

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: Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Geotechnical Investigation

Project Location-Specific: Calero Reservoir

Project Location-City: San Jose

Project Location-County: Santa Clara

Project Purpose: The purpose of the proposed project is to conduct geotechnical investigations to characterize the foundation conditions and dam materials to support the planning and design processes for the proposed Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (CDSRP).

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 [Section 15304; Class 4, "Minor Alterations to Land" and Section 15306; Class 6, "Information Collection"]
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

CDSRP qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15304 and §15306:

"Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes."

"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 the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would occur.

Description of Project: The geotechnical investigations are required to characterize seismic risk, foundation conditions, and dam materials to support the planning and design processes for the proposed CDSRP. The investigation would include up to 10 vertically oriented boreholes, 1 angled borehole, and 15 test pits, followed by laboratory testing of the collected samples. The samples would also be tested for potential hazardous materials. The area downstream of the existing dam and spillway would be investigated as part of the drilling program, in addition to the future proposed sloping intake structure and borrow area. The investigation areas would be accessed from existing paved or dirt roads and trails. Boreholes would be drilled up to approximately 325 feet

deep and would be conducted utilizing a track-mounted drill rig. Inclinerometers and/or vibrating wire piezometers would be installed in approximately three boreholes to collect additional geological measurements including slope angles and groundwater levels. Once any inclinometers and/or vibrating wire piezometers are installed, boreholes would then be backfilled with a cement-bentonite grout mixture. Test pits would include excavation up to approximately 15 feet deep utilizing a backhoe and excavator and would be backfilled with native excavated materials.

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Water District
Contact Person: Tiffany Chao

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Signature: 8BA1DCE0E8B6474

Date: 8/19/2024

Ryan McCarter, P.E.

Title: Deputy Operating Officer

cc: CEQA Administrative Record