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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region, Redding Office  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, CA 96002

**Date:** 22 December 2023

**Project Title:**

Shasta Dam Seismic Stability Evaluation Project (Project)

**Project Location - Specific:**

Address: Shasta Dam Boulevard  
Section 15, Township 33 North, Range 05 West, MDB&M.  
Nearest City: Shasta Lake  
Latitude: 40.7162° and Longitude: -122.4164°

**Project Location - County:**

Shasta County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Bureau of Reclamation proposes to gather geologic and geotechnical data at the Lower Wing Dam (LWD) of Shasta Dam to determine if embankment zones will remain intact during seismic activity and predict its response during seismic events. This knowledge is integral to the Permittee's operations at Shasta Dam.

The proposed Project includes instrumented density testing, sonic drilling, hollow stem auger drilling, test pitting, slotted pipe piezometer readings, and surface and downhole seismic surveys. Investigations will be located on the crest of the LWD and on the upstream slope of the LWD (within reservoir).

The Project will include three instrumented Becker Penetration Test (iBPT) soundings, one Sonic drill hole, ten hollow stem auger drill holes, one slotted pipe piezometer installed downstream of the LWD's concrete cutoff core wall, three downhole seismic tests, three p-wave and s-wave seismic refraction surveys, two test pits, and a gravel access road.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

*Federal Agencies:* The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 6 and Nationwide Permit 14.

*State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:* California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office. WDID No. 5A45CR00653.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Donald Bader  
Bureau of Reclamation  
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019

**Exempt Status:**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, Article 19, section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

**Reasons why Project is Exempt:**

This project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA section 15304 because the project involves minor, private alterations to land, water, and/or vegetation with no removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Maya Bickner  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding  
(530) 451-1136

**State Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Redding Branch Office  
(530) 224-2437

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist

cc via

email: Donald Bader, Bureau of Reclamation, Shasta Lake  
Laurie Larson, Bureau of Reclamation, Shasta Lake  
David Brick, Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento  
Maya Bickner, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Redding