

# RUSSIAN RIVER

## Monte Rio and Villa Grande Wastewater Solutions Pilot Project

### PHASE 1

#### SUBMIT PLANNING APPLICATION:

2018–2021

- Community Meeting
- Receive Funding
- Define Scope
- Issue Request for Qualifications

### PHASE 2

#### ENGAGE CONSULTANT:

2021–2023

- Assessment
- Possible Solutions
- Financial Options
- Community Meeting

### PHASE 3

#### SELECT PREFERRED OPTIONS:

2023–2026

- Refine Solutions
- Community Meeting
- Define and Select Management Options
- Complete 10% Design

### PHASE 4

#### LAUNCH MANAGEMENT SOLUTION:

2026–2029

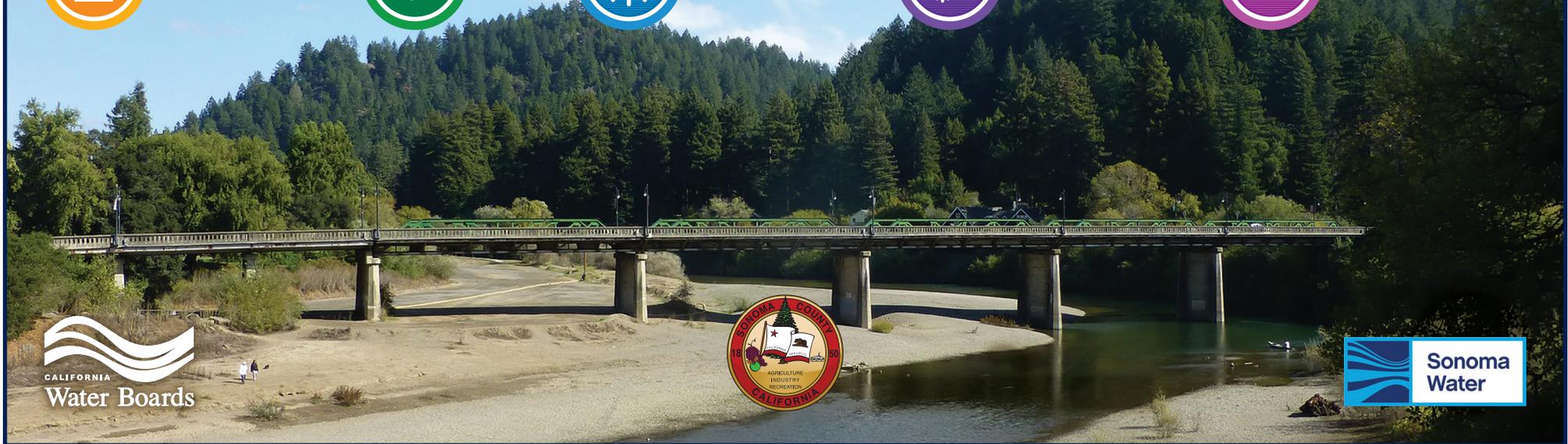
- Community Meeting
- Apply for and Secure Funding
- Complete Design
- Solicit Bids and Select Contractor(s)

### PHASE 5

#### BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT(S):

2029–2043

- Continue to Engage Residents
- Implement Solutions
- Monitor Results
- Sustain Efforts



# OBJECTIVES AND KEY MILESTONES

Many homes and businesses in Monte Rio and Villa Grande have aging septic systems. Upgrading or replacing these systems may be challenging given current and anticipated wastewater standards<sup>1</sup>. This project aims to identify practical and affordable solutions to help property owners meet those standards and comply with the new state and county requirements to address pollution in the Russian River. The Monte Rio and Villa Grande Wastewater Solutions Pilot Project will conduct a feasibility study designed to analyze potential wastewater solutions, including onsite and small community septic systems as well as sewer alternatives, and will lay the groundwork for project implementation. The pilot project, including both the planning and implementation, is also intended to help inform other communities facing similar challenges.



## PHASE 1 (2018–2021)

### SUBMIT PLANNING APPLICATION

An initial community meeting was held in 2018 to provide information about new county and state regulations and to share initial information about the feasibility study. Sonoma Water requested planning funds through the State Water Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which included a project scope and estimated budget to conduct a feasibility study and to produce a report. In early 2021, Sonoma Water was awarded \$500,000 to support launching that work, and in mid-2021 Sonoma Water issued a request for qualifications to solicit professional services to perform the feasibility study.



## PHASE 2 (2021–2023)

### ENGAGE CONSULTANT

In 2022 Sonoma Water engaged Brelje & Race Consulting Engineers to perform the feasibility study. The study will identify existing wastewater sources and flows and assess options for the Monte Rio and Villa Grande communities based on technical feasibility, management needs, construction cost and availability of public funding. A community meeting will be held to provide updates and garner input.



## PHASE 3 (2023–2026)

### SELECT PREFERRED OPTIONS

Once Brelje & Race completes its preliminary assessment, a community meeting will be held to refine the evaluated options and seek input on the preferred solutions from the public. Potential management options will also be discussed. A management entity will be identified

as needed to apply for funding to support implementation of the selected solutions. This entity may also provide ongoing management and support, such as conducting inspections and performing routine maintenance and repairs. Brelje & Race will develop a conceptual design for the recommended project(s) identified in the Feasibility Report to enable application for implementation funding.



## PHASE 4 (2026–2029)

### LAUNCH MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

With the preferred project(s) identified, conceptual design completed, management entity identified, and implementation funding secured, proposals from qualified engineering firms will be solicited to complete the final design of the preferred project(s) followed by selection of project contractors. A community meeting will be held to share the project details and timeline.



## PHASE 5 (2029–2043)

### BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT(S)

Implementation of the preferred project or projects is expected to begin as early as 2029 and be completed by 2044. Throughout the implementation phase, information will be shared with residents about the project's development and impacts. To assess the effectiveness of the pilot project on water quality in the lower Russian River, state and local agencies will periodically review and assess results.

**For more information, please contact the Clean Water Ombudsman<sup>2</sup>, or visit the Lower Russian River Wastewater Citizens Advisory Group's Webpage<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>State Standards: [bit.ly/NCRWQB-rr-tmdl](https://bit.ly/NCRWQB-rr-tmdl); County Standards: [permitsonoma.org/owts-manual](https://permitsonoma.org/owts-manual); <sup>2</sup>Ombudsman Contact: Phone: 707.565.3747; email: [Michael.Makdisi@Sonoma-County.org](mailto:Michael.Makdisi@Sonoma-County.org);

<sup>3</sup>LRR CAG Webpage: [sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrr-wastewater-cag](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrr-wastewater-cag)