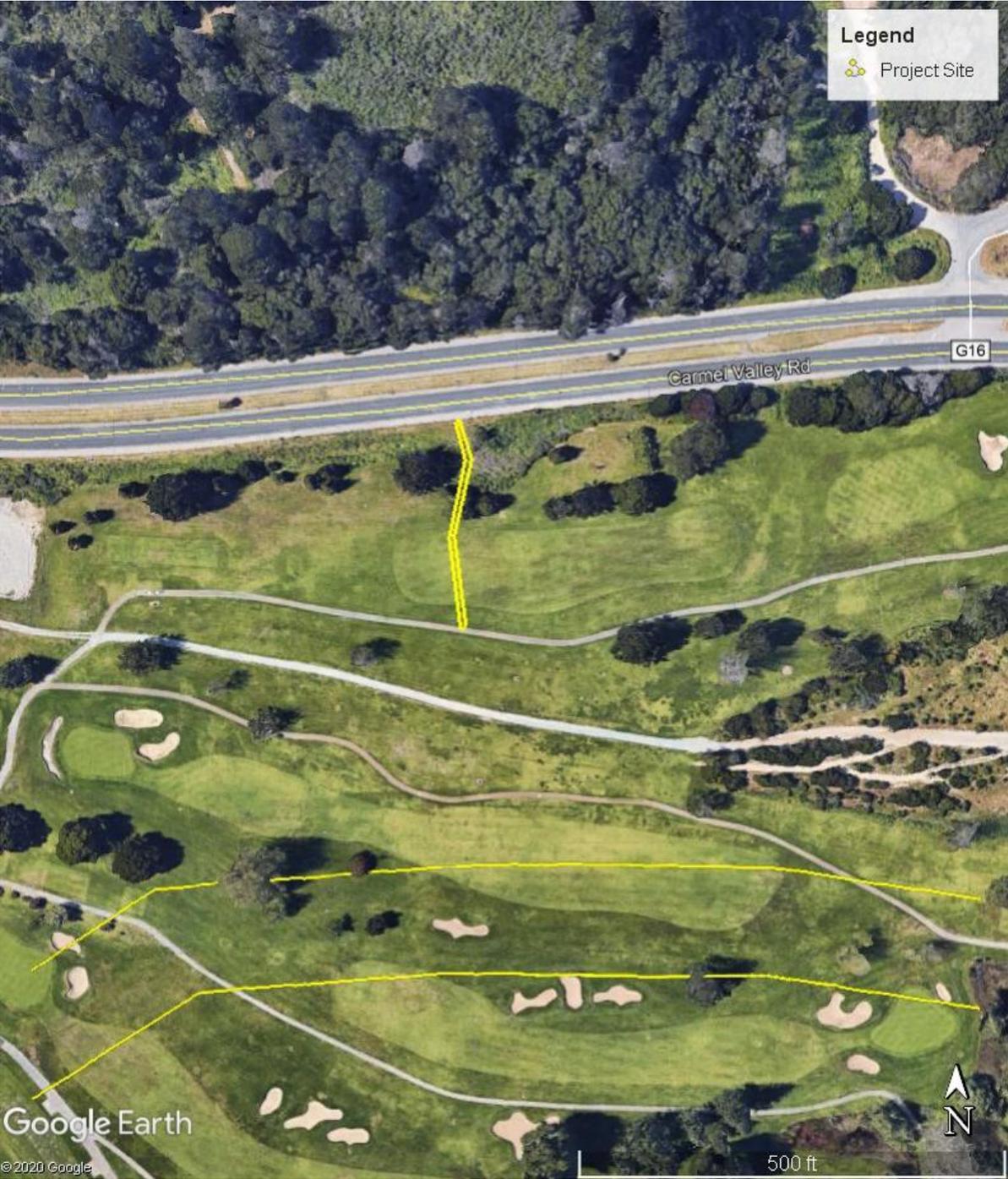
The CAWD Board approved the IS-MND for the proposed project in October 2020 (Approved IS-MND). The Approved IS-MND evaluated potential environmental consequences of implementation of the proposed project. Mitigation measures were identified to reduce or avoid potential adverse environmental effects associated with the proposed project. Mitigation measures were identified for the following resource areas: biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, and noise. Refer to Section 5, *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project*, for a list of specific measures required as part of the Approved IS-MND. The IS-MND assumed that the project site would be accessed during construction via two entrances: the PCRP Rio Road entrance (to access west staging area) and via a private gate on the east side of PCRP (to access east staging area). Additional project access would be via Via Petra and Via Mallorca for work within the public right-of-way. Subsequent actions that propose changes or potential project-specific impacts not covered in the Approved IS-MND would warrant additional project-specific environmental review, as required by CEQA.

This page left intentionally blank.

