

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**SCH # 2022020222**
**Project Title:** Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan

Lead Agency: County of Sonoma

Contact Person: Brian Oh

Mailing Address: 2550 Ventura Ave

Phone: 707-565-1931

City: Santa Rosa

Zip: 95403

County: Sonoma

**Project Location:** County: Sonoma

City/Nearest Community: Sonoma/Eldridge

Cross Streets: Arnold Dr &amp; Harney Ave

Zip Code: 95431

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 38 ° 20 ' 50 " N / 122 ° 31 ' 7 " W Total Acres: 945

Assessor's Parcel No.: 054-090-001, 054-150-010, 054-150-005

Section:

Twp.:

Range:

Base:

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 12

Waterways:

Airports:

Railways:

Schools: Sonoma Valley

**Document Type:**

 CEQA: ☒ NOP

☐ Draft EIR

NEPA:

☐ NOI

Other:

☐ Joint Document

☐ Early Cons

☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR

☐ EA

☐ Final Document

☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

☐ Draft EIS

☐ Other:

☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other:

☐ FONSI

**Local Action Type:**
☐ General Plan Update

☒ Specific Plan

☒ Rezone

☐ Annexation

☒ General Plan Amendment

☐ Master Plan

☐ Prezone

☐ Redevelopment

☐ General Plan Element

☐ Planned Unit Development

☐ Use Permit

☐ Coastal Permit

☐ Community Plan

☐ Site Plan

☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

☐ Other:

**Development Type:**
☒ Residential: Units 1000 Acres

☒ Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees

☒ Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees

☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees

☒ Educational:

☒ Recreational:

☒ Water Facilities: Type MGD

☒ Transportation: Type

☐ Mining: Mineral

☒ Power: Type MW

☒ Waste Treatment: Type MGD

☐ Hazardous Waste: Type

☐ Other:

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**
☒ Aesthetic/Visual

☒ Fiscal

☒ Recreation/Parks

☐ Vegetation

☒ Agricultural Land

☐ Flood Plain/Flooding

☐ Schools/Universities

☒ Water Quality

☒ Air Quality

☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard

☐ Septic Systems

☒ Water Supply/Groundwater

☒ Archeological/Historical

☒ Geologic/Seismic

☒ Sewer Capacity

☒ Wetland/Riparian

☒ Biological Resources

☐ Minerals

☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

☒ Growth Inducement

☐ Coastal Zone

☒ Noise

☒ Solid Waste

☒ Land Use

☐ Drainage/Absorption

☒ Population/Housing Balance

☒ Toxic/Hazardous

☐ Cumulative Effects

☒ Economic/Jobs

☒ Public Services/Facilities

☒ Traffic/Circulation

☐ Other:

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Public Facilities (PF)

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

NOP attached

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

### Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 02/09/2022 Ending Date 03/25/2022

### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Brian Oh

Digitally signed by Brian Oh  
DN: cn=Brian Oh, o, ou, email=brian.oh@sonoma-county.org, c=US  
Date: 2022.02.09 12:07:34 -0800

Date: 2-9-2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING

### Program Environmental Impact Report Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan

**Date:** February 08, 2022

**To:** Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

**Project Title:** Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan

**Comment Period:** Friday, March 25 by 05:00PM PST

**Scoping Meeting:** VIRTUAL, Thursday, February 17 at 05:30 PM PST

**Lead Agency:** County of Sonoma

**Contact:** Brian Oh, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
Permit Sonoma  
County of Sonoma  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
[Brian.Oh@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Brian.Oh@sonoma-county.org)  
Direct: (707) 565-1931

The County of Sonoma is preparing the Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan, which is a specific plan governing the approximately 945 acre property (SDC Property) that includes the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) core campus, known as the proposed Project (Project). The County has determined that the Project requires the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR or EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.), and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines). The County has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082(a) and 15375.

This NOP solicits guidance from responsible, trustee, and federal agencies about the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the EIR related to the agencies' statutory responsibilities. The agencies will use the County's EIR when considering their permits or other approvals related to the Project. The NOP also provides an opportunity for other interested parties to provide the County information they may possess or comments on environmental issues they see as being germane to the EIR.

The Project description, location, and topics of probable environmental effects that will be analyzed in the Program EIR are contained in the pages that follow. Since the County has determined that a Program EIR is required for the Project, pursuant to Section 15060(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, preparation of an Initial Study is not required and, therefore, one has not been prepared. Due to time limits mandated by state law, you are encouraged to submit

your response to this NOP at the earliest possible date. Comments must be received no later than the close of the NOP comment period on Friday, March 25 by 05:00PM PST, as stated on the first page of this NOP. Written comments should be addressed to Brian Oh at the address listed above.

## **PROJECT SETTING**

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Established in 1891 in the heart of the Sonoma Valley, the SDC is the oldest facility in California created specifically to serve the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, and was sited at its current location for its picturesque, therapeutic setting, gaining national renown as a place of healing and community. In 2018, the State of California officially closed the facility, and relocated clients to smaller, community-based care facilities. Figure 1 shows the project boundaries within the regional context.

Through an agreement signed in 2019, the State of California and Sonoma County forged a unique partnership that allows the County to prepare a Specific Plan and related environmental review for future reuse of the property. The State of California owns the entire property and continues to control and operate the property as the Specific Plan process is underway.

The Planning Area includes all SDC property, encompassing approximately 945 acres, or about 1.5 square miles, which includes a developed core campus covering approximately 180 acres, the surrounding approximately 755 acres of contiguous open space, and the 11-acre non-contiguous Camp Via grounds within Jack London State Historic Park. Open space includes former agricultural land, recreational uses, the Eldridge Cemetery, and many acres of valuable wildlife habitat. Embedded in the open space is an existing network of trails and access roads as well as a water system consisting of two reservoirs, aqueducts, spring head, storage tanks, treatment plant, pipelines and a water intake in Sonoma Creek. Figure 2 shows the Planning Area boundaries.

The core campus contains approximately 1.7 million square feet within 180 buildings constructed at various times, and includes two buildings on or eligible to be on the National Register – the Main Building and the Sonoma House. Several other buildings and landscape elements are contributing resources to the Sonoma State Home Historic District. Today, most of the buildings in the campus are vacant. More information on project setting is available in the Profile and Background Report (September 2020) available at the project website <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/documents>.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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The purpose of the SDC Specific Plan is to guide development of the SDC core campus and preserve open space and natural resources on the SDC property. The State of California enacted Government Code Section 14670.10.5 that outlines the State's goals and objectives for the SDC Specific Plan and disposition of the property. In light of the statewide affordable housing crisis, State law stipulates that the SDC Specific Plan prioritize housing, especially



affordable housing and housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, and stipulates that the open space surrounding the core campus be preserved as open space. The State legislation and other background documents pertaining to the project are available at the project website: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/documents>.

In December 2019, the State and the County of Sonoma entered into an agreement for the County to prepare a Specific Plan and related Environmental Impact Report that furthers the State's objectives as outlined in State legislation for the site, undertake technical studies, and provide for community engagement in land use planning. The State legislation for the site does not mandate that the State will accept the outcome of the County-driven process, and requires the State Department of General Services to proceed with actions that best represent the interests of the State. However, should the State dispose of the site to private or other non-State entities, the property will be subject to County regulatory control and the policies established in the Specific Plan.

Following the agreement with the State, Permit Sonoma (the County's planning agency) began public outreach in January 2020. Significant community input has been gathered through community meetings, workshops, and online surveys. The majority of the outreach has been conducted virtually to accommodate participation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on community input gathered and work completed to date are available at the project website: <https://www.sdcspecificplan.com/documents/>. Community members have also been engaged since 2015 on their vision for the SDC site, with numerous community members providing input over a span of years prior to this Specific Plan process. Community outreach will continue as the Specific Plan is developed and finalized.

