

Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District
1 East Road
Sausalito, CA 94965

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Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District
National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area



Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District Treatment Plant Upgrade Environmental Assessment/Initial Study

The Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District (SMCSD), in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS), is starting the planning process to upgrade the SMCSD’s wastewater treatment facility at Fort Baker. This project would upgrade the wastewater treatment facility, thereby improving the quality of water discharges and improving the SMCSD’s ability to prevent sanitary sewage spills into the San Francisco Bay. This would be accomplished by constructing a headworks primary treatment upgrade, increased secondary treatment capacity and upgraded tertiary treatment system. The headworks component would be added to the existing primary treatment system to remove grit and other debris before the effluent is treated by downstream processes. The secondary treatment upgrades would reduce possible wet-weather related by-passes by refurbishing the treatment towers/pumps which would regulate flow storage to minimize peak flow rates. The tertiary upgrades would replace and increase capacity of the effluent sand filters, thereby ensuring improved water quality discharging into the Bay. In addition, the project would add needed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant administrative office space by converting an existing on-site residence for SMCSD personnel. All of the proposed improvements would occur within an existing 4.8-acre easement with NPS and most would be constructed within the existing 2.0-acre facility footprint, with the exception of a 0.1-acre addition for relocation of an existing access road.

Background

The SMCSD operates a wastewater treatment facility on a 4.8-acre easement on lands owned by the NPS as part of GGNRA. This facility serves the communities of Sausalito and Marin City as well as the Fort Baker and Marin Headlands areas of GGNRA. The facility dates from 1953, and has been upgraded over the years to address regulatory and service needs.

Recently, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State Regional Water Quality Control Board instructed the SMCSD to upgrade its facility in response to state and federal water quality requirements. These upgrades include the facility’s treatment and conveyance systems to improve the quality of water discharging into San Francisco Bay and minimize wet-weather in-plant bypasses. In addition, an opportunity exists to vacate an existing residence on the site and use it for administrative offices; this would address current ADA compliance deficiencies and provide administrative space without requiring new construction.



Kurt Rogers / The Chronicle

Decision Process

It is anticipated that the EA/IS will be available for public review in the spring of 2013. This document will describe the project, analysis of alternatives, and potential environmental impacts from project construction and operation. Availability of the document will be formally announced through local news media, on the SMCSD and NPS websites, and also by email.

The official responsible for the final CEQA decision is the Board of Directors of the SMCSD, upon the recommendation of the SMCSD General Manager, and the NPS Regional Director for NEPA.

December 2012

Milestones
December 2012-January 2013 Public and agency scoping
Winter 2013 Development of alternatives and analysis of impacts
Spring 2013 NEPA/CEQA documents available for public and agency comment
Summer 2013 Issuance of Finding of No Significant Impact and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Purpose and Need

This project has been developed to improve regulatory compliance, ADA accessibility, reliability, performance, and to reduce wet weather blending events. To achieve these goals, the existing wastewater facility would be upgraded with the addition of a new headworks primary treatment facility, increased secondary treatment capacity, and upgraded tertiary treatment. The need for the project is driven by the following current conditions:

- The current primary, secondary, and tertiary wastewater treatment facilities need to be upgraded to achieve regulatory compliance with both federal and state agencies.
- The facilities need to be upgraded to improve the quality of the water discharging into San Francisco Bay and prevent bypass events.
- The current facility lacks sufficient administrative and meeting space for SMCSD personnel.

Project Objectives

The objectives for this project include the following:

- Eliminate possible sanitary sewer overflows.
- Comply with US Environmental Protection Agency and Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements.
- Improve primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment of wastewater.
- Improve the quality of wastewater that is discharged into the San Francisco Bay.
- Provide upgraded treatment facilities with minimal disruption of existing site and impacts to natural environment.
- Address environmental concerns by siting new and upgraded treatment facilities in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural communities.
- Provide additional administrative office space on-site to address ADA compliance issues without requiring new construction.

Project Location



Public Scoping Activities

Prior to construction, the project must undergo environmental review to satisfy both federal and state requirements. An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS), per the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be prepared. Final decision and approval of this joint document will occur separately by the NPS as the lead agency for NEPA and by the SMCSD as the lead agency for CEQA.

The purpose of scoping activities is to obtain comments on the proposed project. Members of the public, interested organizations, and agencies are encouraged to provide comments on the full spectrum of issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EA/IS; to assist with defining a suitable range of alternatives, to advise on the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts and related topics, and to suggest possible mitigation measures and strategies that could reduce project impacts.

Key topics expected to be addressed in the EA/IS include visual resources, coastal resources, water resources, cultural resources, wildlife and vegetation, and geology and soils.

Comments should be submitted no later than January 31, 2013. You can submit comments online at the project website printed below. Comments can also be mailed to the following address:

SMCSD – Treatment Plant Upgrade Project
Attn: General Manager
1 East Road
Sausalito, CA 94965



It is our practice to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. If you would like us to withhold this from disclosure, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. If you use the website, check the box “*keep my contact information private.*” We will honor your request, but please be aware that we may still be required to disclose names and addresses under federal law.

Submit Comments at the Project Website: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/SMCSD_Upgrade

Join the Park Email List: <http://www.nps.gov/goga>; and click “*Join Our Email List*”