

Public Notice  
Notice of Exemption



**To:** Santa Clara County  
Clerk-Recorder's Office, Business Division  
70 West Hedding Street, First Floor, East Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110

**From:** Valley Water  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118  
Telephone: (408) 265-2600

**Project Title:** Underground Utility Investigation for South County Recycled Water Pipeline Land Rights (proposed project)

**Project Location—Specific:** Areas in Gilroy south of SR 152 and west of Santa Teresa Boulevard; between Santa Teresa Boulevard and Highway 101; and between Highway 101 and Llagas Creek. Areas along Sheldon Avenue and adjoining roads in unincorporated Santa Clara County.

**Project Location—City:** City of Gilroy and Unincorporated Santa Clara County

**Project Location—County:** Santa Clara

**Project Purpose:** To locate recycled water pipelines in areas where Valley Water's land rights have not been established or have expired.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** 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 [§15306, Class 6 – Information Collection]
- Statutory Exemptions

**Description of Project:**

The project would involve the use of ground penetrating radar (GPR), metal detection, and electronic marker system (EMS) technologies to detect Valley Water-owned pipelines within the City of Gilroy and South County Regional Wastewater Authority-owned pipelines in unincorporated Santa Clara County south of the Gilroy Wastewater Treatment Plant. As these technologies would employ the use of radar, electromagnetic, and radiofrequency signals to remotely detect subsurface materials from aboveground locations, no ground disturbance would occur during the investigation. Surface-mounted markers would be placed in the field to identify the location of surveyed areas.

The investigation would be conducted by a team of up to 4 people using portable GPR, metal detection, and EMS equipment. Light duty trucks would be used to transport people and equipment to and from investigation areas each day; no overnight storage of equipment would be required. Temporary lane closures would not be required for work within or near public rights of way. Work would occur between the hours of 8AM-5PM during weekdays only and would take approximately two weeks to complete.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The proposed project would be limited to a utility investigation involving portable equipment that remotely detects subsurface materials. As such, it is not expected to result in a significant impact to the environment.

The proposed project qualifies for a Class 6 exemption for "Information Collection" (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 CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 exist.

**Lead Agency:** Valley Water  
**Contact Person:** Andrew Martin

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

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: 7/5/2024

Title: Andrew Martin  
Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record