Public Notice

Notice of Exemption

Valley Water

To: Santa Clara County
Clerks Office, Business Division
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose CA 95110

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose CA 95118-3686
Telephone (408) 265 2600

Project Title: Geotechnical Investigations for the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

Project Location–Specific: The project is located along the nine mile stretch of Coyote Creek between Montague Expressway and Tully Rd. in San Jose, California.

Project Location-City: San Jose

Project Location-County: Santa Clara County

Project Purpose: The purpose of this project is to conduct subsurface geotechnical investigations to explore subsurface conditions, perform pertinent laboratory testing, and conduct analyses and evaluations to guide the geotechnical aspects of design and construction planning of the project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

- ☐ Ministerial [§ 21080(b)(1); 15268];
- ☐ Declared Emergency [§ 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
- ☐ Emergency Project [§ 21080(b)(c); 15269(b)(c)];
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions [§ 15306, Class 6, Information Collection]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions [n/a].

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15306:

Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

None of the conditions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would occur.

Description of Project: Valley Water proposes to conduct geotechnical investigations directed toward exploring subsurface conditions and obtaining samples for laboratory testing. Subsurface explorations would include 11 geotechnical soil borings initially with additional borings to be performed as needed. The drill cuttings and fluids would be contained in 55-gallon steel drums that would be stored on-site and analytically tested prior to off-site disposal.

The geotechnical borings would be drilled to depths of between 10 and 60 feet using a hand auger or track-mounted rig equipped with hollow-stem (HSA) and mud rotary drilling (if needed) methods. In cases where

private residences are inaccessible to the mobile track-driven rig, a limited access rig would be used that would be equipped with HSA and mud rotary drilling methods or hand augering as well. The borings would be started using hollow-stem or dry auger methods until free groundwater is encountered. Upon first noticing free water, drilling would be temporarily halted for up to 10 minutes for periodic depth-to-water measurements. Following the depth-to-water measurements, the boring would be completed using mud-rotary drilling methods.

Equipment anticipated to be utilized would include a mobile track-driven drill rig equipped with HSA and mud rotary auger, a limited access rig or hand auger for drilling occurring in the backyards of private property, as well as soil penetration test, Shelby tube, and CalMod samplers.

The proposed work schedule is dependent on permission to enter private properties along the project area. Field exploration can usually begin within 2 to 3 weeks following notice to proceed. Once permission has been granted to access properties, the field exploration, including location of underground utilities and drilling, would be completed within 1 week for Reach 4, 2 weeks for Reach 6, and 2 weeks for Reach 7 (total of 5 weeks).

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Andrew Martin

Area Code/Telephone/Extension
(408) 630-2160

Signature: DocuSigned by: Andrew Martin F50621C92C084AE... Date: 5/24/2024

Title: Andrew Martin, Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record