

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**Novato Creek Flood Control Dredging Project in Marin County, California
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Director of the Marin County Department of Public Works (MCDPW) will consider approval of a proposed project by the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) in Flood Control Zone 1, which includes portions of Novato Creek, both east and west of US Highway 101 near San Pablo Bay (project area). In 2008, the District adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the overall Novato Dredge project, with an Addendum approved in 2012. In 2016 the proposed modifications to the project include only changes to the transport and placement of dredged material from Novato Creek; there are no proposed changes to the dredging aspect of the project along Novato Creek. The proposed changes described in the Subsequent Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SIS/MND) include storage and reuse of dredged sediment to reconstruct an existing levee core, creation of a new eco-tone slope on the same levee, and sediment placement in a new thin layer of the Deer Island Flood Basin to adapt to sea level rise. The SIS/MND also conceptually evaluates the use of dredged material to support future alternatives as described in the Hydraulic Analysis of Alternatives for the Novato Creek Watershed Project (KHE 2016).

A draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for the project pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, and is available at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/environmental-review> and from the Marin County Department of Public Works. The 30-day public review and comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration commences on April 22, 2016. The MCDPW will accept written comments that it has received or with a postmark before the close of the public review period, **May 23, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.** The MCDPW cannot confirm that it received comments sent by FAX or E-mail before the end of the comment period deadline. Interested parties should send written comments to the attention of Dave Nicholson at Marin County Department of Public Works, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 304; San Rafael, CA 94903. Copies of the SIS/MND are available at the Marin County Department of Public Works, (415) 473-6528. Copies of all documents incorporated by reference into the SIS/MND are also available for public review at the Marin County Department of Public Works or the Marin County Community Development Agency. **Public comments regarding the project will be taken at the Flood Control Zone 1 Advisory Board meeting May 5, 2016 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Novato Fire Protection District Board Room at 7025 Redwood Blvd., Novato CA.**

The proposed changes include storage and reuse of dredged sediment to reconstruct an existing levee core, creation of a new eco-tone slope on the same levee, and new thin layer sediment placement in Deer Island Flood Basin to adapt to sea level rise. This Subsequent Initial Study also conceptually evaluates the use of dredged material to support future alternatives as described in the Hydraulic Analysis of Alternatives for the Novato Creek Watershed Project (KHE 2016).

The Mitigated Negative Declaration finds that the project would result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts related to topical issues 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 14 below, and identifies feasible mitigation measures to either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the environmental impacts.

1) Land Use & Planning	6) Transportation/Circulation	11) Public Services
2) Population & Housing	7) Biological Resources	12) Utilities & Service Systems
3) Geophysical	8) Energy & Natural Resources	13) Aesthetics/Visual Resources
4) Water	9) Hazards	14) Cultural Resources
5) Air Quality	10) Noise	15) Social & Economic Effects Related to Physical Impacts

Prior to taking any action on the merits of the project, the Director of the Marin County Department of Public Works will consider the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impacts for this project.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed project, or want notification of the decision, please contact Dave Nicholson at (415) 473-6535.