



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Notice of Availability of and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

*Date:* February 18, 2015  
*Case No.:* 2012.0054E  
*Project Title:* **Sunol Long Term Improvements Project**  
**505 Paloma Road**  
**Sunol, CA 94586**

*Land Use:* The project site is designated as Water Management in the Alameda County General Plan

*Parcel Nos.:* 96-375-12-2; 96-375-14  
*Project Site Size:* Approximately 44 acres including access and staging areas  
*Project Sponsor:* San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
*Staff Contact:* Timothy Johnston – (415) 575-9035  
[Timothy.Johnston@sfgov.org](mailto:Timothy.Johnston@sfgov.org)

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### To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project as described below. The document is a preliminary mitigated negative declaration (PMND), containing information about the possible environmental effects of the proposed project. The PMND documents the determination of the Planning Department that the proposed project could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of a mitigated negative declaration does not indicate a decision by the City to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

**Project Description:** The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposes to implement the Sunol Long Term Improvement (SLTI) Project (the “project”), which is comprised of two main elements: improvements to the existing Sunol Corporation Yard (Sunol Yard) and development of a new interpretive center, to be named “the Alameda Creek Watershed Center” (Watershed Center), in the vicinity of the Sunol Water Temple.

The proposed project site is located in a primarily rural setting, south of the Town of Sunol and west of the State Route 84/Interstate 680 junction, in Alameda County, California. Adjoining the project site are the Sunol Water Temple Agricultural Park, a quarry operation, Alameda Creek, and Arroyo de la Laguna.

The project would be implemented at two areas within the SFPUC property located 505 Paloma Road, in Sunol, CA. Upgrades to the approximately 8-acre Sunol Yard would occur in the northern portion of the project site, while construction of the proposed Watershed Center would occur in an approximately 8-acre area located in the southern portion of the site, in the vicinity of the Sunol Water Temple

The project seeks to: (1) improve the existing Sunol Yard by replacing outdated and no longer serviceable facilities with new structures in an updated facility layout in order to efficiently provide operations and maintenance support to SFPUC operations in the East Bay area; and (2) enhance the use and educational value of the Sunol Water Temple site through the establishment of an interpretive facility to provide information and activities that allow visitors to learn about and further appreciate the Alameda Creek Watershed, including its natural resources, history, and role in the SFPUC water system.

Construction activities at the Sunol Yard are proposed to begin in October 2015 and estimated to take approximately 18 months to complete. Construction activities for the Watershed Center are proposed to begin in March 2016 and also estimated to take approximately 18 months to complete. Project construction activities would include site preparation, earthwork, demolition of select buildings at the Sunol Yard, construction of new facilities, road work, and landscaping. To ensure public and traffic safety during construction, access to the existing agricultural park for tours and events would require advance coordination with the SFPUC and would involve periodic interruptions in access, and no public access would be provided to the Sunol Water Temple while project construction activities are ongoing at the Sunol Yard or the Watershed Center.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's SFPUC Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://www.sf-planning.org/puccases>). Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the ground floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, contact the Planning Department staff contact listed above.

Within 30 calendar days following publication of the PMND (i.e., by 5:00 p.m. on **March 20, 2015**), any person may:

- 1) Review the PMND as an informational item and take no action;
- 2) Make recommendations for amending the text of the document. The text of the PMND may be amended to clarify or correct statements and may be expanded to include additional relevant issues or to cover issues in greater depth. This may be done **without** the appeal described below; **OR**
- 3) Appeal the determination of no significant effect on the environment to the Planning Commission in a letter which specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$521 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.<sup>1</sup> An appeal requires the Planning Commission to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared based upon whether or not the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. Send the appeal letter to the Planning Department, Attention: Sarah B. Jones, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$521.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2015.** The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the PIC counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

In the absence of an appeal, the mitigated negative declaration shall be made final, subject to necessary modifications, after 30 days from the date of publication of the PMND.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Commission or the Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon review by the Planning Department, the appeal fee may be reimbursed for neighborhood organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months.