

# Notice of Exemption

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To:  Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Sonoma County Clerk  
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Project Title:** Site Access Agreement to Cotati Tanks Water Storage Facility for USGS Seismic Monitoring

**Project Location - Specific:** 1190 West Sierra Avenue, near Cotati (Figure 1)

**Project Location – City:** Unincorporated

**County:** Sonoma

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** The project is a site access agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install and operate a seismic monitoring station at Sonoma County Water Agency's Cotati Tanks Water Storage Facility. USGS is conducting research necessary to characterize and identify earthquake hazards, assess earthquake risks, monitor seismic activity, and develop and implement earthquake early warnings. The monitoring station consists of instruments placed on two, two-foot by three-foot concrete pads approximately 25 feet apart and connected with a buried electrical conduit. One pad site would support a solar panel and telemetry equipment and the other pad would contain a seismometer and associated equipment. Ground disturbance would be limited to the concrete pads and trenching for the connecting conduit.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sonoma County Water Agency

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sonoma County 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. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines §15304, Minor Alterations to Land; and §15306, Information Collection.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project is exempt because the installation of data collection equipment would require only minor ground disturbance and would result in minor alterations to land which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and research data collection, which does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dave Cook

**Telephone:** (707) 322-8176

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** General Manager

**Date:** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

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Signed by Lead Agency     Signed by Applicant    Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

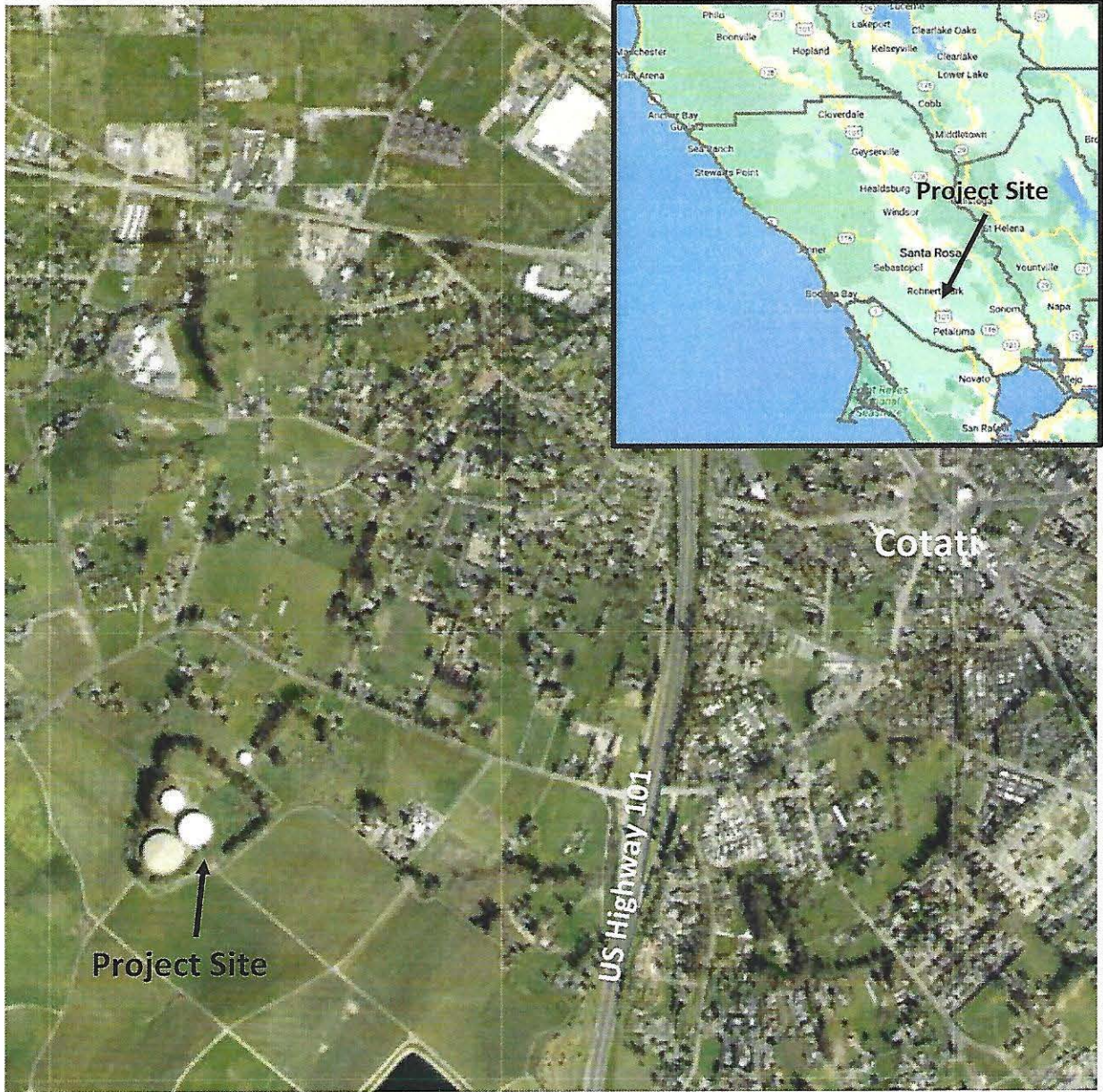


Figure 1: Location of USGS Seismic Monitoring Station at Cotati Tanks Water Storage Facility, Sonoma County.