

## Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

**From:** CA Dept. of Water Resources  
691 N. Laverne Ave Suite 104  
Fresno, CA 93727

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Water Resources

**Project Title:** Seven Stream Gauge Installation Project

**Project Location City & County:** Madera, Tulare, and Kern Counties

**Project Location – Specific:** The Project will occur in Madera, Tulare, and Kern Counties, with seven stream gauges: Ash Slough (Madera Co.) (37.037776°, -120.439050°), Berenda Slough (Madera Co.) (36.996433°; -120.383553°), Fresno River (Madera Co.) (36.968077°; -120.255851°), Deer Creek (Tulare Co.) (35.913974°, -119.284027°), White River by Road 168 (Tulare Co.) (35.849137°, -119.196713°), White River near Ducor (Tulare Co.) (35.814695°, -118.928419°), and Poso Creek (Kern Co.) (35.514164°, -118.906020°).

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** DWR proposes to install seven new stream gauge stations providing a service to State, federal, and local agencies and private entities by monitoring water flow and quality in rivers, streams, and sloughs within the San Joaquin Valley. Stream gauge data is posted on the World Wide Web through the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) and the Water Data Library (WDL), where it is accessible to the general public. Public and private entities rely on this data for a variety of applications.

Six of the new stream gauge stations will be placed on the bank for stability and accessibility. Installation will require using a weed eater to clear weeds from each station site as needed. Each station box will be placed on an existing structure or placed on two station legs that will involve digging two 18-inch diameter by 36-inch deep bore holes with a hand auger. These holes will then be filled with concrete to support the two station legs. A cement slab, up to 4 feet by 4 feet, will be poured around the station legs. Up to four staff gauges will be installed in the streambed/bank at each location. Each staff gauge includes digging an 18-inch diameter by 2-feet deep hole with an auger in the streambed/bank, which will be filled with concrete to support galvanized steel pipe to hold each staff gauge. Approximately 250 feet of galvanized steel pipe (to contain the bubbler line) will be placed above ground and fastened to the stream bank with 3/8-inch rebar anchors.

The stream gauge at Poso Creek will use an existing station that is connected to the downstream side of the Round Mountain Road bridge. One hundred and fifty feet of galvanized steel pipe will be fastened to the bridge running to the left bank and along the stream bank to the stream bed.

Changes to habitat, land use and the climate have increased the need to add additional stations in the Valley. This data will allow for better planning throughout the State.

**Exempt/Suspend Status:**

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15306. Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** Work activities will consist of installation of seven stream gauges. Project activities are covered under Categorical Exemption Class 6 Section 15306 (Data Collection) of the California Environmental Quality Act. No sensitive biological or cultural resources have been identified in the areas.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Water Resources

**Contact Person:** Hossein Aghazeynali

**Telephone:** 559-547-1159

**Approved By:** Steve Doe

**Signature:** Steve Doe **Date:** 10/28/2024 **Title:** Principal Engineer

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant