



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT INFORMATION

INITIATING UNIT: Facilities Planning, Water Distribution Planning Division, Engineering & Construction Department

1. TITLE: **Panoramic Hill Water System Improvements**
2. LOCATION (City, County, and specific location):
Various sites located in the Panoramic Hill neighborhood in the Cities of Berkeley and Oakland, Alameda County (Figure 1 for the project vicinity and Figure 2 for specific project locations)
3. DESCRIPTION:
Replacement of deteriorated pipelines, University Pumping Plant and University Reservoir (Attachment A)

EXEMPTION FINDING (Check one)

This project is exempt from CEQA because:

1. Activity is not a Project.
2. Activity is Ministerial (Sec.21080(b)(1); Guideline 15268).
3. Activity is a Declared Emergency (Sec.21080(b)(3); Guideline 15269(a)).
4. Activity is an Emergency Project (Sec.21080(b)(4); Guideline 15269(b)(c)).
5. Activity is Categorically Exempt Under Guide 14 CCR 15301(d) and 15302(c)
6. Activity is Statutorily Exempt Under Guideline _____
7. Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt because it entails the replacement of an existing utility system and/or facilities (Ref 14 CCR 15301 (d)), involving no expansion of capacity (Ref 14 CCR Sec. 15302 (c)). The project will have no significant environmental effects relative to Location, Cumulative Impact, Scenic Highways, Significant Effects due to unusual circumstances, Hazardous Waste or Historical Resources pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

APPROVAL

7/31/14

Tim G. Fuette

Harvey P. Hanoian

1. DATE PREPARED

2. PREPARED BY (initial)

3. REVIEWED BY (initial Unit Supervisor)

William R. Kirkpatrick

4. RECOMMENDED BY (Division/Section Manager)

Tim G. Fuette//MS 701

Acting Senior Civil Engineer

510 287-1324

5. CONTACT PERSON / MAIL SLOT #

TITLE

PHONE

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION APPROVED FOR FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

DATE

8/20/14

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

S. Ferentini for XSI

09/10/14

DATE FORWARDED TO COUNTY CLERK

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

Shirley M. Lewis

**EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
PANORAMIC HILL WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Project Description

The Panoramic Hill is a residential neighborhood located above the California Memorial Stadium in the Cities of Berkeley and Oakland. Portions of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) distribution facilities located in this neighborhood are in poor conditions and in need of replacement.

The Project includes the following components (refer to Figure 1 for the project vicinity and Figure 2 for the project components):

- Reservoir - The existing 500,000 gallon University reservoir will be replaced with two sequentially constructed 90,000-MG reservoirs at the same site.
- Pumping Plant - The existing 0.2-million gallons per day University Pumping Plant (including the structure) will be replaced at the same site with a new pumping plant of the same capacity. A temporary portable pump may have to be installed adjacent to the roadway if property-site-constraints do not allow for the new pumping plant to be constructed while the existing pumping plant remains operational.
- Pipelines - Approximately 7,300 feet of new 6-inch and 8-inch diameter pipe will replace existing 4-inch and 6-inch diameter pipelines. Construction will be performed within the cities' public right-of-ways (R/W). Service laterals and transfers from the existing pipes to the new pipes will also be completed as part of this project.

Justification

The existing University Reservoir interior coating has reached its useful life requiring a re-coat to prevent further tank shell deterioration. However, due to water quality operational challenges in University Pressure Zone, the water storage volume needs to be reduced from 500,000 gallons in one tank to 180,000 gallons (includes emergency storage).

The existing University Pumping Plant is being replaced because it has reached its useful life. The new pumping plant will have the same capacity and be located immediately adjacent to the existing pumping plant. The existing pumping plant will be demolished upon completion of the new pumping plant.

Pipelines are selected to be replaced on the basis of their leak and maintenance histories. In addition, several pipelines are located in a steep narrow hillside R/W that makes future maintenance difficult. These pipelines will be abandoned in place and new pipelines installed in a public R/W and on University of California property that allow improved maintenance access. New pipelines will have a minimum 6-inch diameter in order to improve operational service levels and fire flow.

