

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

To: County Clerk and Recorder
Ventura County
800 S. Victoria Ave, Location #1260
Ventura, CA 93009

Project Title: Valley Center Well PFAS Groundwater Treatment Project

Location -- Specific: The project is entirely within the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV-Water) service area and located at 26715 Valley Center Drive. Specifically, the project will be constructed within SCV Water property containing the well site.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County

Description of Activity:

The whole of the action includes authorization to prepare final design for the project, construction, and operation of the project. Based on the preliminary project design and anticipated final design, and because the project construction is a minor alteration limited to construction within SCV Water's existing facility property, we find construction and operation of this project to be categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, specifically State CEQA Guideline sections 15301 (aka Class 1), Minor Alterations to Existing Facilities and 15303 (aka Class 3) for New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

The Treatment System will consist of 2 tanks (approx. 12' diameter, 17' height), associated cartridge filters, piping, booster pumps, a chloramination disinfection facility housed within an approximate 15 ft by 25 ft open shade structure, along with associated electrical, SCADA, and water quality measuring equipment. The vessels will be loaded with Ion Exchange Resin which will trap the contaminants via adsorption. The treatment system will treat up to 1,200 gpm of instantaneous flow. The treatment is needed since the chemical group PFAS, has begun to be regulated, and these wells have had detections of these chemicals, which has led to our inability to use said wells without treatment. A portion of the facility's block wall will be reconfigured to enclose additional equipment.

The discharge line outfalls are within an existing rap bank approximately 70 feet from the Santa Clara River that is dry most of the time. During normal operations the primary discharge at the site will occur when the wells are started up and the well water is discharged to waste prior to sending water through the treatment and distribution system. For well start-up the pump to waste duration is approximately 2-3 minutes at a rate of 1,200 gallons per minute. At a well-shut down/start up frequency of once per month, the total annual volume of discharge is approximately 28,800 to 43,200 gallons.

Name of Public Agencies Approving or Carrying Out Activity: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (Lead Agency).

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 and 15303
- Statutory Exemption.** State code number: See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3.

Reasons why activity is exempt:

The project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under Class 1 Existing Facilities because it is a minor alteration of an existing public facility and it concerns proposed new mechanical equipment involving negligible or no expansion of use, i.e. no additional extraction of water, beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The project, aka the whole of the action, also qualifies for an exemption under Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures because the project construction is limited to construction within SCV Water's existing facility property.

None of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines would apply to the action. In particular, a biological resources survey was conducted, and no special status species were observed. Based on discharge rate and duration, the well discharge will not create flowing water in the river sufficient to reach the closest unarmored three spine stickleback occupied habitat downstream. This finding is supported by the biological resources assessment prepared for the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rick Viergutz

Telephone: 661-513-1281

Signature:  _____ **Title:** General Manager **Date:** 8/10/2020

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 10 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE