THE CITY OF
EUREKA
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning

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CEQA
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Office of Planning Research
State Clearinghouse

FROM: City of Eureka, Lead Agency
Development Services - Planning
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PROJECT TITLE: Annual Lateral Repair Project 2024

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Public Works – Engineering

PROJECT PURPOSE: To reduce the amount of inflow from stormwater runoff and infiltration of groundwater that enters the City's sanitary sewer system.

BACKGROUND:
The City of Eureka has approximately 11,000 sanitary sewer laterals which carry wastewater from dwellings to the sanitary sewer main. The recent updates to the Sewer Lateral Ordinance [codified in Eureka Municipal Code (EMC) Chapter 50: Sewers created triggers that require laterals be inspected and repaired if found to be defective. The replacement of the sewer laterals will reduce the amount of inflow from stormwater runoff and infiltration of groundwater that enters the City's wastewater sanitary sewer system because the pipes are made of clay which have deteriorated over the years causing stormwater intrusion. Each location is a different address within the City. The list of addresses is continuously being updated with homeowners who have been found to have a defective sewer lateral. The cost of the repair and managing a contractor can be onerous to individual property owners. To alleviate this situation the City has created a program which allows property owners to choose to have their lower lateral replaced at a set "in lieu" fee, rather than hiring a contractor. City staff will manage a project to replace a large group of laterals with the intent of providing an economy of scale to reduce the cost of the repairs. The funds accumulated from the in-lieu fees will be applied to the project. The City will then fund the difference in the cost of the lateral replacement, partially subsidizing the work, as required by a court ordered consent decree.

In general, this project consists of: digging and replacing sewer laterals at various locations throughout the City. It is anticipated that 50 to 100 laterals per year will be replaced through this annual project, however the exact number will change depending on participation in the program and bid item costs. The majority of the sewer lateral replacements will take place in 2025.

LOCATIONS
*Locations in the Coastal Zone require either a Categorical Exclusion or Exemption Notice from Coastal Development Permit requirements.

CURRENT LOCATIONS:

- 3536 G Street (APN: 011-101-005)
- 1235 F Street (APN: 004-233-009)
- 3437 M Street (APN: 012-091-010)
- 306 W. Sonoma Street (APN: 004-086-003)
- 1911 16th Street (APN: 006-054-005)
- 3580 Spring Street (APN: 009-101-011)
- 1835 2nd Street (APN: 002-053-003) *

* Property located in Coastal Zone

- 1835 2nd Street (APN: 002-053-003)

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NOTICE:
CXXD-24-32, Approved December 9, 2024
37 W. 2nd Street is also included in the CXXD-24-32, but is addressed in a separate CEQA document (ED-24-16).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project includes the excavation and replacement of multiple defective sewer lateral lines in batches by disconnecting the old section of pipe, installing the new sewer pipe, and reconnecting the lateral pipes from the dwelling to the sewer main. After completing the lateral connections, the disturbed site will be backfilled and compacted. The replacement or repair of sidewalks, driveways, and streets damaged or removed by the sewer lateral installation will be performed to City Standards and Specifications for Construction of Sidewalk, Curbs, Gutters, and Drop Curb Entrances (City of Eureka Resolution No. 6219, EMC §13.04.110, Standards for Sidewalks and Curbs).

During construction, the contractor will be required to employ standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize environmental impacts, and to ensure minimal disruption to traffic, nearby residences and businesses. Erosion control will be implemented per an Erosion Control Plan developed by the contractor and approved by the City. The contractor will be required to clean the construction site at the end of each day. If the contractor obtains additional staging areas that result in total project disturbance of more than one acre, the contractor will be required to prepare and comply with a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, and will obtain any required land use entitlements (such as a Use Permit or Coastal Development Permit) required for the staging areas. Traffic control will be implemented per a traffic control plan approved by

the City. General circulation and access will be maintained in the areas of construction. There will be temporary lane shifts, short-term road closures with available detours, and controlled traffic. Emergency vehicles will be allowed through the construction areas. The City will provide pre-construction notices to potentially impacted businesses, and residents, and provide public service announcements that inform the public of the planned construction activities. Construction is planned to start November 1, 2024 and will terminate June 30, 2025. Construction hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

EQUIPMENT:
Construction Equipment includes; track excavator, dump truck, vacuum truck, traffic control truck, and an F-350 work truck.

EXEMPTION FINDINGS:
The City of Eureka, as Lead Agency, has determined the proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA in accordance with Section 15301, Existing Facilities, Class 1, of the CEQA Guidelines. Class 1 exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed project qualifies for this exemption because it involves replacement and maintenance of sewer laterals with no expansion of use.

Further, the Lead Agency has ensured that each location is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines. There are no successive projects proposed for the locations, and no significant effect on the environment is anticipated as the project only involves minimal ground disturbance in already development areas. As discussed above, during construction, the contractor will be required to employ standard BMPs to minimize environmental impacts. There are no scenic highways located in the City and all locations are located away from any scenic resources. None of the locations are considered hazardous waste sites[1], or are listed on the Local Register of Historic Places or mentioned in the "Green Book". Therefore, the project qualifies for a Class 1 exemption.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with City of Eureka Public Works – Engineering. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

Lisa Savage
Senior Planner, City of Eureka

December 9, 2024
Date

[1] Per the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website.