

Public Notice
Notice of Exemption



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: Underground Utility 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 investigations to locate underground utilities in the project area.

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 underground utility investigations directed towards locating buried utilities in the project area. A total of 66 potholes, ranging in depth from 1 foot to 6-1/2 feet, would be excavated initially with additional excavations to be performed as needed. Any unused cutting and debris would be off-hauled and disposed of at a landfill site.

To locate utilities in the project area, a series of small test holes, or potholes, would be created via vacuum excavation, which uses both high-pressure air and water in combination with an air vacuum to create 1-foot by 1-foot holes through which the buried lines can be located. A vacuum truck equipped with a 30-foot hose would be employed to suction displaced dirt and soil through a hose into a holding tank. A slurry vacuum would be used to prevent any liquid from leaving the excavation location.

Once underground utilities are accurately located, the excavated wet or dry soil would be replaced as backfill in the hole and compacted. Any potholes within roadways or sidewalks would necessitate traffic control devices for shoulder/lane/sidewalk closures, and all surfaces would be restored to their original condition with T-cut sections after the operation is completed.

The proposed work schedule for the excavations would be completed within 4 days for Reach 4, 7 days for Reach 6, 6 days for Reach 7, and 4 days for Reach 8 (total of 21 working days).

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

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

Signature:  _____
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Date: 5/29/2024

Title: Andrew Martin,
Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record