

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination

Sonoma County Water Agency (Applicant)
Water System Number: 4910020
Emergency Todd Road Well Activation Project (Project)

As the District Engineer for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water, I have been delegated the authority to approve water supply permits. Permit approval and other discretionary approvals that may occur prior to permit approval are actions that are subject to CEQA. The authority to make this CEQA determination necessarily accompanies the delegation to approve the Project. I hereby find the following:

1. The State Water Board is the Responsible Agency. The State Water Board has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Project.
2. This Project is categorically and statutorily exempt under the CEQA Guidelines: California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, section 15301; and CCR title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 18, section 15269 (b)(c).

The Project will be built on an existing facility that will involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Furthermore, On March 5, 2021, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture designated 50 California counties, including Sonoma County, as primary natural disaster areas due to drought. This Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency. On April 21, 2021 Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino counties due to drought conditions in the Russian River Watershed. On April 27, 2021, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Sonoma proclaimed a local emergency for the Sonoma County Operational Area due to drought conditions. On June 16, 2021, the General Manager of Sonoma Water determined that due to drought conditions, an emergency exists that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services, necessitating immediate action pursuant to the authority of the County of Sonoma Resolution #06-0649. Sonoma Water staff are proposing work necessary to bring an existing groundwater well at the Todd Road Well Station into operation and to increase regional and community drought resiliency. On June 18, 2021, Sonoma County Board of Directors approved a resolution that declared the need to do emergency work related to drought, and such projects are exempt for the requirements of CEQA.

3. The Project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

A final copy of the NOE and record of permit approval for the Project is available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water at the Sonoma District office.

Janice Oakley, District Engineer
Division of Drinking Water, District 18

Date