

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
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PROJECT TITLE: Annual Sewer Lateral Repair Project 2025 (Round One)

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Public Works

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 (in different "rounds") 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.

CURRENT LOCATIONS:

APN	Address
• 008-151-010	1211 McCullens Avenue
• 005-031-006	1223 I Street
• 012-184-004	1707 Henderson Street
• 010-221-003	2500 E Street
• 008-151-052	1310 Allard Avenue
• 008-151-051	1312 Allard Avenue
• 008-221-027	835 McCullens Avenue
• 005-012-001	805 H Street
• 006-073-038	1744 Street
• 001-174-003	1026 3 rd Street *
• 009-071-014	716 Stewart Street
• 005-161-009	1325 14 th Street
• 005-011-001	805 I Street
• 004-062-011	1323 Summer Street
• 004-145-001	4 Del Norte Street
• 012-091-005	3472 N Street
• 011-191-012	3412 K Street
• 012-053-005	1406 Hayes Street
• 006-321-018	2430 15 th Street
• 006-261-015	1605 McFarlan Street
• 006-061-005	1627 R Street
• 006-082-028	1730 Gates Street
• 008-143-001	3503 Cottage Street
• 006-073-008	1714 18 th Street
• 008-132-015	3450 Cottage Street
• 010-173-002	2804 D Street
• 013-221-027	3649 Dolbeer Street
• 013-142-003	2312 Wood Street
• 008-141-001	3505 Iowa Street
• 005-133-022	1717 K Street
• 011-102-013	3576 H Street
• 009-281-036	3625 California Street
• 009-272-017	3511 Pine Street

- 010-015-002 2102 B Street *
- 010-154-007 242 Long Street
- 005-101-003 1222 L Street
- 008-211-001 1035 Highland Avenue
- 005-101-001 1203 K Street
- 301-241-006 4911 Patricia Drive
- 004-053-009 1823 Fairfield Street
- 009-272-001 3505 Pine Street
- 008-191-002 3223 Glen Street
- 005-143-001 905 L Street
- 013-153-001 3205 V Street
- 001-246-006 833 L Street
- 005-072-010 1819 H Street
- 011-022-009 2205 H Street
- 004-115-002 14 Cedar Street
- 010-293-009 3656 F Street
- 003-121-048 1010 Broadway ** ***

* Located on the Local Register of Historic Places (LRHP)

** Located in the Coastal Zone (Locations in the Coastal Zone require either a Categorical Exclusion or Exemption Notice from Coastal Development Permit requirements)

*** Hazardous Waste Site (Locations registered as hazardous waste sites do not qualify for categorical exemptions, but may qualify for a common-sense exemption when the site has been remediated as described further below)

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NOTICE: CXXD-25-15, Approved August 7, 2025.

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 expected to begin in August 2025 and continue through October 2025. Work will occur Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Finally, all sewer lateral work at 1010 Broadway (APN: 003-121-048) will be undertaken following the Soil Management Contingency Plan prepared by SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc, dated May, 2005.

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 §15301, Existing Facilities, Class I, and of the CEQA Guidelines. Class I 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, with the exception of 1010 Broadway, is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in §15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines. There are no successive projects proposed for the current lateral replacement locations, and no significant effect on the environment is anticipated as the project only involves minimal ground disturbance in already developed areas. Besides 1010 Broadway, none of the locations are considered hazardous waste sites,¹ there are no scenic highways located in the City, and all properties are located away from any scenic resources. Two properties are listed on the LRHP and mentioned in the Eureka an Architectural View “Green Book.” However, all work will take place in the street, and no work will be done to the exterior of the residences, so there is no chance the project will cause an adverse change in the significance of the historic resources. As discussed above, during construction, the contractor will be required to employ standard BMPs to minimize environmental impacts. Therefore, the project qualifies for a Class I exemption.

The location at 1010 Broadway (APN: 003-121-048), however, does not qualify for the Class I exemption, as the exceptions in §15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines state a categorical exemption shall not be used on a hazardous waste site. The site, formerly a gas station that leaked gasoline into the soil, was remediated in 1999 and closed in 2005. Therefore, this portion of the project

¹ Per the State Water Resources Control Board’s GeoTracker [website](#). Humboldt County (LEAD) – Case # 12294

cannot qualify for a Class I exemption, but does qualify for the Common-Sense exemption in §15061.b.3 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Residual soil contamination from gasoline is located along the eastern edge and northwestern corner of the property. The sewer lateral work is occurring in proximity to those areas, but not inside of them, meaning the work can be done without coming in contact with contaminated soil. In addition, there are no successive projects proposed for this location, and the project only involves minimal ground disturbance in an already developed area. As discussed above, during construction, the contractor will be required to employ standard BMPs, as well as the Soil Management Contingency Plan, to minimize environmental impacts. Based on the above analysis, there is no possibility that the sewer lateral repair at 1010 Broadway, will have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, qualifies for the Common-Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines, §15061.b.3).

The material supporting the above findings is on file with City of Eureka Public Works. 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.



Taylor Rayburn
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August 8, 2025
Date