Required Permits and Property

An excavation permit will be needed from the Cities of Berkeley and Oakland for any work performed in city public R/Ws.

A temporary construction easement located just to the east of University Reservoir, will be requested from the University of California in order to stage construction equipment for the duration of the Panoramic Water Systems Improvement project. A permanent easement will also be requested from the University of California to relocate a pipeline into the Upper Jordan trail located between Panoramic Place and University Reservoir. Relocating this pipeline will allow EBMUD to maintain reliable service during construction versus installing a new pipeline in the existing narrow public right-of-way that limits construction access. The planned locations of the temporary construction easement and the permanent easements are shown in Figure 2. Trails users will be detoured around the construction activities.

Public Impacts

Four information and outreach meetings were held with City of Berkeley staff between December 2013 and April 2014. A community meeting was held jointly by the District and the City of Berkeley on April 23, 2014. The community expressed interest and concern with the following key issues: community and emergency vehicle access during pipeline construction, the final location and appearance of the Arden Path staircase (near the new pumping plant), advance and real time communication of road closures and detour notification, parking, and fire flow availability before and after the project.

Under California Government Code 53091, EBMUD is not bound by local ordinances of the jurisdictions in which its projects may be located. Nevertheless, it is the practice of EBMUD to work with host jurisdictions and agencies to the extent practicable to address local environmental protection policies, such as noise, vibration, dust and traffic impacts associated with the construction of this project. EBMUD will use Best Management Practices during construction, including measures to minimize noise and vibration.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional agency responsible for air quality regulation within the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin. EBMUD will incorporate BAAQMD Basic Control Measures and BAAQMD Exhaust Controls into the contract specifications, such as using water trucks to control dust, tarp covers for any truck load containing any loose materials, wet power vacuum street sweeper for paved access roads, and removing soil material on public streets.

Specific Measures to Reduce Traffic Impacts Due to Pipelines Work - Pipe trenching will be limited to the amount of pipeline that can be excavated and installed in one day, leaving the trenches closed at the end of each work day. Street pavement in the vicinity of trenching will be

restored. A Traffic Control Plan will be implemented to minimize traffic impacts and to provide public safety during construction. A road closure on Panoramic Way between Dwight Way and Panoramic Place will be required to install the proposed pipeline; hours and schedule constraints are described in the following section. Detour signs will be posted at appropriate locations. EBMUD will also notify property owners of project details in advance of construction as well as when and where temporary parking restrictions will be implemented; otherwise, driveways will remain accessible.

Work Hours and Schedule

University Reservoir Replacement - Construction for the reservoir is anticipated to start in the winter of 2015 and last for approximately one year. Typical work hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

University Pumping Plant Replacement - Construction for the pumping plant is anticipated to start in the summer of 2017 and last for approximately one and a half years. Typical work hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. including portable pump operations if installed.

Pipelines - Construction for the pipelines is anticipated to start in the fall of 2016 and will take approximately 6 months. Typical work hours will include an eight hour shift between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in roads that do not require road closure to traffic and for work related to transferring existing house services to the new pipelines. Road closures details pertaining to pipeline work are described below (Figure 3). In addition, it will take up to three months to relocate existing services from the existing pipeline to the new pipeline. Road closures are not anticipated to perform the service transfers, but short term traffic delays (under 30 minutes) might occur.

Closure A - Road segments within the immediate vicinity of the pipeline work will be closed to all vehicular traffic except emergency services vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. The closure will be temporarily opened on Monday-Friday for one hour from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. On Monday the road will also be temporarily opened to allow access for city refuse and recycling services. EBMUD will coordinate these road openings with these city services. During the closure, Fire and Medical emergency response units will be stationed “above” the work.

Closure B - Road segments within the immediate vicinity of the pipeline work will be closed to all vehicular traffic except emergency service vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Detour access will be maintained via Dwight Way/Panoramic Way loop. The District may explore ways to increase pipeline installation rates by permitting crews to work longer hours in order to reduce the total construction days and subsequent traffic impacts.

Closure C - Road segments within the immediate vicinity of the pipeline work will be closed to all vehicular traffic except emergency service vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. The District may explore ways to increase pipeline installation rates by permitting crews to work longer hours in order to reduce the total construction days subsequent traffic impacts.