3 Proposed Amendments

The revised Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project (Modified Project) would include adding a third construction access point to the project site to allow the contractor an additional point of access to the project site, as shown in Figure 1. The third access point is an existing graded dirt road off of Carmel Valley Road approximately 0.4 mile east of the PCRCP parking lot entrance at Rio Road. The graded dirt road is approximately 0.1 mile in length. The newly renovated road was constructed by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to access a fire staging area. The Modified Project would not require alteration of the existing road that would only be used to access the project site. The third access point would be used by all large trucks for construction and equipment/material deliveries to the site, to the extent feasible.

Figure 1 Location of Third Access Road



4 Environmental Analysis

Pursuant to Section 21166 of CEQA and Section 15162 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, when an IS-MND has been certified for a project, no subsequent documentation shall be prepared for the project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, that one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Substantial project changes are proposed that will require major revisions of the previous IS-MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- Substantial changes would occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that require major revisions to the previous IS-MND to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- New information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous IS-MND was certified shows any of the following:
 - a) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous IS-MND.
 - b) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than identified in the previous IS-MND.
 - c) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponent declines to adopt the mitigation measures.
 - d) Mitigation measures that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous IS-MND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponent declines to adopt the mitigation measures.

Where none of the conditions specified in Section 15162 are present, the lead agency must determine whether to prepare an Addendum or whether no further CEQA documentation is required (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162[b]). An Addendum is appropriate where some minor technical changes or additions to the previously Approved IS-MND are necessary, but there are no new or substantially more severe significant impacts (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164).

In accordance with the *CEQA Guidelines*, CAWD has determined that an Addendum to the Approved IS-MND is the appropriate form of environmental review for the proposed project. This examination includes an analysis of the provisions of Section 21166 of CEQA and Sections 15162 to 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines* and their applicability to the proposed project.

As discussed in the impact analysis below, the proposed project would not introduce new significant environmental impacts beyond those which have already been identified and characterized in the Approved IS-MND. None of the conditions described in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162 calling for preparation subsequent documentation have occurred or would occur as a result of the proposed project. This Addendum will be considered by the CAWD decision-making body in making a decision on the proposed project.

This page left intentionally blank.

5 Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

This Addendum evaluates potential environmental impacts that could result from the Modified Project, which includes a third construction access point, in relation to the analysis in the Approved IS-MND for the Rancho Cañada Sewer Replacement Project.

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* provides a checklist of environmental issue areas that are suggested as the issue areas that should be assessed in CEQA analyses. The Approved IS-MND addressed in detail all environmental issue areas in Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, as listed below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Aesthetics | 11. Land Use/Planning |
| 2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources | 12. Mineral Resources |
| 3. Air Quality | 13. Noise |
| 4. Biological Resources | 14. Population/Housing |
| 5. Cultural Resources | 15. Public Services |
| 6. Energy | 16. Recreation |
| 7. Geology/Soils | 17. Transportation |
| 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions | 18. Tribal Cultural Resources |
| 9. Hazards & Hazardous Materials | 19. Utilities/Service Systems |
| 10. Hydrology/Water Quality | 20. Wildfire |

The existing environmental conditions at the project site and its surroundings are substantially the same under present conditions as described in the Approved IS-MND. Potential environmental impacts of the Modified Project are analyzed below to determine whether impacts are consistent with the impact analysis provided in the Approved IS-MND, and whether additional mitigation measures are required to minimize or avoid potential impacts.

Approved IS-MND Analysis Summary

The Approved IS-MND determined that impacts to biological resources; cultural, tribal cultural and paleontological resources; and noise could be reduced to less than significant levels with mitigation. Mitigation proposed in the Approved IS-MND included:

- Conducting biological resources worker environmental awareness program (WEAP) during construction;
- Conducting western bumble bee preconstruction survey;
- California reg-legged frog avoidance and minimization;
- Spill and debris prevention;
- Wildlife entrapment prevention;
- Nesting bird surveys prior to construction;
- Monterey shrew clearance surveys;

- Western pond turtle clearance surveys;
- Conducting jurisdictional delineations for potential wetlands;
- Sensitive natural community avoidance;
- Archaeological and Native American monitoring;
- Conducting archaeological inventories and resource avoidance measures if archaeological resources are discovered;
- Conducting a paleontological resource monitoring, assessment, and avoidance measures;
- Conducting consultation with California Native American tribe(s) following any discovery of unanticipated tribal cultural resources; and
- Implementing construction noise reduction measures.

Proposed Project

This discussion groups impact topics to allow a concise analysis of similar or related issue areas.

