

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: Upper Santa Clara River Field Investigation of Potential Recharge Sites

Location -- Specific: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA" or "Agency") is located in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties approximately 34 miles north of Downtown Los Angeles. The pilot study sites are located in the portion of SCVWA's service boundaries that are solely within Los Angeles County along the Upper Santa Clara River on East end of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Location -- Counties: Los Angeles County

Description of Activity:

As part of SCVWA's mission, the Agency continues to research and develop options to supplement its diversified water supply portfolio. Two previous studies, commissioned by SCVWA's predecessor agencies Newhall County Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency, identified locations of interest for possible groundwater recharge activities. Building on these prior efforts, SCVWA intends on collecting the necessary site-specific field data to determine the viability and sustainability of each location's recharge capacity.

The whole of the action is a pilot study investigation at each site that will include: land surveys, geophysical surveys, soil borings, soil characterization, infiltration testing, aquifer testing, up to 3 monitoring wells (converted from soil borings), water level monitoring, measured depth to groundwater, depth to bedrock, and thickness of the alluvial aquifer beneath the proposed recharge area. Site access agreements will be procured before information collection activities occur. The data that is collected will be utilized to calculate infiltration rates, conduct mounding assessments, calculate the groundwater gradient, evaluate the groundwater velocity, and update the existing local groundwater model with site specific information.

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

Exempt Status: (Choose Exemption Type)

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption.** See CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6)
- Statutory Exemption.** See CEQA Guidelines Section 15262.

Reasons why activity is exempt:

The project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under both the Feasibility

Upper Santa Clara River Field Investigation of Potential Recharge Sites

and Planning Studies statutory exemption (§15262) and a categorical exemption for information collection (Class 6, §15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines), since the activities involve a conceptual plan associated with feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions, as well as basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These activities are strictly for information gathering purposes, as part of a study leading to actions which the SCVWA Board has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

Additionally, none of the exceptions in §15300.2 apply to the proposed actions. Impacts at both locations will be temporary and will be conducted consistently with any necessary permitting requirements from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dirk Marks **Telephone:** (661) 513-1297

Signature:  **Title:** Director of Water Resources **Date:** 10/7/2020

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing by County Clerk:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 07 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE