

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
691 N. North Laverne Ave Suite 104
Fresno, CA 93727

Project Title: San Joaquin River Restoration Program Reach 1A Transducers

Project Location City and County: Fresno and Madera Counties

Project Location, Specific: The project is in Fresno and Madera counties where the San Joaquin River borders the north city limits of Fresno. The Project would include installing eight transducers and one barometric pressure reader (BPR) at Sycamore Island Fishing, Milburn Pond, and Pit 49 Pond connected to the San Joaquin River.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Eight In-Situ Rugged Troll transducers and one In-Situ Baro Troll BPR would be installed at fixed locations in the river or connected ponds to record water depth, elevation, and temperature data. The transducers are non-vented with water-tight fittings for the communications cable allowing full submergence during flood flows.

A typical installation would consist of locating a clear space on the pond or riverbank. Minor vegetation removal may occur (by hand) but only include nonnative species or native species with a diameter at breast height less than 4 inches. The bulk of the installation would include piecing together the PVC pipe that would be a conduit for the transducer and its cable. The structure would be anchored at the base or linear segment in the water near the riverbed with a precast cement pier block. The pipe would be staked using rebar along the bed and bank to hold it in place against flow. Some entrenchment of the pipe may be used to further hold and protect the pipe from flow and tampering across low-flow exposed areas of the bank. Trenching would occur using hand tools at a maximum depth of 0.5 feet. The exact length of trenching depends on the bank's topography, but the least possible amount of excavation will occur.

A standing pipe segment (standpipe) no greater than 18 inches high would be installed with a sweep elbow and 'T' post to hold the communications connection above potential sedimentation and low vegetation. The standpipe may be substituted with steel pipe and reinforced with a 12-inch diameter and 6-inch-tall cement base to prevent tampering in locations with a lot of public access. No wet or curing concrete will enter the waterway. A locking cap or plug would be installed at the top of the standpipe to provide communication connection access while maintaining security.

DWR completed several projects along the San Joaquin River and is planning to collect data on other potential projects. Installing the transducers in the ponds and river would record surface water levels pre- and post-construction. This data collection will allow DWR to better design proposed projects and monitor past projects for success.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources, Lead CEQA Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of Water Resources

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));

