



Contra Costa County
Public Works
Department

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June 30, 2026

Susan Overhauser
5134 La Honda Road
El Sobrante, CA 94803

RE: CEQA Public Noticing Comment Responses
San Pablo Dam Road-La Honda Road Storm Drain and Slide Repair Project
State Clearinghouse No.: 2026050969
Project No.: 0672-6U6272

Dear Dr. Overhauser:

This letter addresses your comment letters dated June 8, 2026 and June 26, 2026. We have separated responses into those relevant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and general project information related responses. While many of the comments and responses do not have a bearing on CEQA, the County wanted to respond to all of your concerns as an adjacent property owner. Please see below for responses:

Comment 1: Impact on noise levels and construction noise

CEQA Response: Item a of the Noise section of the Initial Study Mitigated/Negative Declaration (IS/MND) asks if the project will result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The IS/MND used the noise limits established by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) to identify potential for impacts due to noise. A significant temporary increase during daytime hours is defined as an increase in excess of the average daily noise levels of 80 A-weighted decibel equivalent noise level over an 8-hour time period as measured at a receiving residential land use and 85 dBA $L_{eq}(8-hr)$ as measured at a receiving commercial land use. When analyzing the temporary increase in noise in reference to the closest residential home (50 feet away), the worst-case noise levels were modeled to be less than the limits set in the FTA's threshold. Additionally, the proposed project does not include construction of any permanent mobile or stationary noise source that would contribute to an increase in permanent ambient noise levels.

General Response: Tree and vegetation removal will be restricted to the project footprint, and there will still be a line of trees retained on the southern side of San Pablo Creek, as well as the northern side of the creek (see Figure 1). The County expects that there will not be a reduction in noise attenuation from the removal of trees given the number of trees that will be retained between the project footprint and neighboring

properties. Any trees that are removed for the proposed project would be replaced by replanted trees. Although temporary in nature, the use of heavy equipment and installation of the soldier piles during construction has the potential for a substantial temporary increase in noise levels. However, the method for installing the soldier piles involves the use of a drill rig with a large auger that will drill the holes for the piles. This method will cause substantially less noise and vibration than methods which use impact to drive piles.

The County will notify surrounding residents prior to construction starting, per standard practice.

Comment 2: Impact on light exposure

CEQA Response: Item d of the Aesthetics section of the IS/MND asks if the project would create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The proposed project would not install any permanent stationary sources of light and would not include nighttime construction activities that would require the use of temporary lighting. Operation of the proposed project would not introduce any structures or land uses that would generate new sources of light and glare compared to existing conditions.

General Response: Similar to the response for Comment 1, the County expects that there will not be a reduction in light protection from the removal of trees given the number of trees that will be retained between the project footprint and your property (see Figure 1). Additionally, any trees that are removed for the proposed project would be replaced by replanted trees as described above in the General Response to Comment 1.

Comment 3: Revegetation

CEQA Response: Mitigation Measures BIO-1a through BIO-1c describe that all temporary and permanent impacts to the existing disturbed riparian woodland would be addressed by post-construction revegetation measures indicating that any locations slated for grading or where existing vegetation is cleared would be replanted with a mix of native upland species that are ecologically appropriate for the project site. The county is working with regulatory agencies to finalize an acceptable mitigation plan that describes the revegetation plan.

General Response: The County is developing a detailed replanting and revegetation plan. Many of the trees in the project footprint slated for removal are nonnative. As a part of the project's revegetation plan, the County will be replanting with native trees, removing invasive weeds, and revegetating with native shrubs and grasses. This revegetation plan will result in an environmental uplift at the site. Additionally, project permits include requirements that include minimum revegetation percentages, erosion control devices installed if needed, and erosion monitoring.

Comment 4: Aesthetics

CEQA Response and General Response: See responses to above Comments 1 through 3.

Comment 5: History

CEQA Response: Comment noted. This project is subject to Assembly Bill 52 (AB52), a state law which requires notification (and consultation if requested) to Native American tribes for protection of potential tribal cultural resources. Since the project is federally funded, it is also subject to Section 106 of the federal National Historical Preservation Act, which requires evaluation of potential effects to historic properties. An Archaeological Survey Report was prepared and analyzed all known resources in the vicinity of the project. AB52 consultation and Section 106 consultation were both completed, and no known cultural resources were determined to be in the project area. **Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2** will be implemented to reduce the potential of disturbing unknown cultural resources including historical resources.

Comment 6: Wildlife and Additional Impacts to San Pablo Creek

CEQA Response: Items a, b and d of the Biological Resources section of the IS/MND analyze the potential for project-related impacts on native wildlife. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-1a through BIO-1d, and BIO-2** reduce these impacts to less-than-significant.

General Response: As described in the General Response to Comment 3 above, the revegetation plan will result in an environmental uplift after removing invasive vegetation and replanting with native trees and shrubs. Mitigation Measure BIO-1d includes surveys for nesting birds and raptors and requires that California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved protection buffers be implemented if any active nests are observed, ensuring that active native bird or raptor nests will not be impacted by construction. Post-construction revegetation with native plants will provide improved habitat for wildlife. As described in the General Response to Comment 3, erosion will be monitored and prevented.

Comment 7: Construction staging zones

CEQA Response: This comment is not relevant to CEQA, please see the General Response below.

General Response: The County has a Request Services page that allows residents to report issues including concerns about streetlights. Submitting the concern to this website ensures that these requests are routed to the appropriate County Division. The Request Services website is here: [REQUEST SERVICES | Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](#)

Comment 8: Dumping mitigation

CEQA Response: This comment is not relevant to CEQA, please see the General Response below.

