



RECORDING REQUESTED  
WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

County of Sacramento  
Planning and Environmental Review  
827 Seventh Street, Room 225  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
CONTACT PERSON: Julie Newton  
TELEPHONE: (916) 876-8502

SPACE ABOVE RESERVED FOR RECORDER'S USE

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**Project Title:**

Upper Well Field at Deer Creek Hills

**Control Number:**

PLER2024-00094

**Project Location:**

The existing well to be rehabilitated is approximately 300 feet west of Michigan Bar Road and approximately 1,500 feet south of Latrobe Road, within the Deer Creek Hills Preserve in the Sloughhouse area. The well rehabilitation work and associated pipeline and troughs would be within the vicinity of the Michigan Bar Road and Latrobe Road intersection.

The project area is dominated by open grassland habitat with an ephemeral drainage. There are no mature trees or sensitive biological resources within the project area.

**APN:**

Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (APN 073-0060-012-0001) and County of Sacramento (APN 073-0060-012-0002).

**Description of Project:**

The Upper Well Field project includes the rehabilitation of an existing well, including adding a solar pump, that would be able to provide water for restoration projects, grazing, and maintenance within the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Pump tests have been completed and confirmed the existing well would meet the needs of the preserve without having to drill a new well.

A pipeline would be installed through the upland grassland from the well to four 2,500-gallon storage tanks and three 600-gallon troughs. The well, storage tanks, and troughs would be connected via 1.5-inch schedule 40 PVC pipelines, up to 3,000 feet for conveyance. The pipeline would be jacked and bored below an ephemeral drainage as well as the road, to ensure the bed, banks, and road remain undisturbed.

The following best management practices would be implemented during construction:

- The construction area would be delineated in the field using orange construction fencing (or similar) to ensure disturbance does not extend beyond the necessary footprint.
- Prior to construction activities, a general biological survey would be completed to ensure there are no special status species present.
- If cultural materials are discovered work would be stopped immediately, the discovery area would be protected, and County Planning and Environmental Review would be

notified to investigate further. Pursuant to Sections 5097.5 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, if a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction all work will stop and the County Coroner as well as Planning and Environmental Review will be notified immediately.

**Name of public agency approving project:**

Non-discretionary project

**Person or agency carrying out project:**

Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
Contact: Eric Kellegrew  
P.O. Box 163351  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
O: 96-731-8798 ext. 503; C: 805-217-0867  
ekellegrew@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300 -15333):

- CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(d,f) – Minor Alterations to Land

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Class 4(d) consists of minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas that result in improvement of habitat for wildlife resources. And Class 4(f) consists of minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Implementation of the Project would rehabilitate an existing well to include a solar pump and pipeline connecting the well to storage tanks and troughs to support the Deer Creek Hills Preserve restoration, management, and maintenance activities. The installation of the pipeline would include trenching and jack and bore activities that would be backfilled, and surface conditions restored. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

**Section 15300.2-Exceptions**

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that it will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

1. *The project will occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The project is within an upland grassland portion of the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. The installation of the pipeline will intersect with an ephemeral drainage; however, the channel would not be impacted as the pipeline would be installed via jack and bore. There are no trees or other sensitive biological resources within the project area; therefore the project would not be considered biologically sensitive.

2. *Cumulative impacts will be considerable because successive projects of the same type will occur at the same place over time;*

Implementation of the project includes the repair of an existing well and installation of a pipeline to fill storage tanks and troughs, providing the infrastructure to support the maintenance and management of the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. No significant impacts are anticipated with the implementation of the project; therefore, no cumulative impacts will

result from construction of the project or successive projects of the same type at the same place over time.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;*

There are no known unusual circumstances that will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. *The project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a scenic highway;*

River Road/Highway 160 (from the Sacramento City Limits at the northern edge of Freeport to the southern tip of the Delta at Antioch Bridge) is a designated State Scenic Highway. The project area is not located within the vicinity of this scenic highway. Therefore, implementation of the project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a scenic highway.

5. *The project is located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; or*

The project area is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, construction of the project will not have an impact related to being located on a hazardous waste site.

6. *The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.*

The project area does not contain any historical resources; therefore, implementation of the project will not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

**Copy To:**

**County of Sacramento  
County Clerk**

3636 American River Drive,  
Suite 110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**OPR:**

State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Julie Newton**  
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR OF  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA