



March 30, 2022

SENT VIA: EMAIL

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- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS
Executive Director

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The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for City of Santa Rosa Community Funded Project, McMinn Storm Drain Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I am writing to express my support for the City of Santa Rosa's McMinn Storm Drain Project request for \$600,000.

The RRWA is a coalition of ten public agencies in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs in the Russian River watershed for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement. The RRWA provides support to communities throughout the Russian River watershed and works to enhance awareness of special studies and water resource programs funded through grants.

This project would address storm drain infrastructure needs in the Roseland Area. It would include the design of approximately 2,000 linear feet of new storm drain pipe and new catch basins, as needed, to provide a level of storm drain design that would meet current design standards and alleviate repeated localized inundation in the area. The design of the McMinn Project, and eventual construction, would reduce the risk of localized flooding, including along a primary evacuation route of Sebastopol Road, and reduce safety hazards to drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Maintenance of storm drain infrastructure is a priority need throughout the City of Santa Rosa. Much of the Roseland area contains communities identified as local Equity Priority Areas based on the top quarter of Sonoma County's underserved populations based on people of color and low-income designations in the American Community Survey (Census ACS 2015-2019) and a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) based on the Climate and Economic Justice's Screening Tool and State of California's Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool.

The McMinn Project was one of the critical recommended improvements outlined in the Santa Rosa Roseland Area/Sebastopol Road Specific Plan dated November 2016, a plan developed by numerous City staff, hired consultants, and, perhaps most importantly, a steering committee comprised of plan area residents, business owners, and community members. The McMinn Project would develop the design for the connection of existing storm drain on

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Sebastopol Road, a primary evacuation route for the Roseland Area, to its planned outfall at Roseland Creek. An award of \$600,000 would allow the City to design the McMinn Storm Drain and, after construction, provide greatly improved drainage along the primary evacuation route of Sebastopol Road and this Disadvantaged Community.

Thank you for your consideration. This request represents an important infrastructure project that will not only benefit Southwest Santa Rosa but the entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward tick.

Andy Rodgers, RRWA Executive Director