

Notice of Exemption

Form D

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

From: (Public Agency) CA Department of Water Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

(Address)

County Clerk
County of San Joaquin

Project Title: South Delta Geotechnical Investigations

Project Location - Specific:

Old River (37.8107, -121.54444); Grant Line - Fabian Bell Canal (37.81952, -121.5141; 37.81945, -121.5315; and 37.81944, -121.5445); Middle River (37.88552, -121.4825)

Project Location – City: N/A Project Location – County: San Joaquin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The South Delta Geotechnical Investigations Project includes up to 67 geotechnical soil borings and 12 cone penetration tests (CPTs) within five investigation locations on Old River, Grant Line-Fabian Bell Canal, and Middle River. Soil borings would be less than 8 inches in diameter and drilled to a maximum of 150 feet deep, with up to 28 borings occurring over water and up to 39 on land. CPTs will only take place on land and will be pushed to a depth of 100 feet. DWR is proposing to conduct these geotechnical explorations to gain a preliminary understanding of the geological and geotechnical conditions at potential construction locations for a permanent operable barriers project that has been identified for possible implementation by DWR, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Geotechnical activities are expected to begin in early 2025.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CA Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: CA Department of Water Resources

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: Class 6: Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project consists of up to 67 geotechnical soil borings and 12 cone penetration tests which individually and collectively would have a small, temporary impact and would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Avoidance and minimization measures have been incorporated into the project to further minimize disturbance to the environment. Information obtained from this investigation would be used to support the development of a future action that is not yet approved, adopted, or funded. None of the exceptions to the exemption apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jacob McQuirk Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 902-9905

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Jacob McQuirk Date: 5/20/2024 Title: Principal Engineer

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____
- Signed by Applicant