CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Administrator of Environmental Quality of the City of Santa Cruz is preparing to issue a Mitigated Negative Declaration of environmental impact for the following proposed project:

Project: Wastewater Energy and Electrical Resiliency Project **Application No:** Not Applicable

Project Location: 110 California Street in the City of Santa Cruz

Project Applicant: City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department
809 Center Street, Room 201, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Description: The Wastewater Energy and Electrical Resiliency (WEER) Project would modernize and replace aging electrical infrastructure at the City Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to improve electrical system reliability, resiliency, operational flexibility, worker safety, and emergency preparedness. Most of the electrical distribution systems at the facility were installed in the 1980's and 1990's. While well maintained, it has exceeded its useful life and creates operational and maintenance challenges. The project includes replacement of deteriorated underground electrical distribution lines, completion of a redundant facility-wide electrical loop, replacement and consolidation of substations, transformers, and switchgear, construction of a new main electrical building, demolition of the existing maintenance building, installation of a new centralized standby power generation system, and upgrades to electrical equipment serving treatment processes such as interstage pumps and aeration blowers. The project would also replace obsolete medium-voltage equipment with modern electrical systems, incorporate upgraded controls and variable-frequency drives to improve operational efficiency, and provide infrastructure capable of supporting long-term WWTF operations. Replacements and upgrades are needed to improve reliability, safety, maintainability, and alignment with current standards to establish a 30-to-40-year service lifespan.

Significant Effects on the Environment: The Administrator of Environmental Quality of the City of Santa Cruz has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures for biological resources, cultural/tribal cultural resources and paleontological resources.

Public Review Period: October 21, 2026 through November 20, 2026

A copy of the Negative Declaration and Initial Study document may be reviewed on the City's website at https://www.santacruzca.gov/Government/City-Departments/Public-Works/Projects or may be reviewed at the address below, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:30-3:30 PM.

Comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing or emailed to Ryan Haley at the address below until 5 PM on November 20, 2026. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ryan Haley:

Ryan Haley, City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department
809 Center Street, Room 201, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
rhaley@santacruzca.gov / Phone: (831) 420-5309