

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

From: CA Dept. of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Kaweah Subbasin Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Project

Project Location City & County: Tulare County

Project Location – Specific: The Project will occur in Tulare County. Monitoring wells will be located at four different locations. All well sites are within Tulare County . The four locations are:

GK-1 is approximately 1,200 feet north of the Kansas Avenue and South 11th Avenue intersection. (36.215094, -119.655225)

GK-2 is approximately 100 feet north of the Flint Avenue and 4th Avenue intersection. (36.372478, -119.528897)

MK-1 is approximately 1,500 feet west of the Road 44 and Cameron Creek intersection. (36.173829, -119.479830)

MK-2 is approximately 160 feet southwest of the Avenue 256 and Road 28 intersection. (36.247961, -119.51194)

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law, requiring local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater in their service area. This necessitated the development of an adequate network of appropriately spaced groundwater monitoring wells. With secured funding, DWR has established the Technical Support Services (TSS) program to help GSAs meet their SGMA requirements by providing services to install groundwater monitoring wells, conduct downhole video logging, and give training on methods to accurately monitor groundwater levels.

The Kaweah Technical Support Services (TSS) Well Installation Project consists of installing four separate nested groundwater monitoring wells at four locations. All well sites will be marked by Underground Service Alert, then hand tools will be used to excavate to a minimum depth of 5 feet. Next, a truck-mounted drill rig will drill a pilot hole in the excavation while a mud cleaner is used to filter out solids and return the drilling mud to the drill bit. When the pilot hole is at the desired depth, the bore hole will be expanded to a diameter of approximately 14 inches. Each well cluster will consist of two or three PVC casings, and the base of each well, from the bottom up, will consist of sand, a filter pack, and a bentonite seal. Cement will be pumped from the support truck to form a sanitary seal in accordance

with state and county requirements. A raised well monument and concrete pad that is approximately four square feet and four inches tall, with four approximately 4-foot high metal crash posts will be installed at ground level to protect the well from potential damage; alternatively, the well can be installed in a flush-mounted vault in accordance with Tulare County road ordinances.

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15306. Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work activities will consist of installation of four groundwater monitoring wells. Project activities are covered under Categorical Exemption Class 6 Section 15306 (Data Collection) of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Steven Springhorn

Telephone: 916-651-9273

Signature Steven Springhorn **Date:** 7/20/2022 **Title:** Supervising Eng. Geologist

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant