

Appendix A

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Solano Transportation Authority
One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City, CA 94585

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Solano Transportation Authority will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study ([] is [x] is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Daryl K. Halls, Executive Director at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Gordon Water Line Relocation EIR

Project Applicant, if any: Solano Transportation Authority

Date December 21, 2009

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Title Executive Director

Telephone (707) 424-6075

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

INTRODUCTION

Solano Transportation Authority (STA) proposes to relocate the Gordon Water Line (a new 12-inch water line) within the Rockville Road right-of-way between Suisun Valley Road and a point west of Green Valley Road. The relocated Gordon Water Line would connect the 24-inch Gordon Water Line running within Suisun Valley Road with the existing 14-inch Green Water Line. This new connection would allow the portions of the existing Gordon Water Line running along the north-side of I-80 to be abandoned or removed. (see **Figure 1** Project Location)

The existing Gordon Water Line currently runs along the north side of State Route 12 (SR12) Jameson Canyon, parallel and north of I-80, and along Suisun Valley Road north of I-80. The Gordon Water Line originally took water from Lake Curry south to Vallejo via Jameson Canyon. Today it provides service from a connection with the City of Vallejo's Green Water Line in Jameson Canyon north to Old Cordelia and to properties along Suisun Valley Road north of I-80.

The current alignment of the Gordon Water Line is in conflict with the proposed widening of SR12 Jameson Canyon Road from two lanes to four lanes between State Route 29 (SR 29) in Napa County and Red Top Road in Fairfield (Jameson Canyon project). This widening was analyzed in a mitigated negative declaration/environmental assessment that was certified by Caltrans in February 2008. The Jameson Canyon widening is funded and is scheduled for construction starting in late 2010 or early 2011. STA has determined that relocation of the Gordon Water Line to Rockville Road—rather than relocation within the SR12/I-80 right-of-way would be better operationally, less costly and would also avoid future conflicts with other planned roadway improvements along the I-80/I-680/SR12 corridor, currently being evaluated as part of the I-80/I-680/SR12 Interchange project.

The relocation of the Gordon Water Line to Rockville Road will also provide a more balanced design for the Vallejo water system by right-sizing the diameter of the Gordon Water Line. The relocated Gordon Water Line would not change the capacity of the system or provide an opportunity for new connections, as the Vallejo Lakes water system is operating at or near capacity and a permanent moratorium has been imposed to prohibit water connections to properties not currently eligible to be served by this system. Therefore, the city of Vallejo cannot agree to any new long-term connections outside the current service boundaries.¹

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The relocated Gordon Water Line would be located within the existing right-of-way of Rockville Road; no additional right-of-way will be required. The line would also be located within the existing shoulder of Rockville Road at a standard depth of 42 inches to top of pipe, except at the eastern terminus where the line would be 30 to 36 inches deep for the last 300± feet prior to Suisun Valley Road.

On the west end, the relocated Gordon Water Line (new 12-inch water line) would connect to the existing 14-inch Green Line at 1600 feet west of Green Valley Road along Rockville Road. From the point of beginning to Cravea Lane the new line would replace an existing 6-inch water main, tying into the existing Green Valley water main at Green Valley Road. The line would continue

¹ City of Vallejo, Eric Jansen, P.E., Water Division, Personal Communication, October 2009

along Rockville Road for approximately 2.4 miles where it would connect to the existing 24-inch Gordon Line at Suisun Valley Road, providing water to the residents and businesses along Suisun Valley Road, including Solano Community College, the residents of Green Valley Estates, and the residents of Old Cordelia.

Rockville Road is a two lane rural road with 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders between Green Valley Road and Suisun Valley Road, making it feasible to construct the relocated Gordon Water Line by shifting lanes of traffic and limited use of lane closures and flaggers. There does not appear to be any major conflicting utilities. West of Green Valley Road, Rockville Road is narrower with just two 12-foot travel lanes, no shoulders, and residences along either side. In order to construct the relocated Gordon Water Line with this narrow roadway, one-way traffic control during work hours and temporary lane closures and flaggers will be implemented.

Rockville Road crosses Green Valley Creek just west of the Green Valley Road intersection. The proposed water line would be mounted on the side of the bridge, replacing the existing 6" line, such that the project would not result in any impacts within the bed or banks of the creek.

