

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency
C/O West Yost
2235 Mercury Way Suite 105
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

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

Project Title: Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency’s Multi-Level Deep Monitoring Well Project

Project Location- Specific: Four locations within the Santa Rosa Plain located at 8505 Park Ave, Cotati, 372 Bellvue Ave, Santa Rosa, 7800 Starr Rd, Windsor, and 10011 Los Amigos Rd, Windsor, Sonoma County, CA (Figure 1).

Project Location – City: Santa Rosa and the Town of Windsor

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 Santa Rosa Plain 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 Santa Rosa Plain’s GSA’s monitoring networks through the installation of up to four, multi-level monitoring wells within the Santa Rosa Plain 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: Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));


Agenda Item: 8B, Attachment 1
Meeting Date: September 30, 2021

- 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. 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

09/30/2021
Date

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____



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Deep Multi-Level Monitoring Wells
 Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin

Sonoma County Water Agency



Monitoring Well Locations
 Santa Rosa Plain GSA

AUGUST 2021

FIGURE 11