

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for
North Marin Water District Old Ranch Road Tank No. 2 Project

To: State Clearinghouse (15 usb drives)
Marin County Community Development Dept
Novato Fire Protection District
Old Ranch Road Property Owners

From: North Marin Water District
999 Rush Creek Place
Novato, CA 94945

Notice: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15072, notice is hereby given that the North Marin Water District (NMWD), acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project.

Project Location and Description: The project includes constructing a new water tank (referred to as "Tank No. 2") within an approximately 20,000-square-foot parcel that would be created by grant within the southern corner of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 146-310-05 (about 44 acres currently). The parcels involved in the project are APN 146-310-23 (owned by NMWD), APN 146-310-05 (Maiero Grant Deed and Easement), APN 146-310-44 (Wright Easement). The project site is within Marin County just outside the western boundary of the City of Novato.

The new tank would replace an existing tank also located off Old Ranch Road. The planned improvements also include constructing a new road to provide access to Tank No. 2 from Old Ranch Road. New pavement, surface drainage improvements, underground utilities, and other ancillary improvements are included as part of the project. A locked gate would be placed at the access road where it would connect to Old Ranch Road. The gate would be about 15 to 20 feet from the intersection of Old Ranch Road and the tank access road.

The new tank would be 28 feet in diameter and 26 feet tall (22 feet to overflow) and made of welded steel. It would have a storage capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons.

The proposed site for the replacement water tank and the access road would require grading. The disturbed area would encompass 0.62 acre, including 0.17 acre of the Maiero Grant Deed, 0.28 acre of the Maiero Easement, 0.16 acre of the Wright Easement, and 0.01 acre of the NMWD parcel. Site grading for the building pad would consist primarily of excavation. The tank pad would be constructed at elevation 516 feet, and cuts of up to 12 feet are anticipated to achieve finished grades at the tank site. The total estimated cut volume would be 1,911 cubic yards (CY), and the total estimated fill volume would be 1,281 CY, resulting in off-haul of about 630 CY of soil. Accounting for the "swell factor" of 1.25, the off-haul would be about 788 CY. The cut slopes would be no steeper than 1.5:1 and fill slopes would be 2:1.

To construct the new tank and access road, existing vegetation including trees would have to be cleared. It is estimated that the project would require removal of 71 trees (62 oaks, 4 madrones, and 5 California bay trees).

Potential Environmental Impacts: The proposed MND did not find any potential environmental impacts that could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

Public Review Period: The public review period for the MND commences on **November 15, 2019** and ends on **December 16, 2019 (5:00 PM)**. Please address all comments in writing to Mr. Rocky Vogler, Chief Engineer, by email to rvogler@nmwd.com or by mail to 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, CA, 94945. NMWD will only accept written comments during the comment period. If sending email, please use "Tank No. 2 IS Comments" in the subject line.

Location Where Documents Can Be Reviewed: The MND and all documents referenced therein are available for review at the NMWD offices located at 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, CA, from the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, by contacting NMWD Engineering Secretary Eileen Mulliner at (415) 761-8913. The MND is also available for review at www.nmwd.com.

Public Hearing: NMWD will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on the MND and the proposed project at the regular NMWD Board of Trustees Meeting of **January 7, 2020**, at 6PM at the NMWD offices located at 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, CA. Additional information about the proposed project, including project plans, are available on the NMWD's website at the address listed above.