

___ Categorical Exemption (Sections 15302 of the State CEQA Guidelines)

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

On April 21, 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed a drought emergency covering Russian River watershed of Sonoma and Mendocino counties. On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom expanded the drought emergency to Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Tulare Lake Watershed counties where accelerated action is needed to protect public health, safety and the environment which includes Lake County. On July 8, 2021, the Governor expanded his previous drought emergency proclamation to include nine additional counties, and additional proclamations have followed since, all related to the ongoing drought conditions in California.

According to the National Integrated Drought Information System (drought.gov/states/California/county/Lake), as of March 8, 2022, 100% of Lake County was classified as D2, which is defined as Severe Drought. Further, January-February 2022 is the driest year to date over the past 128 years (National Drought Mitigation Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, & U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 8, 2022).

The CEQA Guidelines provide a series of Statutory Exemptions for actions that have been deemed by the State Legislature to have minimal impacts on the environmental. The project is considered an emergency prevention measure that will prevent an imminent water outage due to ongoing drought conditions on the site's primary source of water (Mill Creek). Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15269 (c) Emergency Projects: *Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency*. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

The County of Lake Community Development Department finds that the drilling of a groundwater well to ensure the health and safety of the community of Lake Pillsbury Properties Water Company is an emergency project that is exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Hall

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 707-263-2221

Signature: _____



Title: Senior Planner

Date: March 14, 2022