

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
C/O Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Multi-Level Deep Monitoring Well Project

Project Location- Specific: Four locations within the Sonoma Valley located at 19722 8th St East, 21948 Burndale Rd, 22900 Broadway, and 1221 Felder Rd, Sonoma, Sonoma County, CA (Figure 1).

Project Location – City: Sonoma

Project Location – County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: In 2014, the State of California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to help manage its groundwater. According to SGMA, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be formed for all high and medium priority groundwater basins in the state. These GSAs must develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for managing and using groundwater. A major component of each GSP is the development of adequate groundwater monitoring networks to set a baseline for current groundwater levels and determine the sustainable yield of the basin, as well as track the effectiveness of sustainable management criteria as developed by the GSAs to meet the groundwater sustainability management goals in the GSPs.

The Sonoma Valley GSA received a \$1 million grant from California's Department of Water Resources through the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). One of the grant components is the planning, design, and installation of up to four, multi-level groundwater monitoring wells drilled to depths of up to 500 feet within the GSP area. The specific focus is to provide monitoring data in areas identified as groundwater data gaps with important features such as fault zones, groundwater basin boundaries, baylands, or proximity to areas of substantial groundwater pumping.

The Proposed Project would improve the Sonoma Valley's GSA's monitoring networks through the installation of up to four, multi-level monitoring wells within the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin. These wells would range from approximately 200 to 500 feet in depth and each well casing would have a diameter of 2.5 inches. The wells would be installed within boreholes with a maximum diameter of 16 inches. The duration of construction for the entire Proposed Project is anticipated to be six to eight months. The monitoring wells will provide groundwater information to support and implement long-term sustainable groundwater planning and management, and inform projects to help the GSP meet the sustainable groundwater management goals of the Basin.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines 15306: Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The installation of multi-level deep monitoring wells would not result in any change in existing environmental conditions. The project consists of data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental, historical, or scenic resource. There are no cumulative effects from the project or unusual circumstances which would lead to a significant effect on the environment. The project is part of a study that may result in a future project, which has not yet been approved, funded, or adopted.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

Signature



GSA Administrator
Title

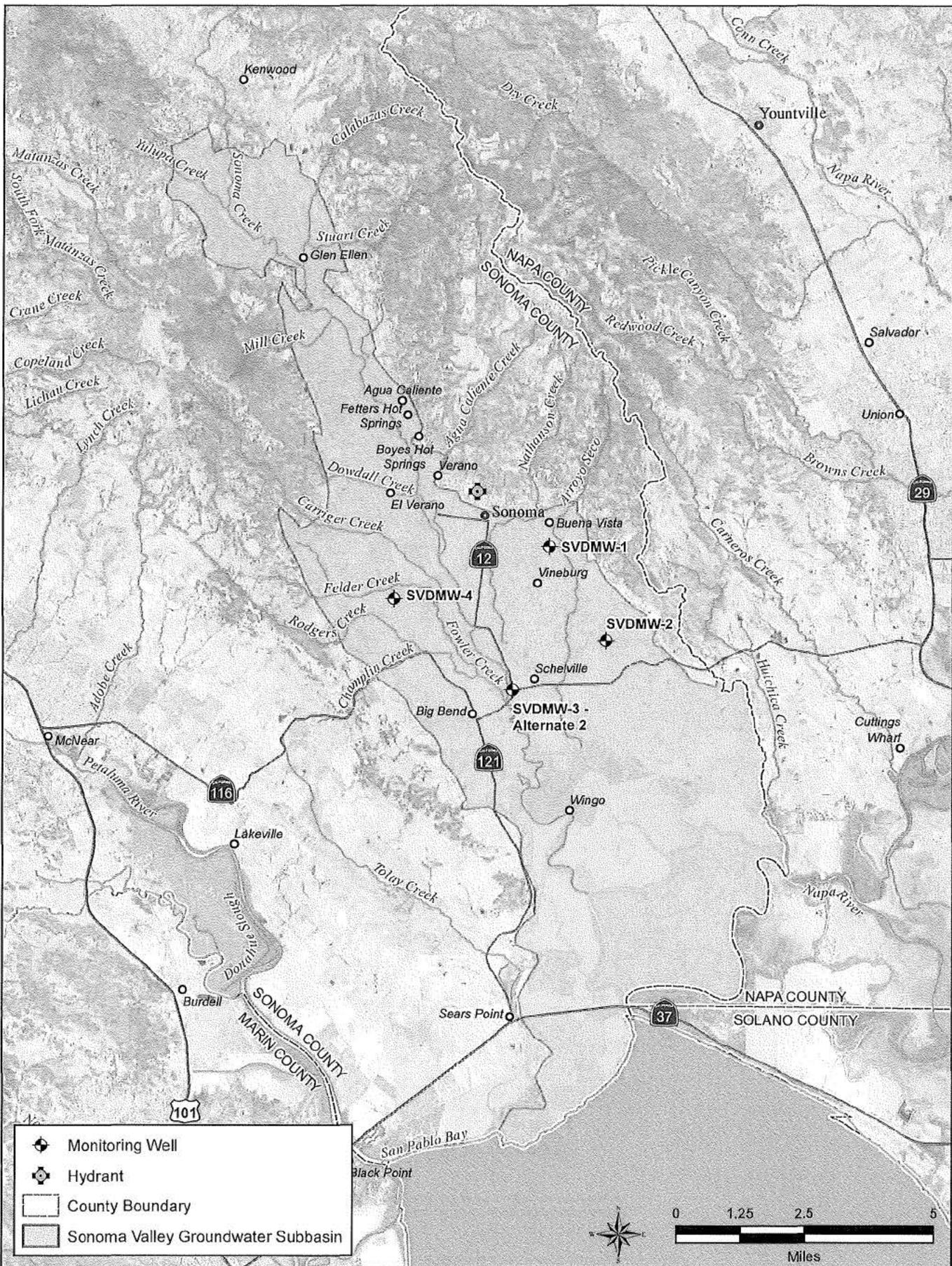
9/28/2021

Date

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

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 20-Aug-2021



◆ Monitoring Well
⊠ Hydrant
- - - County Boundary
■ Sonoma Valley Groundwater Subbasin



Monitoring Well Locations
Sonoma Valley GSA
 AUGUST 2021 FIGURE 1