93-10

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Interested agencies and parties

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency
2150 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report - Water Supply and Transmission System Plan

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the program and project identified below. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be both a program EIR and a project EIR. The EIR will address the general impacts of implementing a Water Supply Plan (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168) and the EIR will analyze in detail the impacts of the physical facilities that would be constructed in order to supply the amount of water identified in the Water Supply Plan (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15161).

The program and the project description are contained in the attached materials along with a brief summary of the probable environmental effects. We are interested in any comments that public agencies may have as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to that agency's statutory responsibilities in relation to the proposed program and project. We are also interested in any comments from the public related to the scope and content of environmental information which should be included in the EIR.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 45 days after receipt of this notice. **The Agency requests that all comments be submitted by March 22, 1993.**

Please send your response to the attention of **Renée Thériault Webber** at the Agency's mailing address: P.O. Box 11628, Santa Rosa, California, 95406. Include a name, address, and telephone number of a contact person in your agency for all future correspondence on this subject. **If you wish to remain on our mailing list, please fill out and return the attached card.**

Three Public Scoping Meetings will be held to give the public an opportunity to make comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIR. The address and location of each meeting is shown on the attached map, Figure 2. Dates and times for these meetings are indicated below.

Healdsburg	Santa Rosa	Petaluma
February 25, 1993	March 3, 1993	March 10, 1993
7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm

Program and Project Title: Water Supply and Transmission System Plan

DATE: January 26, 1993

Signature [signature]
Name Renée Thériault Webber
Title Environmental Specialist
Telephone (707) 526-5370

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
WATER SUPPLY AND
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM PLAN

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) is the primary provider of potable water for approximately 325,000 people in southern Sonoma and northern Marin counties. In addition, the Agency also provides supplemental potable water to another 170,000 people in the service area of the Marin Municipal Water District, located in southern Marin County. A map of the Agency's existing water supply system and service areas is included as Figure 1.

Since its creation in 1949, the Agency's role as a water supplier has evolved into two primary responsibilities:

1) **Operation of the Russian River Project water supply** - As the local sponsor for the two federal water supply/flood control reservoir projects that make up the Russian River Project -- Coyote Valley Dam (Lake Mendocino) and Warm Springs Dam (Lake Sonoma) -- the Agency, under operational agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, manages the water supply storage space in these reservoirs to optimize the water supply yield of the system and to maintain flows in the Russian River. The Agency holds water rights permits to divert Russian River flows and water stored and released from these water supply reservoirs.

2) **Operation of the Water Transmission System** - Downstream of Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, and as authorized by the water rights permits noted above, the Agency diverts and delivers wholesale water to its customers through its water transmission system. The system is operated pursuant to a water supply agreement between the Agency and eight water contractors. These water contractors consist of the cities of Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Cotati, Petaluma and Sonoma; and the Valley of the Moon, Forestville, and North Marin water districts. This agreement, titled "Agreement for Water Supply and Construction of Russian River-Cotati Intertie Project," executed in 1974 (the 1974 Agreement), provides the authority for the financing and construction of diversion facilities, transmission lines, and the tanks and booster pumps necessary to meet future peak month deliveries up to 92 million gallons per day (MGD). The 1974 agreement also provides for delivery of water, under certain conditions, to certain other customers.

The Agency's objective in preparing the Water Supply and Transmission System Plan is to provide a safe, economical and reliable water supply that is adequate to meet the defined future needs in the Sonoma County Water Agency service area. Preparation of an EIR for a proposed water supply system that would meet these needs was authorized by the Agency's Board of Directors on May 19, 1992 (Resolution No. 92-0716).

The future water demands of the Agency's existing eight water contractors are quantified in a report prepared by the Agency titled "Defined Future Annual Potable Water Demands of the water transmission system Contracting Agencies," dated May 12, 1992 (available for review at the Agency office). These demand estimates correspond to the levels of growth envisioned by the current general plans adopted by the general purpose governments in the water contractors' service areas. The water contractors have requested that the 1974 agreement be amended to authorize the financing and construction of the water supply and transmission system facilities required to meet their future needs. In addition, the Agency has received requests from other entities within Sonoma County which are interested in entering into an agreement with the Agency for all or a portion of their water supply.

The Agency is in the process of preparing a technical report for the Water Supply and Transmission System Plan. The purpose of the technical report is to identify the facilities and sources of supply that will be capable of meeting the defined future water demands. The technical report will also define the projected water supply demands for all present and potential users of Russian River water, which include demands in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. Although some of these demands are outside of the Agency's service area, they have been quantified because they affect the amount of water available for diversion by the Agency from the Russian River.

The technical report, along with the Draft EIR, will be used to identify a preferred alternative or combination of alternative water supply sources to meet the defined future demands. Alternatives will be evaluated in terms of engineering, environmental, institutional/legal, and economic feasibility. The technical report will also identify any improvements required in the Agency's transmission system to meet new water quality regulations, and will identify the regulatory framework involved in implementing the preferred alternative.

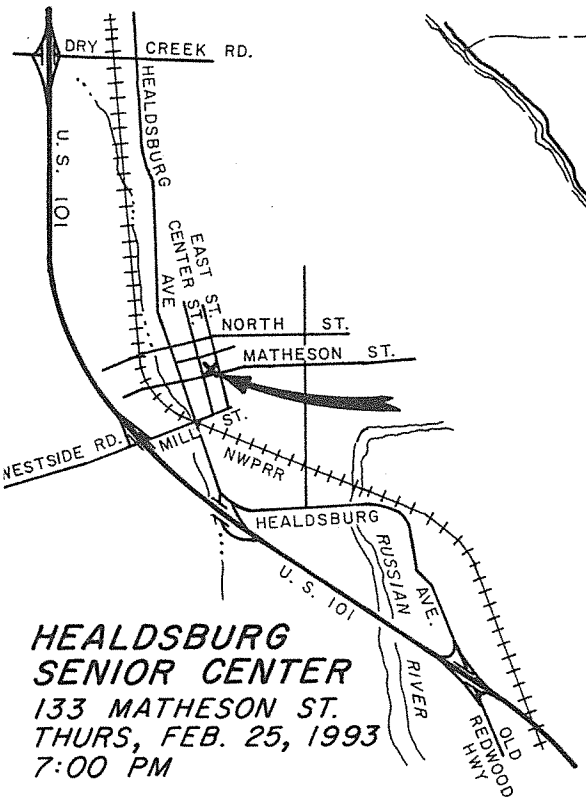
The Agency has identified several alternative water supply sources, some which would only partially meet the defined future demands or which could be combined with other sources to meet the defined future demands. These alternative water supply sources include: full utilization of the water supply that can be provided by the existing Russian River Project; desalination of San Pablo Bay water; a groundwater aquifer storage and recovery system, which would include wells that would both inject (store) surface water during peak winter flows into the aquifer and then withdraw (recover) water from the same aquifer; new and expanded reservoirs in the Russian River watershed; and groundwater sources. The potential for reducing demands through the use of reclaimed water and increased water conservation measures will be addressed. Any other reasonable alternatives identified during the EIR process will also be addressed.

Where possible, the EIR will also address the site-specific impacts of construction of the physical water supply facilities required to develop the water source(s) that is identified as the preferred alternative. Further environmental review of new Transmission System facilities will be necessary when many of the physical elements of the Transmission System (such as water storage tanks, booster pumping stations, and water transmission pipelines) are proposed for construction. Analysis of the

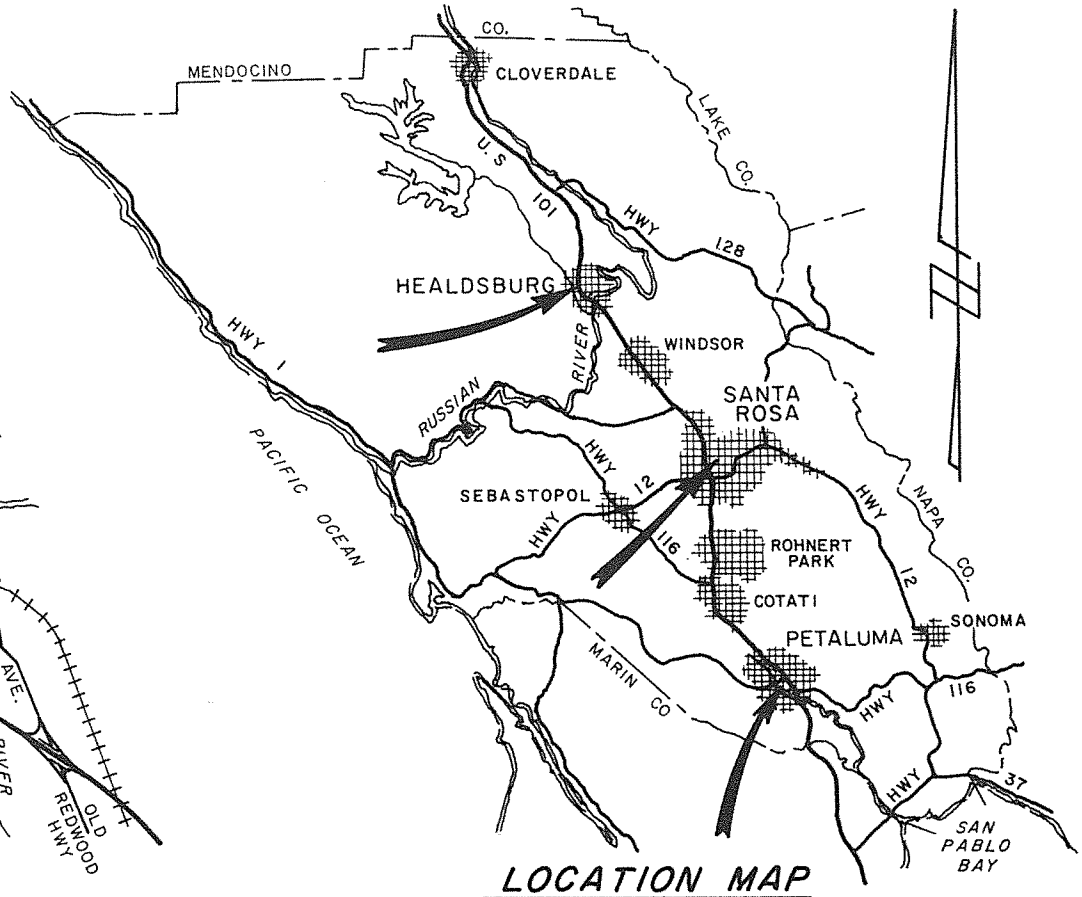
site-specific impacts of most of the Transmission System facilities can not be completed at this time, since such facilities may not be needed until well into the future, and the siting of such facilities will be affected by indeterminable conditions that will prevail at that future time. The impacts of any of the Transmission System facilities which can be sited in advance will be addressed in the EIR.

A draft edition of the technical report will be released along with the Draft EIR for public review. The final technical report will be prepared at the conclusion of the EIR process. The final technical report in combination with the Final EIR and Draft EIR will constitute the Agency's Water Supply and Transmission System Plan.

