

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: Agreement Between the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Purissima Hills Water District for Leak Detection Infrastructure

Project Location-Specific: Purissima Hills Water District

Project Location-City: Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto

Project Location-County: Santa Clara County

Project Purpose: Valley Water has a proposed Agreement with the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) for the reimbursement of funds up to \$504,684 for the installation of leak-detection infrastructure on fire hydrants located within PHWD's service area. Funding for this Agreement comes from the Board of Directors approved GP5 Program. The Leak-Detection Infrastructure Project meets the Board approved GP5 Program guidelines and will contribute to Valley Water's long-term water savings targets.

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

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Valley Water

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 [§15301, Existing Facilities]
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15301:

"Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use."

The proposed project includes installation of acoustic hydrant caps on existing fire hydrants and would not constitute an expansion of an existing use. Therefore, the proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15301 and is eligible for a CE. As described below, the proposed project does not include any factors that would preclude the project's eligibility for a CE per CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

Description of Project

Valley Water has a proposed Agreement with the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) for the reimbursement of funds up to \$504,684 for the installation of leak-detection infrastructure on fire hydrants located within PHWD's service area. Funding for this Agreement comes from the Board of Directors approved GP5 Program. The Leak-Detection Infrastructure Project meets the Board approved GP5 Program guidelines and will contribute to our

long-term water savings targets. PHWD will install 464 acoustic hydrant caps purchased from Echologics, LLC (Echologics) on Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) fire hydrants throughout the PHWD system, providing for monitoring approximately 46 miles of water main pipeline. The acoustic hydrant caps will replace the existing fire hydrant caps and will detect leaks in the system. These detections will allow PHWD to provide a quicker response to smaller leaks in the system, preventing potential catastrophic pipeline failure. According to project application documentation submitted by PHWD, no construction will be required to replace the fire hydrant caps.

Agency Contact Person: Christopher Hall, Valley Water

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 630-2317

Signature: *Christopher Hall*

Date: 6/4/2024

Title: Christopher Hall
Assistant Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record