

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
**Notice of Exemption**

2021-00230

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: Contra Costa

**FILED**

June 17, 2021

DEBORAH COOPER  
CLERK-RECORDER

By *A. Stru*  
Deputy clerk

From: Contra Costa County  
Dept. of Conservation &  
Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

SCH#: 2021040458

**Project Title:** Rocky Ridge Temporary Precipitation Forecasting System. WO# 8173, CP#21-24.

**Project Applicant:** Mark Boucher, PE. Contra Costa County Public Works- Flood Control & Water Conservation District. 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553. Phone: (925) 313-2274.

**Project Location:** The project site is located at Rocky Ridge, off Bollinger Canyon Road, between the Castro Valley and Danville unincorporated area of the County, California. APN# 258-310-007.

**Lead Agency:** Sonoma Water Agency. Connie Barton, General Manager. 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Phone: (707) 547-1905

**Responsible Agency:** Department of Conservation and Development. 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553. Telma B. Moreira- Principal Planner (925) 655-2863.

**Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:** The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) and several other agencies in the Bay Area have collaborated with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Colorado State University's Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, the United States Geological Survey - Pacific Coast and Marine Science Center, and the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, to develop a regional project called the "San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System" (AQPI Project). Its purpose is to provide early notification of more precise rainfall forecasting for atmospheric rivers, including location, intensity, and amounts, for the improved management of water supply reservoirs, the improved operations of combined sewer and wastewater systems, the improved operations of flood protection facilities, and numerous other benefits to flood control managers, emergency responders, transportation officials, and media outlets.

The Project consists of a sublease agreement and temporary placement, operation, and maintenance of a precipitation forecasting system at Rocky Ridge, off Bollinger Canyon Road, in Castro Valley, California, with American Towers, LLC. The precipitation information system will improve the region's early warning capabilities to avoid life-safety threats from potential land sliding, debris flows, flooding, erosion, road hazards or other fire related problems that could be compounded from heavy rain events. The temporary precipitation forecasting system also will give flood control managers, emergency responders, transportation officials, and media outlets more precise information on just where, when, and the intensity of expected rainfall.

Current use of the site is a telecommunications facility consisting of existing 200-foot-tall radio tower, several communication buildings, large generators, propane tanks, and multiple antennae. The site is closed to the public and enclosed by a barb wire topped chain link fence. The project would place a self-contained precipitation forecasting system on an existing concrete pad within the fence line. The system consists of an eight-foot high by eight-foot wide by ten-foot long shelter topped with a fully enclosed rotating antenna. The height of the antenna would be under 20 feet from ground level and would not adversely impact a scenic or historical resource.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any permit that may be applicable is obtained from any regulatory agencies, including but limited to Contra Costa County Building Inspection Division, Public Works Department, CDFW, RWQCB, and BAAQMD.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

CCC Public Works: Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial Project (Sec. 21080(b) (1); 15268;
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions, 15303(d) and 15306
- Other Statutory Exemption
- General Rule of Applicability

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA Section 15303 and 15306: CEQA Section 15303(d) allows for the construction and installation of small structures which are related, but not limited to electrical and other utility extensions. Section 15306 allows projects which consist of basic data collection, research and experimental, which would not cause disturbance to an environmental resource. The project will be installed on an already disturbed portion of the site and will not adversely impact a scenic or historical resource.

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: Telma B. Moreira Date: 6/17/2021 Title: Principal Planner

Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development

- Signed by the Responsible Agency
- Signed by Applicant

<b>AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING</b>	
<b>JUN 17 2021</b>	
I declare that on _____ I received and posted this notice as required by California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c). Said notice will remain posted for 30 days from the filing date.	
<u><i>ASh</i></u> Signature	<u>DEPUTY CLERK</u> Title

**Applicant**

Mark Boucher, PE  
CCC Public Works  
Flood Control & Water Conservation District  
255 Glacier Drive- Martinez- CA 94553  
Phone: (925) 313-2274

**Department of Fish and Wildlife Fees Due**

- De Minimis Finding - \$0
- County Clerk - \$50
- Conservation and Development - \$25

Total Due: \$50 Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_