

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research,
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
Ventura County

From:

State of California Department of Water
Resources
770 Fairmont Ave, Suite 200
Glendale, CA 91203-1035

Project Title: Drilling and Construction of Monitoring Wells – Ventura, Mound Basin

Project Applicant: State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Projection Location – City: San Buenaventura

Project Location – County: Ventura County

Project Location - Specific: The proposed Project site is in Ventura County on land owned by Ventura City at the Ventura Sewer and Wastewater Services Facility. The address is 1400 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001. The Project location is generally described by latitude and longitude coordinates of 34.239283, -119.257192 and is within the United States Geological Survey 7.5' quadrangle "Oxnard" and the Public Land Survey System T2N R22W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services Program proposes to install three clustered monitoring wells at the location described above. The Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA) and its stakeholders require groundwater monitoring data, collected from the proposed wells. The project will correlate existing geophysical survey data with the subsurface conditions at the proposed Project site to increase subsurface knowledge of the groundwater basin.

To accomplish this objective, an exploratory borehole would be drilled to approximately 1,500' below ground surface (bgs) using a mud rotary drill rig. After conducting a geophysical survey in the borehole, one monitoring well would be constructed. Based on the data collected from the exploratory borehole, two additional shallow monitoring wells would be drilled and completed immediately adjacent to the exploratory borehole. The depths of the completed monitoring wells would be dependent on drilling conditions, encountered lithology, and data from the geophysical survey; the estimated total depths of the proposed monitoring wells would be approximately 100' to 200' bgs, 400' to 500' bgs, and 1,150' to 1,250' bgs.

The proposed wells would be constructed within an area of about 1250 ft² on a dirt lot located in the Ventura Sewer and Wastewater Services Facility property. Construction would consist of three phases. The initial phase would last about one week and be mobilization and transporting of equipment and supplies from Signal Hill, CA to the proposed Project site I-405, and CA-101. Phase 2 would be to drill and construct the monitoring wells. Phase 3 would entail development (cleaning) of each well. Overall,

phases 2 and 3 would last approximately one month. Demobilization would take approximately one week to transport equipment and supplies back to Signal Hill, CA via I-405, and CA-101.

During drilling and well construction, the borehole water and drilling fluid would be contained within plastic lined 20-yard roll off bins to allow settling of the heavy particles (i.e. sand, silt, clay, gravel) from the lighter materials (water, and fluids). The fluid fraction would be pumped into the wastewater treatment facility on-site to be treated and used by the Ventura Sewer and Wastewater Services Facility. The heavier particles would then be transported off-site to the Caglia Environmental waste disposal facility in Fresno, CA. Native drill cuttings would be stored nearby on an unused dirt lot on Ventura Sewer and Wastewater Services Facility property. Should water and soil testing reveal contaminants of special concern above threshold levels, the water and cuttings would be disposed at Caglia Environmental, located in Fresno. Fluids and drill cuttings would be expected to be clean and non-hazardous.

After the completion of the well construction phase, each well would be developed using industry-standard methods, including bailing, surging-and-swabbing, and pumping. Initially, the development fluids from each well would be turbid, i.e. contain clay, silt, and sand particles. The turbidity of these fluids would progressively and rapidly decrease through continued development.

Upon completion of the wells' development, each of the clustered wells would be enclosed within a 3'x3' square galvanized vault with a flush-mount, hinged, traffic-rated well cover set in a 4'x4'x4' concrete vault box.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State of California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: State of California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemptions: Existing Facilities, Class 1, 15301, Title 14 CCR. Minor Alteration of Land, Class 4, 15304, Title 14 CCR. Information Collection, Class 6, 15306, Title 14 CCR.

Reason why project is exempt: The proposed Project is categorically exempt under Class 1, Section 15301, as the proposed activities take place completely on the Ventura Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Facility. The proposed Project is categorically exempt under Class 4, Section 15304, because the construction activities consist of nonsignificant impacts to the condition of the land. The proposed Project is also categorically exempt under Class 6, Section 15306 because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a significant impact to an environmental resource.

A preconstruction survey was conducted which revealed no sensitive resources on the proposed Project site. A California Natural Diversity Database search indicates known populations of *Eucyclogobius newberryi*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10*, *Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum*, *Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus*, *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, *Empidonax traillii extimus*, *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*, *Sternula antillarum browni*, *Rallus obsoletus levipes*, *Vireo bellii pusillus* to exist within the USGS 7.5' quad. The proposed Project site was scouted for potential activity

of these listed species and none was found on the site. The possibility exists that the bird species listed above may perch on the local trees nearby, but the construction activities would be a transitory disturbance to this behavior. The proposed Project site is already a very disturbed, developed, and unsuitable habitat for these species.

Vehicles would travel on paved roads at speeds not exceeding 20 miles per hour per facility request. Vehicles would operate in conformance with California Vehicle Code.

Drip pans would be placed under parked equipment and under the porta-potty. Water, fluids, and hazardous materials would not be expected to contact the ground.

Noise level would not exceed 90 decibels in accordance with the local noise ordinance.

Overall, no significant impacts would be anticipated for biological resources, air quality, visual impact, water quality, land surface, or historic and archaeological resources. Operation of the drill rig would create noise; the completed monitoring wells would be silent.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Albert Lu

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (818) 549-2330

If filed by applicant:

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

Signature: Thang Nguyen **Date:** 11/15/2021 **Title:** Regional Manager, Southern Re

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.