SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ATMOSPHERIC RIVER CAPTURE PROJECT

September 18, 2026

The Marin Municipal Water District (the District), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Atmospheric River Capture Project (Proposed Project), located in the City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County, California. The District previously published a Notice of Preparation (March 2026 NOP) for the EIR on March 13, 2026. Since publication of the March 2026 NOP, the District has been in the process of developing a long-term management plan to address sediment and vegetation buildup in Upper Nicasio Creek, which is being added to the Proposed Project, as described below. In response, the District is publishing this Supplemental NOP, which includes a description of the changes to the Proposed Project.

Written comments on this Supplemental NOP may be submitted during the Supplemental NOP review period, which begins **Friday, September 18, 2026**, and ends at 12:00 pm on **Monday, October 19, 2026**. **If you submitted comments on the NOP published for the Proposed Project in March 2026 and have no additional comments related to the new project components, your comments are being considered in the EIR and you do not need to resubmit your comments.** The District held public scoping meetings for the March 2026 NOP on March 25, 2026, at the Novato Recreation Center and on March 26, 2026, at San Ramon Elementary School and will not be holding a public meeting on this Supplemental NOP.

INTRODUCTION

CEQA requires a public agency to prepare an EIR for any discretionary project that the agency proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant direct or indirect effect on the physical environment. As the Lead Agency, the District is preparing an EIR to evaluate the potential significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County, California. As described in the March 2026 NOP, the Proposed Project would deliver winter water consisting of naturally occurring flows from precipitation events in the Russian River that exceed minimum instream flow requirements. This water would be delivered to Nicasio Reservoir for use during dry conditions.

The Proposed Project includes the following components:

- Tie-in to the North Marin Aqueduct in the City of Novato
- Wood Hollow Pump Station near the North Marin Aqueduct tie-in in the City of Novato
- Stafford Lake Pump Station and dechlorination facility
- Point of delivery at Stafford Lake in unincorporated Marin County
- Point of delivery at Nicasio Reservoir in unincorporated Marin County
- 13.2-mile-long, up to 36-inch diameter water transmission pipeline between the North Marin Aqueduct and Nicasio Reservoir, referred to as the Nicasio Aqueduct, located within City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County road rights-of-way

Since publication of the March 2026 NOP, the Proposed Project has been revised to include the development and implementation of a long-term management plan to address sediment and vegetation buildup in Upper Nicasio Creek in the unincorporated community of Nicasio. The new components of the Proposed Project, which are the subject of this Supplemental NOP, include the following (shown in **Figure 1**):

- Vegetation and sediment removal, approximately 50,000 cubic yards, over at least two construction seasons along approximately 3,150 linear feet of Upper Nicasio Creek and 1,200 linear feet of Halleck Creek;
- Lowering the existing delta sediment deposits in Nicasio Reservoir by approximately 4 feet to create a lowered bench approximately 100 feet wide along 2,000 linear feet of the right bank of Upper Nicasio Creek;
- Maintenance activities on an as-needed basis, estimated to include removal of up to 10,000 cubic yards of sediment and vegetation thinning about once every 5-10 years;
- Staging in designated areas; and
- Off-hauling of vegetation and excavated sediment to an off-site location for disposal or reuse.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The Proposed Project may require permits or other approvals from the following agencies:

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State

- California Office of Historic Preservation
- State Water Resources Control Board/San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Local

- Marin County
- City of Novato
- North Marin Water District
- Marin Municipal Water District

ALTERNATIVES

The EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative, to avoid or reduce any significant environmental effects, in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The environmental analysis will evaluate the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts and identify feasible measures and alternatives that may be implemented to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for significant impacts.

The Draft EIR will analyze the following environmental topic areas for potentially significant impacts: Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Recreation; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Wildfire.

The Draft EIR will also address potential cumulative impacts and growth-inducing impacts.

COMMENTS

This Supplemental NOP is being circulated to solicit input on the scope and content of the EIR related to the development and implementation of the Upper Nicasio Creek long-term management plan added to the Proposed Project from agencies, Native American tribes, members of the public, and other interested parties. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify issues related to the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts, issuance of regulatory permits and approvals, and protection of natural resources. Written comments are encouraged to help ensure that the full range of potential environmental issues associated with development and implementation of the Upper Nicasio Creek long-term management plan as part of the Proposed Project are identified. **If you submitted comments on the NOP published for the Proposed Project in March 2026 and have no additional comments related to the new project components, your comments are being considered in the EIR and you do not need to resubmit your comments.**

The Supplemental NOP review period begins on **Friday, September 18, 2026, and ends at 12:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2026**. Written comments on the scope and content of the EIR must

be received by the District no later than **12:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2026**. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

- **By mail:**
  Marin Municipal Water District, c/o Lucy Croy
  220 Nellen Avenue
  Corte Madera, CA 94925
  Letter subject heading: "RE: Atmospheric River Capture Project Supplemental Public Comment"

- **By email:**
  arcproject@marinwater.org
  Subject line: "RE: Atmospheric River Capture Project Supplemental Public Comment"

PLEASE NOTE: The District's practice is to make all comments received part of the public record. Therefore, names, home addresses, home telephone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in responses to this Supplemental NOP, will be made available for public review. Individual commenters may request that the District withhold their name and/or home address or other personal information. If a commenter wishes the District to consider withholding such information, the request must be stated prominently at the beginning of the written comments. In the absence of a written request, the information will be made part of the public record.

