



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE:

Corte Madera Reservoir Replacement Project

PROJECT LOCATION:

1714 Arastradero Road, Gate B, Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California 94304 [APN 182-35-041].

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Corte Madera Reservoir is a 1.5 million gallon (MG), above ground, welded steel reservoir that was constructed in 1969 and is now reaching its useful life. This project will replace the existing reservoir with a new, above ground, pre-stressed concrete reservoir in the same location and with the same capacity. The new concrete reservoir will be 80 linear feet (LF) in diameter and 52 LF in height, similar to the existing reservoir. The construction work will take place at the existing reservoir site. The project will also include a designated construction staging area in the vicinity of Enid W. Pearson Arastradero Preserve Park Gate B located on Arastradero Road. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2021 and last approximately one year. Nearby trails within the preserve would remain open during construction. Basic best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive weeds have been incorporated into the project and project work areas will be evaluated at the end of construction. If necessary, weed removal will be planned for work areas if the evaluation concludes that invasive weeds have spread. There are no known special status species or species of special concern present within the project area. The staging area has been selected to avoid impacts to native grasses although these grasses are not protected. The staging area and location of the existing/proposed reservoir is shown in the location map in Attachment A.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:

City of Palo Alto

NAME OF PERSON OR GROUP CARRYING OUT PROJECT:

City of Palo Alto, Utilities Department, Water, Gas, Wastewater Engineering
1007 Elwell Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303

EXEMPT STATUS

(check one)

- 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: CEQA Guidelines §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction);
 - Statutory Exemptions.
-

**REASONS WHY
PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

The City has determined that the project is eligible for a Class 2 exemption. The project includes the replacement of an existing utility structure (a 1.5 MG reservoir with a new reservoir in the same location and with the same capacity. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(c), Class 2 exemptions consist of the “replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.”

The City is aware that there are six categories or exceptions that preclude the use of Categorical Exemptions, as listed in CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 These categories, followed by the reason(s) the City believes they are not applicable to this project, are as follows:

15300.2(a) Location. Classes 3,4,5,6 and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant

This exception does not apply to Class 2 exemptions.

15300.2(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The project is a stand-alone replacement project that would not be completed in multiple phases that could result in a cumulative impact over time.

15300.2(c) Significant Effect. There are no unusual circumstances creating the possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA.

There is nothing unique about the site, such as the presence of cultural resources or hazardous materials, and nothing unique about the project itself that would constitute an unusual circumstance, creating the possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA. The selected staging area and the reservoir area do not contain any significant biological resources (flora or fauna). The staging area has been selected to avoid native grasses, although these grasses are not protected.

15300.2(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, with a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The project site is not visible from a scenic highway. I-280 and Skyline Blvd (HWY 35) are the only State scenic highways in Palo Alto and they are not visible from the project site.

15300.2(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The City has reviewed the Cortese List on the Envirostor databased to confirm that the project site is not on a list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Sec 65962.5 of the Government Code.

15300.2(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.

There are no historic resources listed or that are known to be eligible for listing within the work area. Therefore, the project would not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

PROJECT CONTACT:

Darija Borkovic
Project Engineer,
Utilities Department
Water, Gas, Wastewater Engineering
(650) 566-4507

IF FILED BY APPLICANT:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Declare if a Notice of Exemption has been filed by the public agency approving the project

Yes

 N/A

DocuSigned by:

D414D34F652D46A...
 Signature (Public Agency)

Darija Borkovic, Project Engineer
 Title

5/17/21
 Date

Attachment A: Location Map