### **Vision and Guiding Principles**

Following initial outreach and working with the Planning Advisory Team appointed by Permit Sonoma, the planning team developed a Draft Vision and Guiding Principles. In January 2021, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors reviewed and indicated support for these as a framework to guide the development of the SDC Specific Plan. The full Vision and Guiding Principles are available at the project website. The Vision includes:

"The former Sonoma Developmental Center is reinvigorated as a vibrant and sustainable community in the heart of Sonoma Valley. A mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented core provides a diverse array of housing choices, and serves as a magnet of innovation, research, education, and visitation. The surrounding open spaces flourish as natural habitats and as agricultural and recreational land linked to regional parks and open space systems. Development builds on the site's rich historic legacy while meeting contemporary needs, emphasizing resiliency and sustainable building practices. Civic uses, community gathering places, and events attract visitors from Glen Ellen, Eldridge, and the broader Sonoma region, making the center a hub of community life in Sonoma Valley."

The following are the 10 Guiding Principles for the future of SDC:

1. Promote a Vibrant, Mixed-Use Community
2. Emphasize a Cohesive Sense of Place and Walkability

3. Integrate Development with Open Space Conservation
4. Balance Redevelopment with Existing Land Uses
5. Promote Sustainability and Resiliency
6. Support Housing Development and Provide a Variety of Housing Types
7. Balance Development with Resource Conservation
8. Promote Multi-Modal Mobility
9. Ensure Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability
10. Embrace Diversity

In November 2021, Permit Sonoma released three alternatives and an evaluation of the land uses and features included in each of the alternatives. The Alternatives Report is available for review at the project website.

On January 25, 2022, Permit Sonoma recommended a project description framework for the Board of Supervisors' consideration based on underlying project objectives such as the State legislation, the Vision and Guiding Principles. The Board and the public provided comments and input on how to proceed.

#### **Anticipated Development Program and Specific Plan Policy Direction**

***Core Campus Development:*** The development program for the core campus is anticipated to include:

- **A housing development program ranging from 450 to 1,000 residential units within the existing 180-acre developed core campus**, including market-rate and affordable housing, to meet a diversity of community needs. Housing unit types would include small-lot single-family and attached housing, multifamily housing, and “missing middle” housing that reflects the needs of Sonoma County community and workforce, and housing types that support a range of options including family, co-housing, and senior housing, and support services and/or shelter for the unhoused.
- **A non-housing development program within the existing 180-acre developed core campus** including institutional, office, research and development, and other creative uses focused on sustainability and climate-focused enterprises, organizations, and businesses.
  - Small-commercial uses—such as restaurants, cafés, and small retail uses—to support neighborhood needs and walkable lifestyles.
  - Visitor and community-serving uses such as a hotel, meeting and event facilities.
  - Public and community uses, such as a museum honoring the legacy of the site, community center or gathering and recreational spaces, emergency command center, fire station, and social support services.
- **Parks and community gathering spaces and other green spaces within the existing 180-acre developed core campus**, including areas dedicated to wildlife

habitat and movement and areas that serve to buffer the community against future wildfire risks.

- **Potential creation of a new vehicular route** to connect Arnold Dr and Hwy 12, either as emergency access or full-time multi-modal access.
- **Adaptive reuse and new construction** of existing historic contributing buildings such as the Main Building, Sonoma House and key buildings along view corridors. A majority of buildings are likely to be new construction at various heights to ensure efficient use of land and foster compact development, sustainability, and walking and alternative transit use.

**Climate resilient and multimodal infrastructure** may include the development of new streets and bicycle and pedestrian connections, and extensive upgrading of the existing infrastructure as a multi-modal, resilient and sustainable community. Other project components may include but are not limited to development of a microgrid and a recycled water plant/facility, in addition to other utilities and maintenance needs.

**Open Space Preservation:** The Project will also include policies to govern the retention and preservation of the open space surrounding the 180-acre core campus, which encompasses the vast majority of the SDC Property (approximately 765 acres) and includes two lakes, the Eldridge Cemetery, and Camp Via.. Policies will address the use of infrastructure within the open space such as the existing water system infrastructure.

## PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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The Program EIR will describe existing environmental resources and current conditions in the Planning Area, evaluate the environmental impacts of implementing the Project, and identify feasible mitigation measures and alternatives that may lessen or avoid adverse environmental impacts. The analysis will focus on the reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect physical environmental effects that could result from implementation of the Project.

The following CEQA environmental issue areas will be addressed in the EIR:

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Aesthetics                         | • Hydrology and Water Quality   |
| • Air Quality                        | • Land Use and Planning         |
| • Agriculture and Forestry Resources | • Noise and Vibration           |
| • Biological Resources               | • Population and Housing        |
| • Cultural Resources                 | • Public Services, Recreation   |
| • Energy Resources                   | • Tribal Cultural Resources     |
| • Geology and Soils                  | • Utilities and Service Systems |
| • Greenhouse Gas Emissions           | • Transportation and Traffic    |
| • Hazards and Hazardous Materials    | • Wildfire Hazards              |

The topic of Mineral Resources will not be addressed in the EIR, as there are no mineral resources within the Planning Area.

The EIR will also evaluate potential cumulative and growth-inducing effects of the proposed Project, and alternatives to the Project. The CEQA-required No Project alternative will evaluate the environmental impacts should the Board of Supervisors not adopt the Specific Plan. Alternatives that would avoid or lessen significant environmental effects related to the proposed Project will be discussed.

## **SCOPING MEETING**

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Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083.9(a)(2), scoping meetings are required for projects that may have statewide, regional, or area-wide environmental impacts. The County has determined that this Project meets this threshold. A public scoping meeting has been scheduled and will be held virtually on Thursday February 17 at 05:30 PM PST. Verbal comments regarding the scope of the proposed Program EIR will be accepted at the meeting. Written comments can also be mailed or emailed to the above-mentioned address, addressed to Brian Oh, before the close of the NOP public comment period.

Please contact Brian Oh at [Brian.Oh@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Brian.Oh@sonoma-county.org) or (707) 565-1931 with any questions regarding this notice or the scoping meeting.

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Brian Oh, Comprehensive Planning Manager  
Permit Sonoma

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Date



The map displays the Sonoma Valley region, highlighting the SDC Property in red and the Sonoma Valley area with orange hatching. The County Boundary is marked with a purple line. The map includes a Regional Locator inset in the top left corner, showing the location of Sonoma County within the San Francisco Bay Area. The map also features a legend, a scale bar (0 to 2 miles), and a north arrow. The map is titled "Sonoma Valley" and "SDC Property".

**Regional Locator**

Santa Rosa  
Vacaville  
Fairfield  
Concord  
San Francisco  
Livermore  
Fremont  
San Jose

**Legend**

- SDC Property
- Sonoma Valley
- County Boundary

**Map Labels**

Sacramento  
Melita  
Rutherford  
Atlas  
Yountville  
Glen Ellen  
El Verano  
Temelec  
Merazo  
American Canyon  
Chabot Terrace  
Vallejo  
Novato  
Black Point  
Petaluma  
Crown  
Penngrove  
Cotati  
Rohnert Park  
Two Rock

**Highways**

12, 29, 116, 101, 121, 221, 80, 37

**Mountains**

Sonoma Mountains  
Mayacamas Range

**Source:** WRT, 2018; County of Sonoma, 2020; Dyett & Bhatia, 2021

Source: WRT, 2018; County of Sonoma, 2020; Dyett & Bhatia, 2021



FIGURE 2: PLANNING AREA



source: WRT, 2018; Page & Turnbull, 2020; County of Sonoma, 2020; Dyett & Bhatia, 2021



FIGURE 3: SITE TOPOGRAPHY