All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Individuals who submit written comments on this Supplemental NOP will be added to the distribution list for future notices and information related to the environmental review process for the Proposed Project. Individuals who do not wish to submit comments but would like to be added to the mailing list may provide contact information, including an email address, to the District contact listed above, along with a request to be added to the mailing list.

Additional information about the Proposed Project is available on the District's website at marinwater.org/ARCproject.

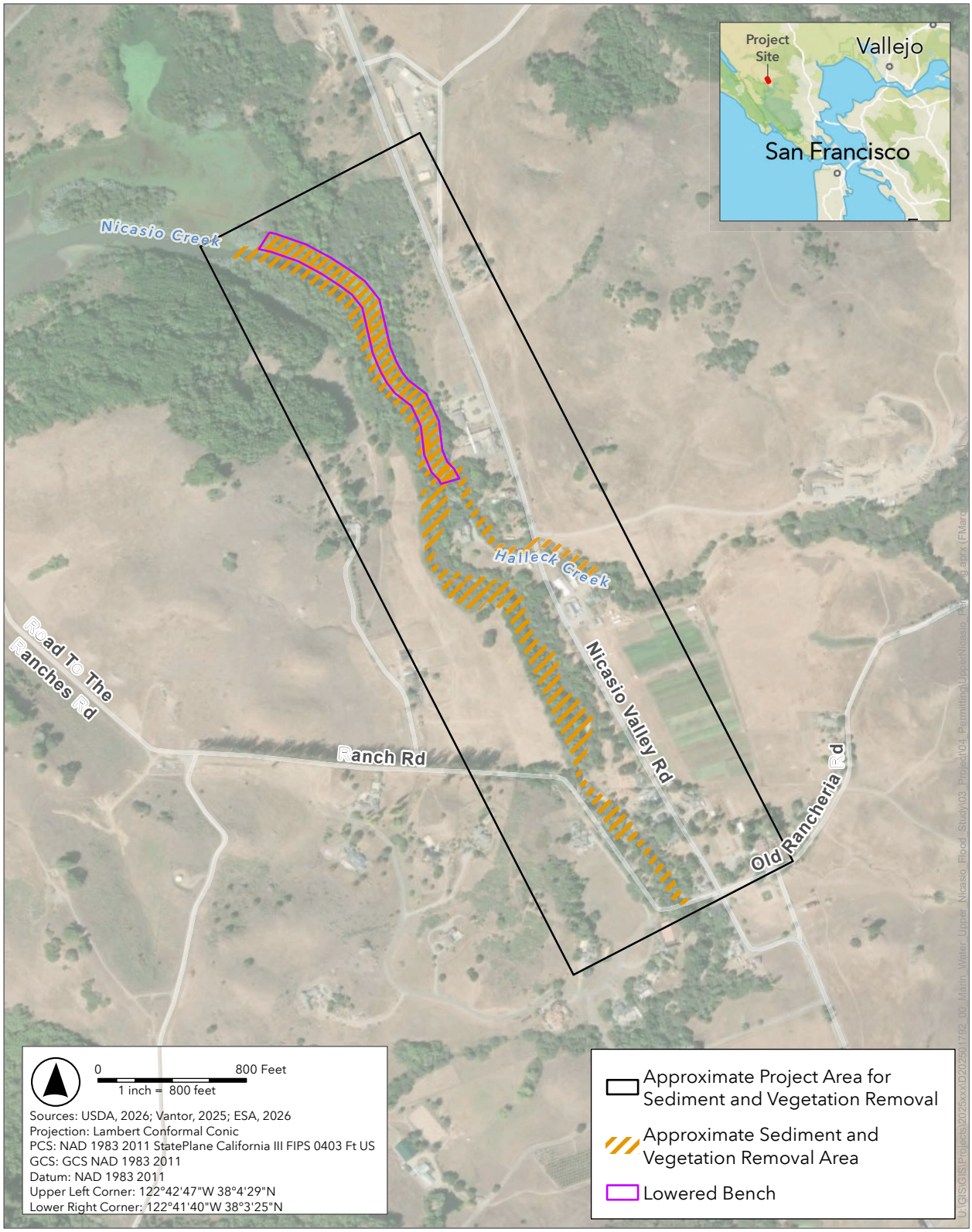


Figure 1
Atmospheric River Capture Project