Operational Impacts

Implementation of this project will not significantly affect the operation of EBMUD's water system. Construction will take place while the existing pipelines are still in service. The pipeline will be replaced in segments to eliminate wide spread outages; however, minimal interruptions in service will occur for short time periods (up to about 8 hours) when the new pipelines are connected to the existing pipelines. Affected customers will be notified 48 hours prior to these interruptions.

WRK:TGF:sb
sb14_140.docx

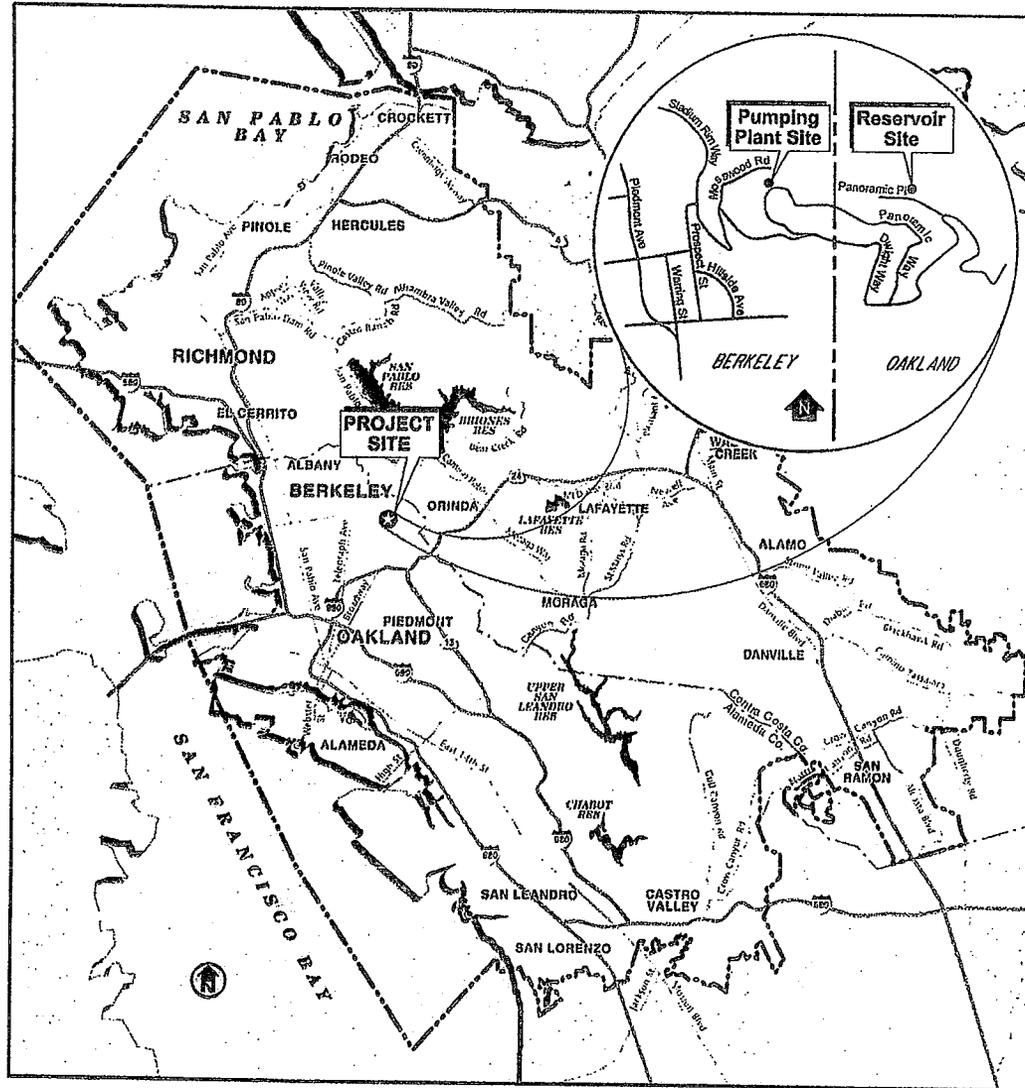
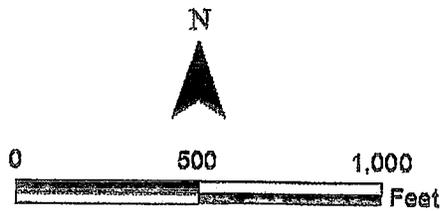
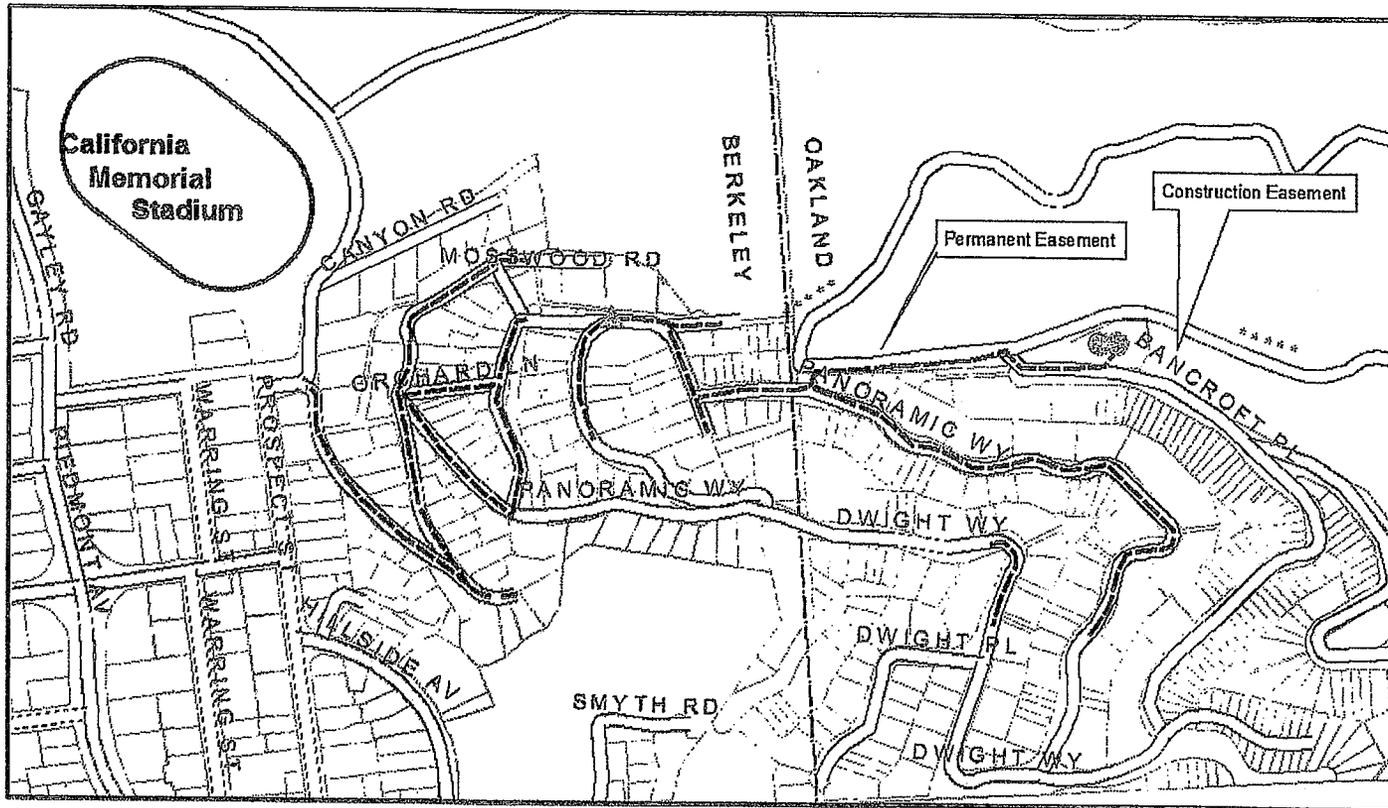