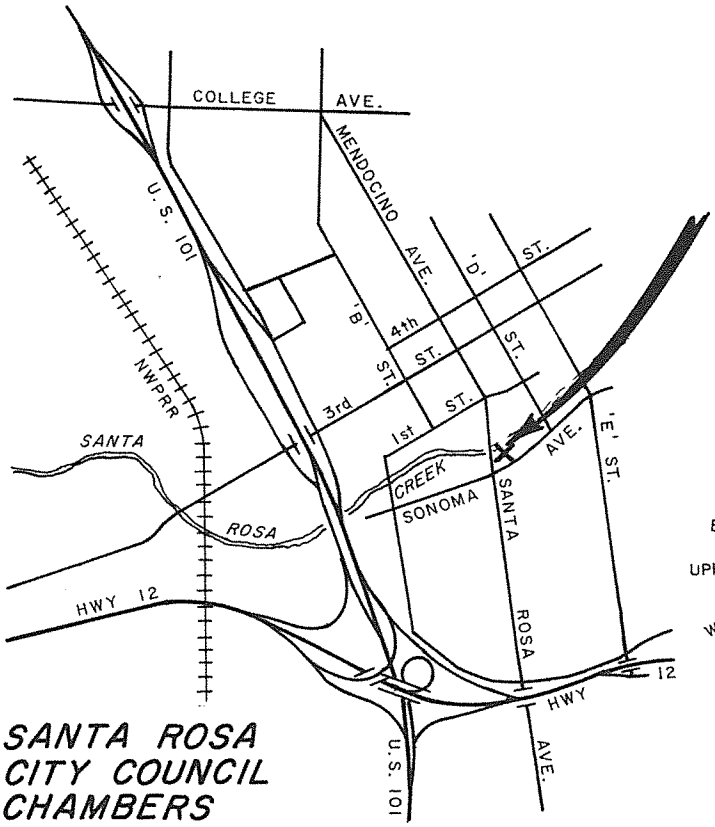
This EIR is being prepared without an Initial Study under the assumption that significant environmental effects are inherent in development of any of the identified alternative water supply sources (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)). Significant impacts could occur in the areas of habitat loss for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife; plant life; inducement or accommodation of growth; recreation; aesthetics; noise; cultural resources; land use; geologic and/or seismic impacts; water quality; drainage; energy use; traffic (during construction); and utility line replacement or relocation. Secondary impacts could occur in the areas of housing and air quality.



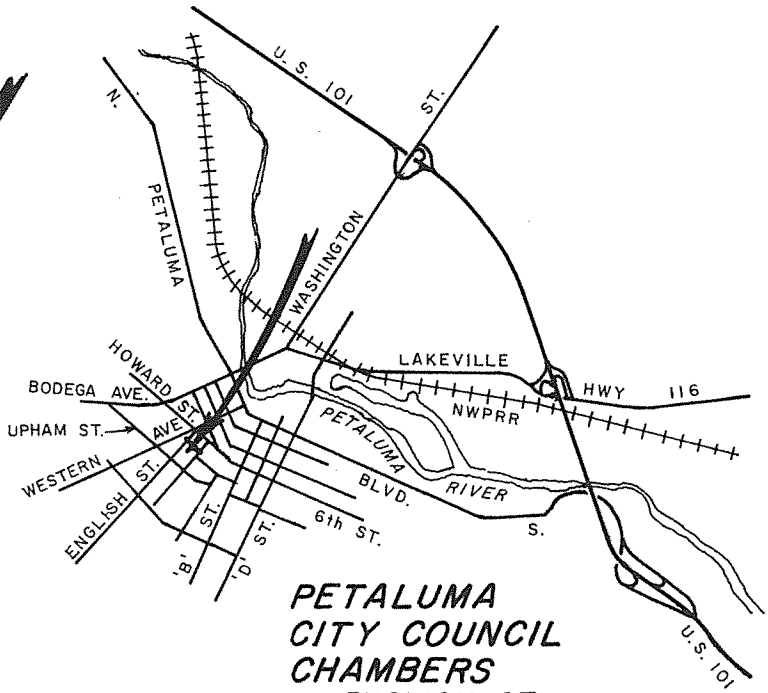
HEALDSBURG SENIOR CENTER
133 MATHESON ST.
THURS, FEB. 25, 1993
7:00 PM



LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE



SANTA ROSA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL COMPLEX
100 SANTA ROSA AVE.
WED, MAR. 3, 1993
7:00 PM



PETALUMA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
11 ENGLISH ST.
WED, MAR. 10, 1993
7:00 PM

FIGURE 2