General Response: As stated in the General Response for Comment 7 above, requests for services including illegal dumping and homeless abatement can be submitted to the Request Services website, ensuring the request is routed to the County Maintenance Division. The website is here: [REQUEST SERVICES | Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](#). We appreciate you letting us know that this site is commonly used for dumping. During our revegetation and long-term monitoring efforts, the County will monitor and remove the trash at the site.

Comment 9: Traffic During Construction

CEQA Response: Item f of the Hazards and Hazardous Materials Section of the IS/MND describes that a traffic control plan would be prepared and approved prior to construction, and that roadwork phasing would ensure that one lane is open at all times. Additionally, item c of the Transportation Section of the IS/MND describes that the proposed project would install safeguards protecting the traveling public and minimizing traffic interference.

General Response: The proposed project would ultimately repair the far-right westbound lane to restore travel along San Pablo Dam Road, leading to improved traffic conditions.

Comment 10: Street Lighting

CEQA Response: This comment is not relevant to CEQA, please see the General Response below.

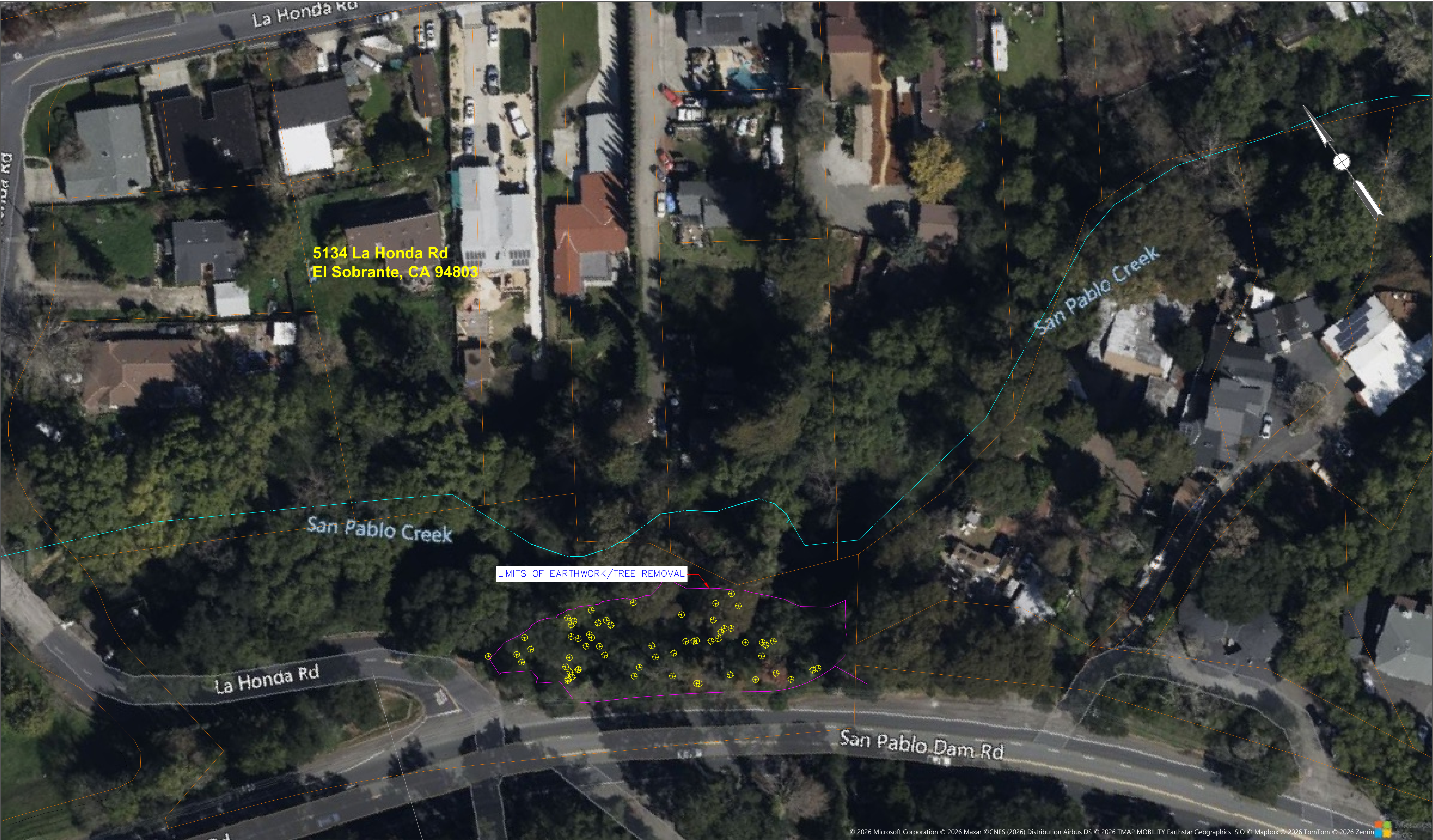
General Response: As stated in the General Response for Comment 7 above, the County has a Request Services page that allows residents to report issues including concerns about streetlights: [REQUEST SERVICES | Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](#). Submitting the concern to this website ensures that these requests are routed to the appropriate County Division.

The CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration is tentatively scheduled for the **July 14, 2026** Board meeting to be considered for adoption by the County Board of Supervisors. Thank you for providing comments. Should you have any follow up questions, please contact me at christina.kelleher@pw.cccounty.us or (925) 812-7386.

Sincerely,

Christina Kelleher

Christina Kelleher
Environmental Analyst II
Environmental Services Division



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NO.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE



Contra Costa County
Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

FOR REDUCED PLANS
ORIGINAL SCALE IS IN INCHES

0123

SCALE

TREE REMOVAL EXHIBIT			
FILE NO.		SHEET	OF
FILE NAME:		PEN TBL:	