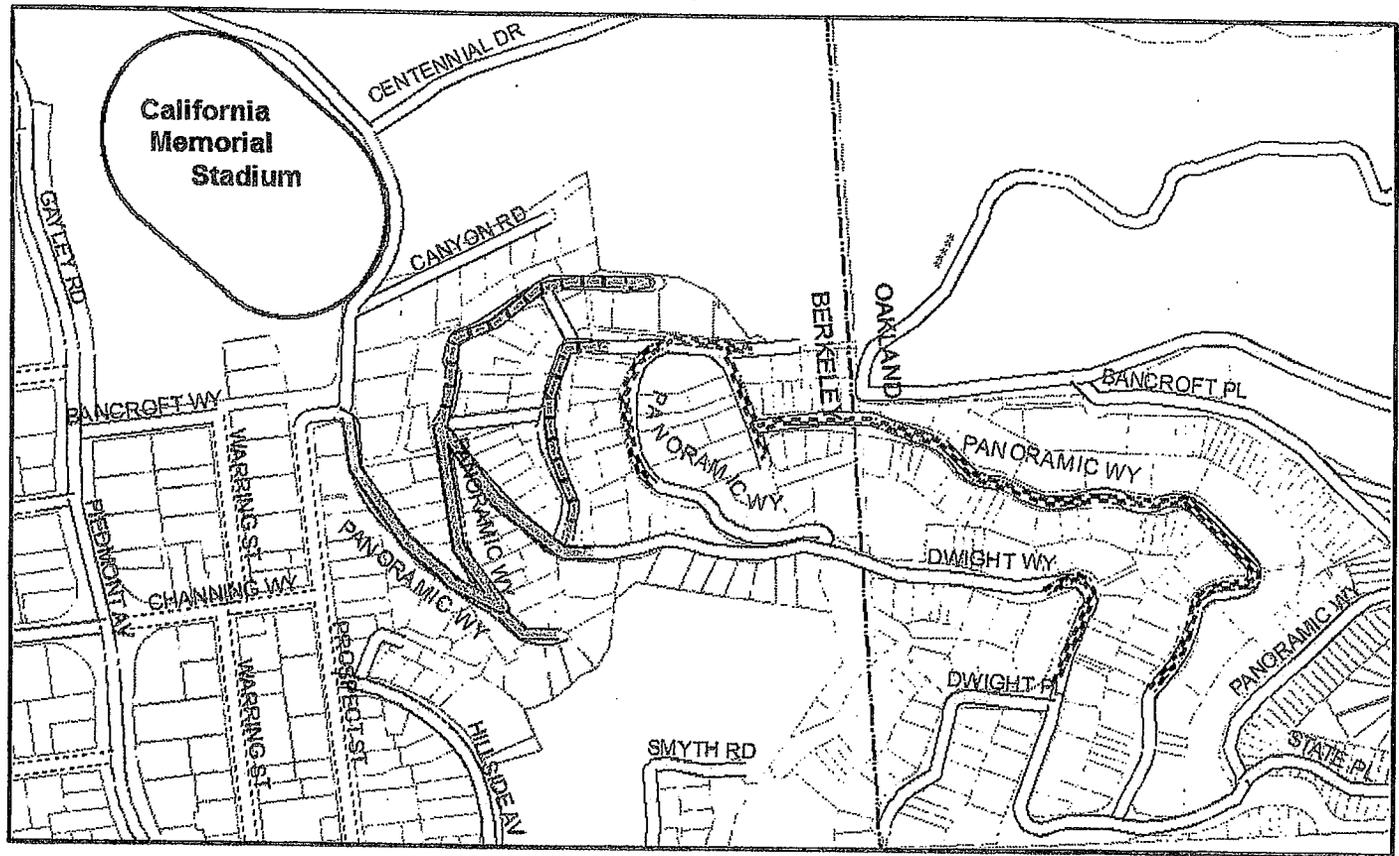
Figure 1
Panoramc Hills Vicinity Map



Legend

-  University Pumping Plant
-  University Reservoir
-  Replaced Pipelines

Figure 2
Panoramic Hills Water Distribution Projects



Legend

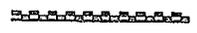
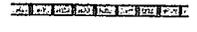
-  Closure A
-  Closure_B
-  Closure_C

Figure 3
Panoramic Hills Road Closures