

# Notice of Exemption

# Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From: (Public Agency): Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401

(Address)

Project Title: USACE Soledad PL84-99 Wastewater Treatment Plant Levee Repair Project

Project Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Project Location - Specific:

**Soledad Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Project Location - City: Soledad Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project includes replacement of rock slope protection and other repairs to an existing levee at the Soledad Wastewater Treatment Plant along the Salinas River. The purpose is to reduce the risk of wastewater treatment failure to the City of Soledad and the Salinas River. The beneficiaries are the urban inhabitants of the City of Soledad.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ellie L. Covington, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301 Existing Facilities (d)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_



Reasons why project is exempt:

The 2024 Soledad Public Law (PL) 84-99 Rehabilitation Project consists of the repair of portions of a non-federally constructed and maintained urban flood risk reduction project. The existing levee was constructed to provide flood protection to the Soledad Wastewater Treatment plant and the City of Soledad. Construction was completed in ~1960s. Since the levee system was constructed, major modifications and/or repairs, including those done under PL 84-99, were conducted in 1969, 1970, 1997, 2022 and on other occasions. This project conforms to a Categorical Exemption under the California Code of Regulations § 15301 - Existing Facilities (d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood. Moderate damage was incurred due to high velocity flows experienced following the atmospheric river system storms that occurred in early 2023. The damaged sites are in need of rehabilitation to prevent further erosion. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of wastewater treatment failure to the City of Soledad and to the Salinas River. If this project is not rehabilitated back to its original design and purpose, as proposed, erosion and sedimentation into the waterway from this damaged area will continue. If this corrective action is not initiated the probability of damage and failure to the system will increase risk to life and property adjacent to the river. The levee will be reconstructed to the pre-flood/design footprint.

Lead Agency Alia Ajina Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 805-542-4646  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:   Digitally signed by Phillip Hammer  
Date: 7/25/2024 Title: Sr. Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.      Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.