



Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
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Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
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From: ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY
100 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551
925-454-5000

To: County Clerk
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: September 28, 2022

Project Title: Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility

Project Location – Specific: The Project is located at Zone 7’s Chain of Lakes (COL) Well Building No. 1 in unincorporated Alameda County in the vicinity of El Charro Road and Arroyo Mocho, between the cities of Pleasanton to the west and Livermore to the east (see location map attached). It is located in the north portion of the COL complex, between Lake H to the north and Cope Lake to the south. Lake I is located immediately to the east. It is accessed from Interstate Highway 580 approximately 1.0 mile to the north via El Charro Road.

Project Location – County: Alameda County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) is a water wholesale agency that provides high-quality treated drinking water to four water retailers serving over a quarter million residents and businesses. Water is delivered to the City of Livermore, City of Pleasanton, Dublin-San Ramon Services District and the California Water Service Company, along with some direct customers. Zone 7 also manages the Livermore-Amador Valley groundwater basin.

Zone 7 is implementing the design of a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) treatment system to address the PFAS compounds found in the Chain of Lakes wellfield. The facility will be designed to treat to the state’s Consumer Confidence Report Detection Limits of PFAS compounds that have regulations.

The treatment process to be employed at the COL PFAS Treatment Facility includes media filled pressure vessels for adsorption of PFAS; the project consists of several key components: production well pumps, desanders, cartridge filters, and media pressure vessels.

This project will include construction of concrete pads, piping modifications, installation of new valving and installation of new pressure vessels containing specialized media for the adsorption of PFAS compounds. Water from the three COL wells (1, 2, and 5) will be routed through these pressure vessels. Once the water passes through the vessels, the water will be PFAS free and will have small amounts of disinfectant injected back in before being sent out to Zone 7’s distribution system for delivery. More detailed work of the project includes:

- Wells 2 and 5 (located nearby) would combine with Well 1 for chemical additions and distribution. Existing chemical addition and distribution lines would remain in Well No. 1 building. New raw

water transmission lines would be added to reroute the raw water into the centralized PFAS treatment facility prior to chemical addition.

- Two bypass systems; the first would be in an underground vault allowing for a complete bypass of the PFAS treatment facility, and the second would be a bypass valve prior to the treatment vessels.
- A new concrete pad for the pressure vessels to accommodate six media contactor trains filled with Ion Exchange (IX) media with additional space to add six more at a later date if the treatment facility is expanded.
- Cartridge filters with one additional filter for future facility expansion, if required to meet Zone 7's future planned commitments.
- New driveways.
- New pavement on the east side of the Project site to allow chemical deliveries and PFAS treatment maintenance vehicles. The existing driveway would provide access until the new one is constructed.

Work is contained within Zone 7's existing wellsite property. Once constructed, the facility will generally look and operate much as it does today. The facility will remain an unstaffed facility, with operators onsite approximately daily to ensure it is functioning correctly and respond to any maintenance needs. No new deliveries as this facility would not introduce new chemicals, though it would introduce a new shipment of media approximately once a year which would be delivered by semi-truck.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in February, 2023, and be completed in mid-March, 2024 — a period of approximately 13 months. Project construction will occur year-round, with the exception of inclement weather conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project: Zone 7 Water Agency

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines Section **15301, Use of Existing Facilities & 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The proposed project consists of the addition of a PFAS treatment system to an existing large municipal well location within Zone 7's property. The proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15301 and §15303 and is eligible for a CE.

“Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.”

Location Map



Planned Facilities Map at COL Well Building 1

