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Date: December 14, 2021

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ 4/5 Vote Required

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**Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Water Agency Determining That The Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct Cathodic Protection Project Will Not Have A Significant Adverse Effect On The Environment, Adopting The Initial Study And Mitigated Negative Declaration For The Project, Adopting Mitigation Measures And The Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program, Making Certain Related Findings, and Approving The Project. (Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth District)**

**Whereas**, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) proposes to install, operate and maintain cathodic protection state and test stations along the Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct; vegetation maintenance activities associated with both aqueducts; and vegetation management at one location on the Petaluma Aqueduct, to provide reliable water supply to its service area; and

**Whereas**, Sonoma Water, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact (Initial Study) for the Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct Cathodic Protection (Project), in accordance with CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and Sonoma Water's Compliance Procedures for CEQA; and

**Whereas**, the Initial Study discloses potential environmental impacts of implementing the Project, identifies the means to avoid and minimize potential significant adverse impacts on the environment and concludes the Project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment with mitigation incorporated.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that this Board finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and further finds, declares, determines and orders as follows:

**PROCEDURAL FINDINGS.**

1. The Santa Rosa Aqueduct and Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct are part of the system that provide a reliable supply of naturally-filtered drinking water from the Russian River to residents throughout Sonoma Water's service area in Sonoma County.
2. As described in the Initial Study Project Description, the purpose of the Project is to upgrade the existing cathodic protection system for these aqueducts, as the existing systems are aging

and an upgrade is necessary to protect these aqueducts and ensure the safety of these critical components of the region's water supply transmission system.

3. The Project would include the installation of Cathodic Protection Stations and Test Stations along the Santa Rosa Aqueduct and along the Russian River to Cotati Aqueduct; vegetation maintenance activities associated with both aqueducts; and vegetation management at one location on the Petaluma Aqueduct.
4. On July 9, 2018, a Notice of Preparation of an Initial Study was posted at the Sonoma County Clerks' Office and with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and sent to stakeholders, interested persons, and property owners adjacent to the project area. The public scoping period was from July 9, 2018 to August 10, 2018. Comments received during the public scoping period expressed concern about coordination with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), if necessary; clarification regarding landowner landscaping and vegetation in or adjacent to project sites; and access to nearby homes and driveways during construction activities.
5. The Notice of Completion and Notice of Availability / Notice of Intent to Adopt Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOA/NOI) were posted with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and the Sonoma County Clerk on September 28, 2021. The NOA/NOI and Initial Study were sent to responsible and trustee agencies and individuals. The NOA/NOI was mailed to 1,128 stakeholders, interested persons, and property owners adjacent to the Project area on September 24, 2021. A legal notice was published in the Press Democrat on October, 3, 2021. The Initial Study and NOA/NOI were also made available at Sonoma Water's administrative office and an electronic version of the documents were made available on Sonoma Water's website.
6. The Initial Study was available for a 30-day public review period beginning on September 29, 2021. During the review period, Sonoma Water received eleven requests for additional information from interested persons requesting clarification regarding the project scope and locations of activities. Sonoma Water did not receive any additional comments regarding the Initial Study during the public review period.
7. On October 13, 2021, the Sonoma Water submitted a request for Sonoma County General Plan 2020 (General Plan) consistency review to the Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma). Permit Sonoma completed review of the Project on November 1, 2021, and determined that the project is consistent with the General Plan.

#### SUBSTANTIVE FINDINGS.

1. Sonoma Water, as Lead Agency, has prepared the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact in accordance with CEQA, State CEQA Guidelines, and the Sonoma Water's Compliance Procedures for CEQA.

2. The Board of Directors of Sonoma Water (Board) has reviewed and considered the environmental effects of the Project as disclosed in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, including public comments and Sonoma Water response to comments;
3. Less-than-Significant Impacts  
The Board finds that the Project described in the Initial Study has certain impacts that are less than significant, which are fully and accurately identified in the Initial Study's Chapter 3, Environmental Checklist.
4. Significant Impacts Reduced to a Less than Significant Level by Mitigation Measures  
The Board finds that the Project would cause certain potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, which are fully described in the Initial Study, Chapter 3. Environmental Checklist. The Board further finds that changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Project that will mitigate those impacts to less than significant levels as described in Chapter 3 of the Initial Study. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as described in Appendix I of the Initial Study, was prepared and is included as Exhibit A. The Board hereby finds that the significant or potentially significant adverse environmental effects posed by the Project have been eliminated or reduced to a less than significant level.
5. Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program  
A Mitigation and Monitoring Program, as described in Appendix I of the Initial Study, was prepared. The contents of this program are set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. The Board finds that this mitigation monitoring and reporting program is designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures described in the Initial Study. It will be implemented in accordance with all applicable requirements of the CEQA Statute, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Sonoma Water's Compliance Procedures for CEQA.
6. The Board finds that the Initial Study represents a good faith effort to achieve completeness and full environmental disclosure.
7. The Board has reviewed and considered the information in the Initial Study, and finds that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation incorporated, and finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board of Directors of Sonoma Water, having received, reviewed, and considered the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact, and having considered other evidence in the administrative record, hereby finds as follows:

1. All of the above recitals are true and correct.

2. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for the Project is hereby adopted.
3. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Exhibit A) is hereby adopted and the Board authorizes and directs the General Manager or his assigns to take all appropriate steps in accordance with such program to ensure that the required mitigation measures are carried out.
4. The Project is hereby approved and the Sonoma Water's General Manager will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk in conformance with the provisions of CEQA, State CEQA Guidelines, and Sonoma Water's Compliance Procedures for CEQA.
5. The Clerk of the Board is designated as the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the Board's decisions herein are based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

**Directors:**

Gorin:	Rabbitt:	Coursey:	Gore:	Hopkins:
Ayes:	Noes:	Absent:	Abstain:	

**So Ordered.**