

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:**  Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District  
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

County Clerk  
County of Sonoma  
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Project Title:** Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District Treatment Plant Solar Replacement Project

**Project Location- Specific:** The project site is located at the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Wastewater Treatment Plant, 22675 8<sup>th</sup> Street East, approximately two miles south of the City of Sonoma, California (Figure 1).

**Project Location – City:** Unincorporated

**Project Location – County:** Sonoma

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The nature of the project is to assist Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), on behalf of the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (District) to cost effectively meet its Energy Policy goal of achieving carbon free water. This will be done by continuing to utilize on-site renewable power and transferring the responsibility of capital financing, operation, and maintenance of the PV solar system to White Pine Renewables, LLC. The existing PV solar system has degraded over time, producing considerably less electricity than when they were new, making it no longer economically viable and necessitating its replacement with a newer system.

The project will execute an agreement to transfer the current ownership of the existing solar system at the District's treatment plant from the Power Authority back to Sonoma Water. Sonoma Water would then enter into a lease agreement with White Pine Renewables LLC, allowing White Pine Renewables LLC to remove, replace and reconstruct the existing PV solar system in the same location as the existing PV solar system, as well as own, operate, and maintain the new PV solar system. White Pines Renewables LLC will sell the power generated from the solar system through a Power Purchase Agreement to Sonoma Water's primary power provider, the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority (Pooling Authority). The latter would allow the Pooling Authority to continue providing the District's treatment plant with renewable power and allocate associated environmental attributes to Sonoma Water.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

**Exempt Status (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec.21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301(b): Existing Facilities; and Section 15302(c): Replacement or Reconstruction
- Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project will consist of the operation and leasing of existing structures and facilities of publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project will consist of the replacement and reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structures replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Yvette O'Keefe

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (707) 547-1943

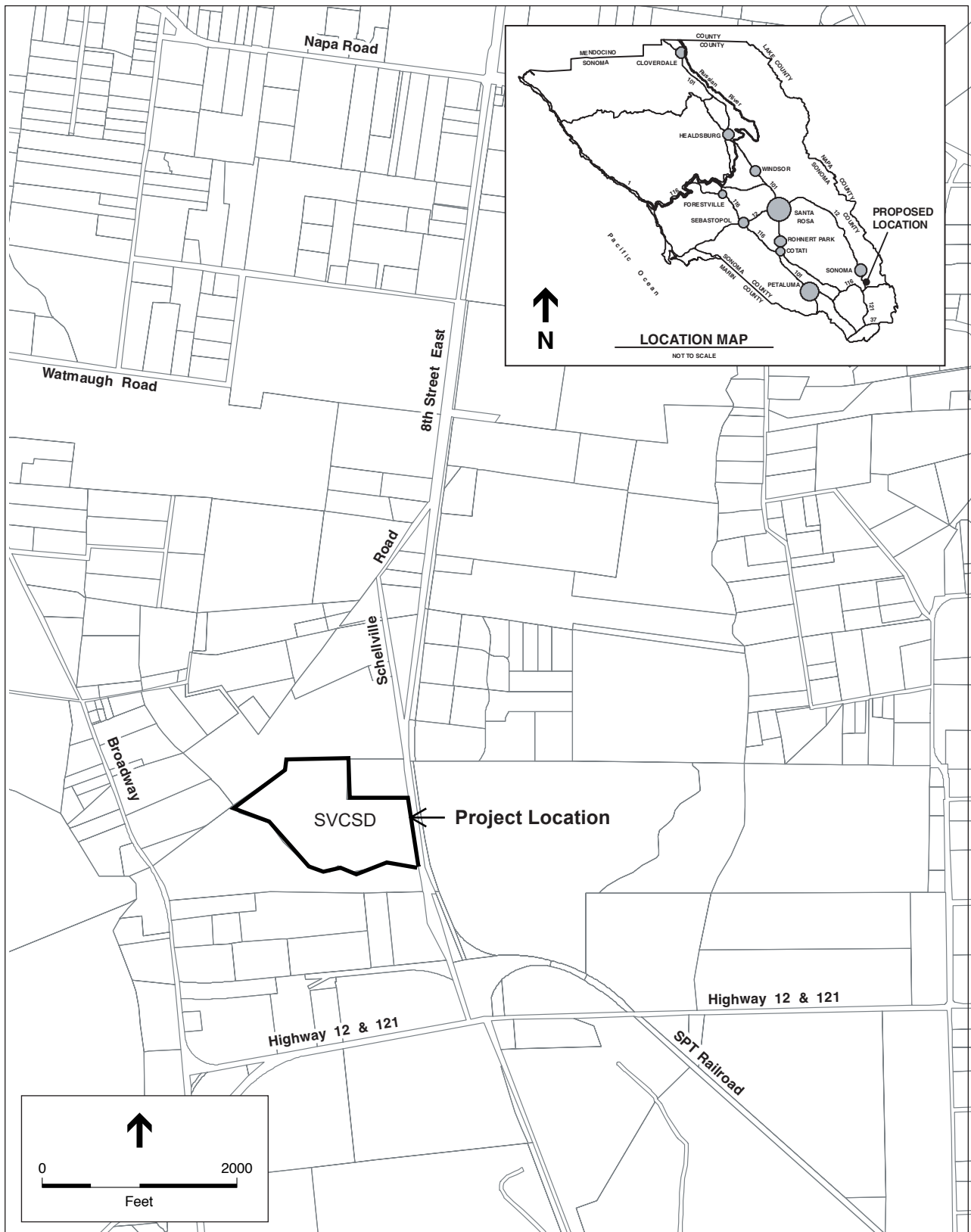
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature

General Manager  
Title

4/3/2025  
Date

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



SOURCE: Sonoma Water

Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District Roofing Improvement Project

**Figure 1**  
Project Location