

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Office of Facility Planning, Construction and Management  
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95827

**PROJECT TITLE:** Arsenic Removal Water Treatment Plant

**PROJECT LOCATION(S):** Valley State Prison; 21633 Avenue 24, Chowchilla, CA 93610

**Description Of Nature, Purpose, And Beneficiaries Of Project:** The purpose of the Valley State Prison (VSP) Arsenic Treatment Water Plant project is for CDCR to design and construct a coagulation-filtration water treatment plant to remove both arsenic and manganese from the water supply for both VSP and Central California Women's Facility (CCWF). The water plant will treat water from all of the five existing groundwater wells located at these institutions. The project scope will construct a treatment system that will include: filter vessels, chemical injection systems for ferric chloride, sodium hypochlorite, and caustic soda; backwash recovery equipment including a backwash reclaim tank; settled solids holding tank associated valves and piping; and, controls to provide treated and blended water to the VSP and CCWF storage tanks. The project also includes construction of an approximate 6,300 square foot treatment plant building with water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical utility connections that will house electronic controls/monitors, equipment, and chemical storage. This treatment plant will ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) drinking water quality standards related to arsenic levels at both VSP and CCWF by providing a permanent solution to the elevated arsenic levels detected in Wells 1, 2, and 402 after monitoring began in 2006.

All work shall be in compliance with CDCR Design and Construction Policy Guidelines, Building Codes, and State Fire Marshal requirements.

**Name Of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

**Name Of Person Or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Facility Planning, Construction, and Management, 9838 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption Class 1, CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 & 15303 (Existing Facilities & New Construction)

**Reason Why Project Is Exempt:** This project involves no expansion of existing use and located within a previously disturbed area that is not considered environmentally or historically sensitive. This is one of a class of projects that the Secretary for Resources has found do not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore is declared categorically exempt from the requirement for preparing an environmental document.

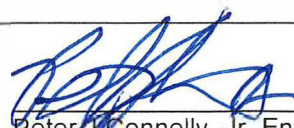
**Contact Person:** Peter J Connelly, Jr, Environmental Planner, 916-255-3010  
**Telephone No.:**

**Date Received For Filing:**

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**Aug 17 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

 8/17/2020  
Peter J. Connelly, Jr, Environmental Planning Section  
Office of Facility Planning, Construction, and Management  
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation