

21-2025-074  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☐ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Suite 121  
Sacramento, California 95814

From: Novato Sanitary District  
500 Davidson Street  
Novato, CA 94945

☒ County Clerk of Marin County

FILED

MAY 20 2025

SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
BY: Shelly Scott, Deputy

**Project Title**

Collection System Improvements; Project No. 72706-2021-02, Main Interceptor 2 Repairs at Novato Creek Project

**Project Location (Specific):**

The project is located within the Novato Sanitary District's sewer easement located between South Novato Blvd. and Novato Creek. The sewer easement is located on Parcel 140-221-40, owned by the Marin County Flood Control District.

**Project Location (City):**

Novato

**Project Location - County**

Marin

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project**

This activity consists of the discretionary approval for the project. The project consists of rehabilitating 885 LF of 36" sewer main pipe by slip-lining it with PVC pipe sections, rehabilitation of three (3) sewer manholes, including a siphon manhole upstream of the Main Interceptor sewer siphon, and sewer bypassing operations necessary to construct the project. This work is being completed to repair damage from hydrogen sulfide from over fifty years of service. The corrosive elements have resulted in structural damage to the siphon manhole and upstream pipes, resulting in the possibility of environmental damage from sanitary sewer overflows or exfiltration into the surrounding environment. The beneficiaries of the project include the people served by the Novato Sanitary District and the people of the State of California, by eliminating the potential for discharge of sewage into nearby soils, groundwater and Novato Creek.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project**

Novato Sanitary District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project**

Novato Sanitary District

**Exempt Status: (Check One)**

- ☐ Ministerial (Section 15073)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15071(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Section 15071(b) and (c))
- ☒ Categorical or Statutory Exemption. State type and section number: State Guidelines Section 15302(c), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structures will be located on the same site as the structures replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced.

**Reasons why project is exempt**

This project meets the criteria of a Class II categorical exemption, as set forth in Section 15302 of the State Guidelines. This determination is made because the work is considered a replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structures will be located on the same site as the structures replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced.

**Contact Person**

Sandeep K. Karkal, General Manager-Chief Engineer

**Phone Number**

415-892-1694

**Date Received for Filing**

Sandeep K. Karkal  
Signature

General Manager-Chief Engineer

Title

21-2025-079  
NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT  
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Name of Project:

Collection System Improvements, District Project No. 72706-2021-01, Main Interceptor 2 Repairs at Novato Creek Project.

Location and Description:

The project is located within the Novato Sanitary District's sewer easement located between South Novato Blvd. and Novato Creek. The sewer easement is located on Parcel 140-221-40, owned by the Marin County Flood Control District. The project consists of rehabilitating 885 LF of 36" sewer main pipe by slip-lining it with PVC pipe sections, rehabilitation of three (3) sewer manholes, including a siphon manhole upstream of the Main Interceptor sewer siphon, and sewer bypassing operations necessary to construct the project. This work is being completed to repair damage from hydrogen sulfide from over fifty years of service. The corrosive elements have resulted in structural damage to the siphon manhole and upstream pipes, resulting in the possibility of environmental damage from sanitary sewer overflows or exfiltration into the surrounding environment.

Entity or Person Undertaking Project:

Novato Sanitary District

Staff Determination:

The District, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), finds that this work does not require further environmental assessment as the project is Categorically Exempt under State CEQA Guidelines – **Class II** (Section 15302, (c)). This determination was made because the work consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Date: 05/14/2025

Authorized Person: Joseph S. Kayser

FILED

MAY 20 2025

SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
BY: AS, Deputy



21-2025-074  
**NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**TITLE: Capital Projects: Collection System Improvements (Main Interceptor 2 Repairs at Novato Creek Project), Account No. 72706.**

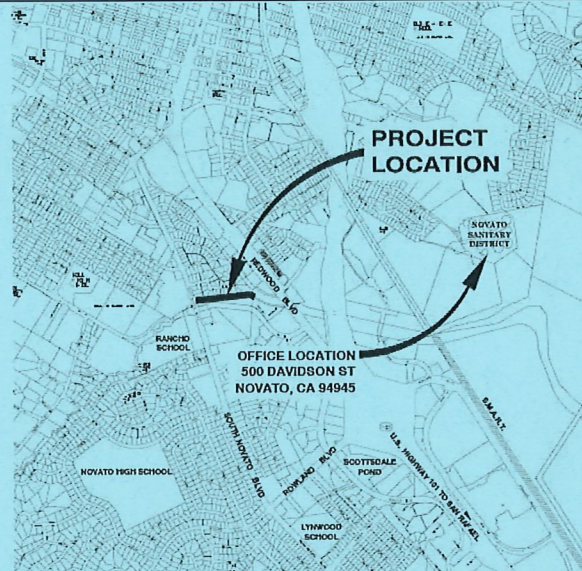
**MEETING DATE: May 12, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEMS NO.: 9.b.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Make California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings that the project is categorically exempt; and authorize the General Manager-Chief Engineer to accept plans and specifications and advertise for bids – Main Interceptor 2 Repairs at Novato Creek Project; Project No. 72706-2021-02.**

**SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION:**

District staff worked with the District's consultant NUTE Engineering, Inc. to prepare plans and specifications for this project and the project is ready to advertise for bids. The project consists of rehabilitating 885 LF of 36" sewer main pipe by slip-lining it with PVC pipe sections, rehabilitation of three (3) sewer manholes, including a siphon manhole upstream of the Main Interceptor sewer siphon at Novato Creek and associated tasks to perform the work including sewer bypassing, dewatering, excavation, traffic control, and surface restoration. The need for this project was identified in 2023 following inspections which revealed structural damage caused by hydrogen sulfide corrosion. The project was designated at that time as a high priority structural rehabilitation project.



The Engineer's Estimate for this work is \$745,637. Staff completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and determined that the project is Categorical Exempt. This determination was made because the work consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Staff recommend that the Board authorize the General Manager-Chief Engineer to accept plans and specifications and advertise for bids. Bids are expected to be received on or about June 18, 2025 and will be presented to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

**NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT**

Approved by District Board on May 12, 2025

*[Signature]*

**General Manager-Chief Engineer**

**STRATEGIC PLAN INFORMATION:** This item addresses Goal 2 (Facilities) of the latest Strategic Plan.

**BUDGET INFORMATION:** Current design phase work is occurring under the existing adopted FY 24-25 budget. Should the District move forward with the Project, the work will be funded under Account No. 72706 – Collection System Improvements. The proposed FY 25-26 preliminary budget includes \$4,230,000 for this Account.

**Prepared by: ep**

**Reviewed by General Manager: SSK**