

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 (DWR)

Project Title: Statewide Groundwater Monitoring - Madera County Maintenance Yard Continuous GPS Station Installation

Project Location City & County: Madera County

Project Location – Specific: The Project will occur in Madera County, Madera Subbasin (5-022.06). The site is located approximately 700 feet south and approximately 100 feet east of the Road 21 and Ripperdan Avenue (Ave 7) intersection. The approximate coordinates of the project site are 36.849233, -120.164355.

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 basins. GSAs have submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), from these data gaps have been identified. This project will collect high-resolution measurements for subsidence monitoring through DWR's Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Initiative and will help reduce data gaps.

The Madera County Maintenance Yard Continuous GPS Station Installation project consists of installing a GPS monitoring station which uses global navigation satellite system (GNSS) technology. The station will continuously measure the three-dimensional position at the site with the focus of monitoring for vertical movement; land subsidence. The station will require a total area of approximately 20 feet x 40 feet. Of this area, an approximate 10 feet x 10 feet area (GNSS antenna and brace legs), called the monument, and an approximate 4 feet by 4 feet area (equipment box containing a modem and 90-watt solar panels) will make up the station. The total height of the monument is approximately six feet tall. The monitoring station may be placed in a 20 feet x 40 feet enclosure and/or bollards may be installed around the monitoring system.

Installation of the station will take up to one week. DWR or GSA staff may visit the station on a quarterly schedule to collect data. Operation and maintenance will be minimal and may consist of periodic servicing of equipment and replacing batteries as needed. Access to the station will be by existing paved and dirt roads.

Once installed, this facility would likely become part of the GSA's monitoring program.

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 a CGPS. Project activities are covered under Categorical Exemption Class 6 Section 15306 (Data Collection) of the California Environmental Quality Act. No sensitive biological or cultural resources have been identified in the area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Tad Bedegrew

Telephone:(916) 425-4394

Signature: Tad Bedegrew **Date:** 5/3/2024 **Title:** Senior Engineering Geologist

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant