



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2022-0996, **Version:** 1

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**To:** The Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Grant Davis 547-1911  
**Vote Requirement:** 4/5th  
**Supervisory District(s):** First

**Title:**

Completion of Emergency Work on the Sonoma Aqueduct at the Verano Avenue Bridge

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive Report on Completion of Emergency Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Leak on the Sonoma Aqueduct at the Verano Avenue Bridge crossing of Sonoma Creek in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County, near Sonoma, California and Make a Finding that there is No Longer a Need to Suspend Competitive Bidding. (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Required) (First District)

**Executive Summary:**

This item requests the Board of Directors for the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) to receive a report of completed emergency work to repair/replace the section of aqueduct pipeline at the Verano Avenue Bridge crossing of Sonoma Creek in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County, near Sonoma, California, due to an aqueduct leak and find there is no longer a need to suspend competitive bidding.

**Discussion:**

In the early afternoon of August 17, 2022, Sonoma Water became aware of an apparent leak on Sonoma Water's Sonoma Aqueduct (Incident). As a result of the Incident, dangerous conditions arose at the Sonoma Aqueduct at Verano Avenue Bridge. This aqueduct facility is owned and maintained by Sonoma Water. The Incident posed 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 Sonoma Aqueduct delivers Russian River water that is pumped from Sonoma Water's Santa Rosa Aqueduct via the Sonoma Booster Station (located near Spring Lake Park) through a 16.7-mile-long aqueduct to serve potable water to the City of Sonoma, the Valley the Moon Water District, and other Sonoma Valley customers. In the El Verano area, the Sonoma Aqueduct crosses Sonoma Creek along Verano Avenue, adjacent to Maxwell Regional Park. The pipe is suspended from the County of Sonoma's Verano Avenue Bridge and transitions from 16-inch to 14-inch diameter at the creek crossing. The leak was located within the buried portion of the pipeline, immediately west of the bridge.

Sonoma Water staff mobilized necessary resources to the leak site to minimize impacts to the environment and human health. In addition, staff coordinated response efforts with multiple involved entities, including County of Sonoma Transportation and Public Works, Valley of the Moon Water District, City of Sonoma, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and National

Marine Fisheries Service, and California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.

Sonoma Water staff believed that complete failure of the pipeline was highly possible. Had the pipeline failed, it could cause major erosion, flooding, and contamination along Sonoma Creek with potable water, thereby posing a significant danger to residents, motorists, and the environment. In addition, the failure would threaten sustained water supply reliability depending on the degree of severity and extent of repairs needed, thereby impacting numerous properties and businesses in the area.

Based upon the above, there was an urgent need to make the repairs to Sonoma Water's facilities to prevent catastrophic failure of this pipe and ensure the delivery of essential public services. 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 preventative measures 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.

Based on the prior finding by Sonoma Water's General Manager and Board of Directors that there was an emergency need to perform the repair work, repairs were completed during the week of September 12, 2022, and as of September 17, 2022, the pipeline was restored to full service. Sonoma Water staff, in combination with emergency contracted construction services provided by Argonaut Constructors, performed the repair work. Repair activities included:

- Temporary shutdown of a 1-mile portion of the aqueduct
- Replacement of a broken valve and piping located on the 16" aqueduct
- Testing and flushing the pipeline, including water quality samples

With the completion of the repair work, there is no longer need to continue the emergency action and the Board is obligated under Public Contract Code 22050 to terminate the waiver of the bid process associated with this Incident.

**Prior Board Actions:**

- 09/13/2022: Received report on Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Leak on the Sonoma Aqueduct at the Verano Avenue Bridge crossing of Sonoma Creek in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County, near Sonoma, California
- 08/30/2022: Resolution Making Findings of an Emergency Need to Perform Work to Stabilize Dangerous Conditions Resulting from a Pipeline Leak on the Sonoma Aqueduct at the Verano Avenue Bridge crossing of Sonoma Creek in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County, near Sonoma, California
- 06/17/2022: Board Adoption of the FY 2022-23 Budget

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Expenditures	FY 22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 Projected	FY 24-25 Projected
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:**

On August 30, 2022, the Board approved appropriations of \$750,000 from the Water Transmission Fund for this Project. No additional expenditure authorization is needed for equipment and material procurements and services associated with this Project.

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

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

N/A

**Attachments:**

None.

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

None.