

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 and Environmental Sampling 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 underground utility location and hazardous materials liability assessment (HSLA) investigations 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 [n/a];
- Statutory Exemptions [§15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies].

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15262:

A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or negative declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

The proposed project involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which Valley Water's Board has not approved, adopted, or funded.

Description of Project: Valley Water proposes to conduct underground utility location and hazardous substance liability assessment (HSLA) investigations in the project area.

The underground utility location borings would be approximately 1 foot by 1 foot wide and drilled to a depth of 1 foot to 6-1/2 feet via vacuum excavation, which uses high-pressure air and water in combination with an air vacuum to create small holes, or potholes, 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

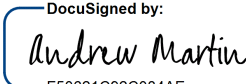
tank. A slurry vacuum would be used to prevent any liquid runoff from entering the nearby creek. A total of nine potholes would be excavated initially with additional potholes to be excavated as needed.

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. Any unused cutting and debris would be off-hauled and disposed of at a landfill site.

The HSLA sampling borings would be drilled to depths of between 2 feet and 10 feet using hand augering and direct push technologies (DPT) for the purpose of determining the presence of subsurface contamination. Hand augering would be used up to the first five feet of each boring. The remaining 5 feet (if required) would be drilled using DPT. A total of six borings would be excavated initially with additional to borings to be excavated as needed. The drill cuttings and fluids from the borings would be contained in 55-gallon steel drums that would be stored on-site and analytically tested prior to off-site disposal.

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

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

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____
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Date: 6/13/2024

Title: Andrew Martin, Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record