

Notice of Exemption

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To:

Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
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Street Address:

1400 Tenth Street
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Bay Delta Region
 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
 Fairfield, CA 94534
Email: R3LSA@wildlife.ca.gov



Project Title: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Compliance Project (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2020-0236-R3), Major Amendment 5

Project Location: The project is located in Anderson Reservoir and just downstream of Anderson Reservoir at the North Channel Extension (NCE), which are located on the east side of Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County, California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has amended Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2020-0236-R3, issued to John Bourgeois/Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.

The project involves grading the NCE by excavating approximately 8,000 cubic yards of existing channel material and redistributing it within the channel to create a sloped bank followed by revegetation. Additionally, two geotechnical borings will be conducted adjacent to the North Channel and 4 trenches dug to investigate foundation materials in the Anderson reservoir and dam portal staging area.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(4)
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: Section 21080 (b)(4) is for specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. Based on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) February 20, 2020, dam safety order to Valley Water, FERC directed Valley Water to maintain the Anderson Reservoir no higher than an elevation of 565 feet and that Valley Water begin lowering the reservoir elevation to 488 feet (deadpool) no later than October 1, 2020. The directive also included a statement that Valley Water must take all appropriate measures to maintain and quickly lower the reservoir prior to significant inflow. The FERC dam safety order also required Valley Water to carry out interim risk reduction measures at Anderson Dam to protect the public from the risk of earthquake-induced dam failure until the larger Anderson Dam seismic retrofit project is completed.

CDFW Contact Person: Alex Anstett (Environmental Scientist), (707) 815-6427

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 Signature: Craig Weightman
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Date: 8/9/2024

Craig J. Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____