



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2022-0217, **Version:** 1

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**To:** The Board of Directors the Sonoma County Water Agency and Board of Directors of the Russian River County Sanitation District

**Department or Agency Name(s):** Sonoma County Water Agency and Russian River County Sanitation District

**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Grant Davis 547-1911

**Vote Requirement:** 4/5th

**Supervisory District(s):** Fifth

### **Title:**

Receive report on Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from Pipeline Corrosion at the Russian River County Sanitation District's Guerneville Lift Station and Force Main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville

### **Recommended Actions:**

- A) Receive report on emergency need to perform work to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville.
- B) Make findings that there is an ongoing emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from the pipeline corruptions and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements for emergency repairs.

(4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Required) (Fifth District)

### **Executive Summary:**

This item requests the Board of Directors for the Russian River County Sanitation District ("District"), to make findings of the ongoing emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements.

### **Discussion:**

On November 30, 2021, the General Manager of Sonoma Water, pursuant to authority delegated in Resolution #06-0649, declared the existence of an emergency for Russian River County Sanitation District due to pipeline corrosion occurring at the Guerneville Lift Station and force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville, respectively. The Guerneville Lift Station and Orchard Avenue Force Main failures (Incidents) are a result of severely corroded iron/steel pipelines. In response, the Sonoma Water Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to assist with managing the impacts. As a result of the Incidents, dangerous conditions have arisen at the Guerneville Lift Station and in the force main along Orchard Avenue. These facilities are owned by the Russian River County Sanitation District and maintained by Sonoma Water. The Incidents were sudden and unexpected, and pose a clear and imminent danger requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services. The Guerneville Lift Station Project is nearly complete. Further analysis of the Force Main on Orchard Avenue, required the District to implement an

additional project, so as to prevent another failure.

The emergency incidents are:

Guerneville Lift Station

- Failure: In the early afternoon of November 25, 2021, Sonoma Water became aware of an apparent leak near the District's Guerneville Lift Station. This lift station accepts wastewater from most of the District's service area and pumps it through a 3,400-foot-long force main to a downstream part of the collection system.

Orchard Avenue Force Main

- Failure: In the afternoon of November 30, 2021, Sonoma Water became aware of an apparent leak on the District's Force Main below Orchard Avenue in Guerneville. This force main conveys wastewater from the District's service area to the treatment plant, at the end of Neeley Road.

Upon investigations by staff, it was determined that complete failure of the pipelines was highly possible. If the pipelines were to fail, it could cause major erosion, flooding, and contamination along River Road and Orchard Avenue with raw wastewater, thereby posing a significant danger to residents, motorists and the environment. In addition, failures would impact neighboring properties and businesses in the area.

Based upon the above, there is an urgent need to make needed repairs to the District's facilities. The normal contracting process takes two to three months from a minimum advertising period through assessing bids and awarding and executing contracts. This delay would mean that it would not be possible to perform necessary repairs needed to protect public health and safety in a timely manner.

Public Contract Code section 22050 authorizes Sonoma Water to enter into contracts for public projects as may be necessary to mitigate emergency conditions without giving notice for bids. Additionally, pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22035, this emergency work may proceed without adopting plans or specifications. If approved, this item will be brought back to the Boards every 14 days thereafter to determine (by 4/5 vote) if there is a need to continue the action without competitive bidding. The Board is obligated to terminate the waiver of the bid process at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant so that the remainder of the work may be completed under the bid process.

The District entered into a contract with Ghilotti Construction to make the repairs at Guerneville Lift Station and Orchard Ave. In addition, the District entered into an agreement with Belfor Restoration Company to conduct clean-up of the Orchard Avenue site as well as properties along Orchard Ave that were impacted by the spill.

Progress to date:

Guerneville Lift Station

- Project completed.

Orchard Avenue Force Main:

- By 12/12/2021, the majority of the soil that came into contact with the discharge was removed and replaced with clean fill. During the week of 3/7/2022, Belfor Restoration Company was back on site to remove the soil from the last property. The cleanup work has been completed.
- District has executed an agreement for professional services with West Yost Associates (Consultant) to assist the District in developing a plan for further stabilization work. Consultant has prepared an alternative analysis which is currently under review by District. District will choose an alternative to proceed with a final design.
- District has made contact with affected property owners. District will begin conducting additional outreach to property owners in April 2022. Outreach will keep residents updated on the progress of the project.
- District has submitted an application for emergency funding from the State Water Resource Control Board's Urgent Drinking Water Needs program. This program offers grants and loans to drinking water and wastewater entities for eligible emergencies. The program has indicated that the District's emergency incidents are eligible. The District is hoping to recover costs associated with the emergency incidents. The District met with the State Water Resource Control Board's Urgent Drinking Water Needs program staff in early March, 2022 and are awaiting a decision on the application.

**Prior Board Actions:**

- 03/15/2022: Received report on emergency need to perform work to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville; Made findings that there is an ongoing emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from the pipeline corrosions and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements for emergency repairs.
- 03/01/2022: Received report on emergency need to perform work to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville; Made findings that there is an ongoing emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from the pipeline corrosions and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements for emergency repairs.
- 02/08/2022: Received report on emergency need to perform work to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville; Made findings that there is an ongoing emergency need to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from the pipeline corrosions and continue to suspend competitive bidding requirements for emergency repairs.
- 01/25/2022: Received report on Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from Pipeline Corrosion at the Russian River County Sanitation District's Guerneville Lift Station and Force Main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville
- 01/04/2022: Received report on emergency need to perform work to stabilize dangerous conditions resulting from pipeline corrosion on the discharge pipeline at the Guerneville Lift Station and the force main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville and authorized an additional \$750,000 to execute contracts for a new total of \$1,500,000.

12/7/2021: Resolution Making Findings of an Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from Pipeline Corrosion at the Russian River County Sanitation District's Guerneville Lift Station and Force Main on Orchard Avenue, Guerneville and authorizing the expenditures up to \$750,000 for related services and supplies.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 21-22 Adopted</b>	<b>FY22-23 Projected</b>	<b>FY 23-24 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>			

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

Total project costs are estimated to be \$1,500,000.

<b>Staffing Impacts:</b>			
<b>Position Title (Payroll)</b>	<b>Monthly Salary Range (A - I Step)</b>	<b>Additions (number)</b>	<b>Deletions (number)</b>

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

None.

**Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:**

None.