- **Aesthetics.** The Modified Project would not result in changes to project aesthetics by permitting construction vehicles on a third access road. The access road is currently in place, and the Modified Project would not modify the existing road. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or a substantially more severe impact to aesthetics.
- **Agriculture, Forestry and Mineral Resources.** The Modified Project would not expand the project site to include agricultural lands, lands under a Williamson act contract, timberlands, forest lands, mineral resource zones, or mineral resource extraction sites. Therefore, the Modified Project would continue to have no impact on agricultural or mineral resources.
- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Because the Modified Project would not include modifications to the new construction access road, it would not result in additional construction equipment, nor would it result in increased pipeline capacity. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or in a substantially more severe impact to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Biological.** The Modified Project would not result in greater ground disturbance, habitat modifications, or other alterations in the allowed development footprint that would increase or otherwise modify potential impacts to biological resources from those identified in the Approved IS-MND. The access road proposed under the Modified Project is an existing graded road. No additional ground disturbance would occur. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or a substantially more severe impact to biological resources in the project vicinity. Mitigation proposed in the Approved IS-MND to reduce potential impacts to biological resources, such as species avoidance measures and preconstruction surveys, would still apply to the Modified Project.
- **Cultural, Paleontological, and Tribal Cultural Resources.** The Modified Project would not result in greater ground disturbance or other alterations that would increase or otherwise modify potential impacts to cultural, paleontological, or tribal cultural resources from those identified in the Approved IS-MND. The access road proposed under the Modified Project is an existing grading road. No additional ground disturbance would occur. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or a substantially more severe impact to these resources. Mitigation proposed in the Approved IS-MND to reduce potential impacts to these resource areas would still apply to the Modified Project.

- **Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality.** As described above, the Modified Project would not result in greater ground disturbance. Therefore, potential impacts to geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality would remain consistent with those described in the Approved IS-MND and the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or a substantially more severe impact to these resources.
- **Noise.** The Modified Project would not result in changes to project operation and thus would not result in additional operational noise. The proposed new access road would be used by construction vehicles traveling to the project site. Construction equipment would be staged on the project site and would use the access road at the start and completion of construction. Worker vehicle trips along the access road would be temporary and minimal as the third access road would be mainly used for large truck traffic/equipment and deliveries. The Modified project would move large truck traffic/equipment and deliveries further from existing residences, thus reducing construction noise at sensitive receivers. The Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe noise impacts. Mitigation proposed in the Approved IS-MND to reduce potential impacts from noise would still apply to the Modified Project.
- **Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation.** The Modified Project would not increase the allowable density or intensity of development at the project site, physically divide an established community, or conflict with a land use plan. Therefore, there is no anticipated increase in population and housing, demand for public services, demand for recreational facilities, and demand for utilities beyond that analyzed in the Approved IS-MND. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts to these resources.
- **Transportation.** The Modified Project would not increase the allowable density or intensity of development of the project and thus there would be no increase in trip generation and demand for transportation facilities beyond that analyzed in the Approved IS-MND. Similar to the Approved IS-MND, trips to the site would use Carmel Valley Road to travel to the access roads to the project site. No new trips would result from the Modified Project. Trips already analyzed as part of the Approved IS-MND would be redistributed between the three access roads, as compared to the two access roads analyzed as part of the Approved IS-MND. This change would reduce traffic through the public access and PCRCP parking lot at the western portion of the project site. The contractor would be directed to utilize the third access point for all large truck traffic and equipment/material deliveries to the extent feasible, instead of the two other access points also off Carmel Valley Road. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts to transportation.
- **Energy.** As discussed above, the Modified Project would not increase the allowable density or intensity of project development. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in an increase in demand on energy resources and would continue to have no significant impact on energy.
- **Wildfire.** The third construction access point would not alter the project site to result in an increased risk of wildfire and is part of the fire response staging area in PCRCP. Therefore, the Modified Project would have no impact in terms of wildfire risk.

Effects and Mitigation Measures

As described above, it has been determined that the Modified Project is consistent with the analysis of the Approved IS-MND and would not result in new or substantially more severe impacts beyond those identified in the Approved IS-MND. Mitigation measures identified in the Approved IS-MND would remain applicable to the Modified Project. Additionally, the Modified Project is consistent with the findings and conclusions of the Approved IS-MND regarding mandatory findings of significance.

6 Conclusion

As discussed in the preceding section, there are no new or substantially more severe impacts associated with the Modified Project than those identified and mitigated for in the Approved IS-MND. Subsequent documentation is not necessary because no new impacts or impacts of substantially greater severity than previously described would occur as a result of the Modified Project. Therefore, the following determinations have been made:

- No further evaluation of environmental impacts is required for the proposed project;
- No Subsequent EIR is necessary per CEQA Guidelines Section 15162; and
- This Addendum is the appropriate level of environmental analysis and documentation for the Approved IS-MND in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164(c), this Addendum will be included in the public record for the Approved IS-MND. Documents related to this Addendum will be available at the Carmel Area Wastewater District offices, 3945 Rio Road, Carmel, California 93922, and online at www.cawd.org.

This page left intentionally blank.

7 Preparers

This Addendum was prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc. under contract to the Carmel Area Wastewater District. Persons and firms involved in data gathering, analysis, project management, and quality control include:

Carmel Area Wastewater District (Lead Agency)

Rachél Lather, Principal Engineer

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Megan Jones, Principal

Kari Zajac, MESM, Project Manager

This page left intentionally blank.