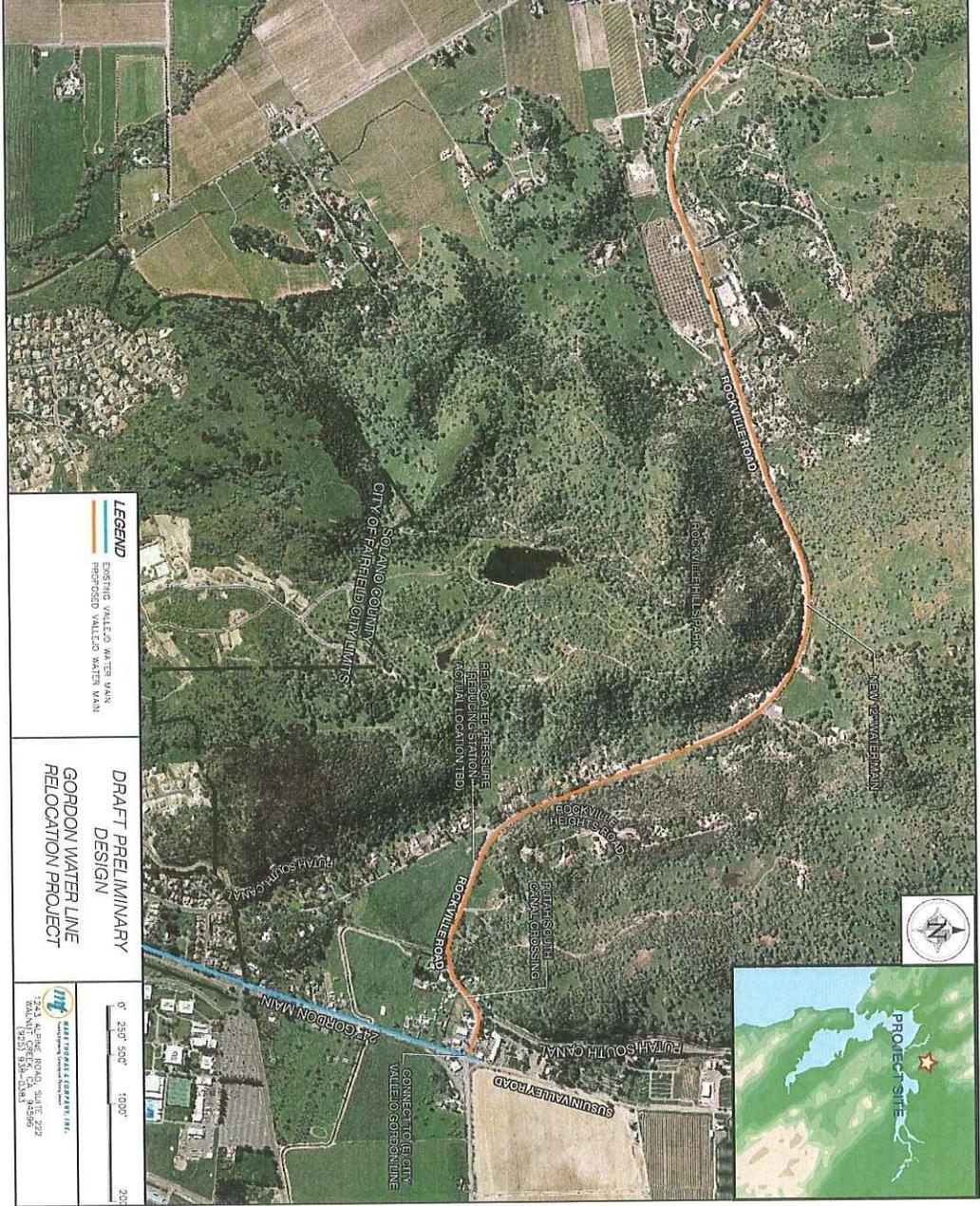
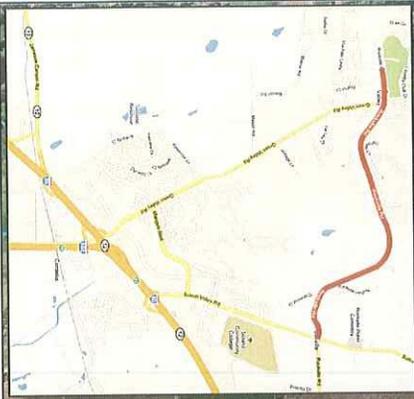
CEQA Analysis

The project was originally anticipated to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15303(d), which covers "new construction". However, preliminary analysis confirmed that a previously identified Native American cultural resource is located at the eastern terminus of the project and will require analysis as part of an environmental impact report.

Based on the current project understanding, the EIR will address all the CEQA topics identified in the Appendix G CEQA checklist, but will focus mainly on cultural resources. All other topics will be addressed at a lesser level of detail in chapter entitled "Effect Found Not To Be Significant".



GORDON WATER LINE RELOCATION PROJECT



LEGEND

EXISTING VALLEJO WATER MAIN

PROPOSED VALLEJO WATER MAIN

DRAFT PRELIMINARY DESIGN

GORDON WATER LINE RELOCATION PROJECT

SCALE

0' 250' 500' 1000' 2000'

DATE

12/21/2007

PROJECT NO.

1207-001

CLIENT

MARK THOMAS & COMPANY, INC.

1207-001