

Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Group Spring 2017 Update



Dear Community Members,

Current News: There is much to report about the Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Project. The County and Questa Engineering have been hard at work on the supplemental feasibility study, and are preparing to share the results of the study. This study will help to define our wastewater future and it is important for all property owners and other community members to be informed.

In addition, the County is about to start on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), to assess potential environmental impacts that might arise from the proposed project. The scoping session is when community members can give the County input on the issues that should be reviewed in the EIR.

Please join us at two important meetings:

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 7:00pm - Report on the outcome of the supplemental feasibility study – Lagunitas School Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 6:00pm – Environmental Impact Report Scoping Session – Lagunitas School Multipurpose Room



Background information: Our thanks to those who attended the Woodacre San Geronimo Flats Wastewater meeting on September 22, 2016. Christin Anderson welcomed the group and expressed the purpose and intention of the Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Group - to address our environmental and public health problems by providing the necessary information for the community to make a decision about its waste water future. Liz Vial reported on our outreach efforts to property owners in the project study area. 190 property owners on the

Background, cont.

Woodacre and San Geronimo Flats have submitted petitions, and \$54,000 has been raised through community contributions (including \$12,000 for the original feasibility study in 2011). Lorene Jackson, the Project Manager from the County of Marin Environmental Health Division gave a short report on the supplemental feasibility study. Questa Engineering has been contracted by the County to undertake the supplemental feasibility study, which will expand on the 2011 Feasibility Study for the Woodacre Flats, and consider opportunities to extend the project beyond the Woodacre Flats to a larger area and more homes in the San Geronimo Valley. The supplemental feasibility study will compare several alternative projects, including 1) a no project alternative, 2) onsite wastewater systems and 3) a leach field on Fire Road, and 4) several variations on the Recycled Wastewater alternative proposed at the Golf Course. The study will include conceptual designs and costs.

Community engagement and support: All property owners within the study area are strongly encouraged to complete a survey and make a \$350 contribution. This “earnest” money will help to support the cost of the EIR and public outreach, and will send a strong message of support to the County and potential grant funders. If you have not submitted your petition and contribution, please do so!!! Your support is essential. Please go to our website at woodacresangeronimoflats.org to find a copy of the petition form and determine whether you are in the study area. For more information call Christin Anderson at 415-488-4702, or Ann Seramin at 415-488-4775.

Sincerely, The Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Group, Christin Anderson, Liza Crosse, Wypke DeVries, Maya Gladstern, Rich Lohman, Catherine McQuilkin, Denis Poggio, Jim Rawlinson, Ann Seramin, Liz Vial, Mark Weiss, Bruce Wick, Mark Wilson (technical advisor)

Project History

In 2007 the Tomales Bay Watershed Council invited concerned neighbors to consider the issue of failing wastewater systems in Woodacre. A group of volunteers formed and over several years completed water quality and septic system studies that confirmed our anecdotal understanding that many of our septic systems are failing. After working closely with the County, conducting a number of community meetings, and raising \$12,000 from community members, in 2011 a detailed Feasibility Study was completed by Questa Engineering. Four alternatives were evaluated:

- 1) No project
- 2) Upgrade of onsite systems using modern technology
- 3) A community system with shared leach field on Fire Road above Woodacre, serving a maximum of 150 homes
- 4) A recycled wastewater treatment plant, providing treated water to the Golf Course.

We then conducted a survey of neighbors on the Woodacre Flats, and received strong support for proceeding with an Environmental Impact Report. We raised an additional \$42,000 for the EIR, for a total of \$54,000 in community contributions. Along with contributions from the County and MMWD, the EIR is fully funded.

Through subsequent discussions with Questa Engineering we learned that the recycled water plant could serve up to 300 homes. We then reached out to neighbors on the Woodacre and San Geronimo Flats and received additional petitions from homeowners interested in joining our efforts. **190 property owners have submitted petitions expressing interest in the project and supporting the EIR.** Because of that interest, and in consultation with the County, we decided to delay the EIR to allow for a supplemental feasibility study to be undertaken to evaluate an expanded study area, including the San Geronimo Flats and upper Woodacre Flats. That study is now funded and underway, and the EIR is scheduled to begin in March, 2017.