

Public Notice  
Notice of Exemption



**To:** Santa Clara County  
Clerk-Recorder's Office, Business Division  
110 West Tasman Drive, First Floor  
San Jose, CA 95134

**From:** Valley Water  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118  
Telephone (408) 265-2600

**Project Title:** Cooperative Services Agreement and Work and Financial Plan between the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS)

**Project Location-Specific:** Almaden Reservoir, Anderson Reservoir, Calero Reservoir, Carnadero Preserve, Chesbro Reservoir, Coyote Parkway Wetland, Coyote Reservoir, Coyote Ridge Preserve, Guadalupe Reservoir, Uvas Reservoir, Upper Penitencia Creek Property, Stevens Creek Reservoir, Rancho Canada de Pala Preserve, and Lexington Reservoir

**Project Location-City:** Morgan Hill, San Jose, Gilroy, Unincorporated

**Project Location-County:** Santa Clara

**Project Purpose:** Valley Water seeks to allow and fund feral pig management activities to be carried out by APHIS-WS on Valley Water properties for the purpose of reducing feral pig populations.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Valley Water

**Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project:** Valley Water and USDA APHIS-WS

**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 [§15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities and §15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land]
- Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The Cooperative Services Agreement would allow APHIS-WS to carry out feral pig management activities on wildlife habitat areas on Valley Water properties throughout Santa Clara County. Subsequent to its execution, Valley Water would secure a Depredation Permit from CDFW to allow for feral pig management activities on the specified properties and facilities owned by Valley Water. Feral pig management activities would result in the temporary and minor alteration of existing facilities and land owned by Valley Water through the installation of bait stations, live traps, and monitoring cameras. Equipment installation would only require minimal ground disturbance limited to the footprint of equipment and would not involve the removal of trees that are healthy, mature, or scenic. APHIS-WS personnel would utilize night vision/infrared equipment, spotlights, and firearms as part of management when on-site at trapping locations. No expansion of use would occur at any facilities as a result of feral pig management and management activities would be temporary. Implementation of feral

pig management is anticipated to reduce feral pig populations and accordingly, would reduce instances of the environmental impacts they are known to cause, maintaining wildlife habitat areas to protect native fish and wildlife resources. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15301 and §15304 and is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

A Class 1 categorical exemption for Existing Facilities is available under §15301 of the CEQA Guidelines:

“Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of “existing facilities” itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.”

A Class 4 categorical exemption for Minor Alterations to Land is available under §15304 of the CEQA Guidelines:

“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.”

None of the conditions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 exist.

**Description of Project:** The Cooperative Services Agreement between Valley Water and USDA APHIS-WS allow feral pig management activities to be carried out by APHIS-WS on Valley Water property and commit Valley Water funding to APHIS-WS for that purpose. Pig management activities may occur at some or all of the following Valley Water properties and facilities: Almaden Reservoir, Anderson Reservoir, Calero Reservoir, Carnadero Preserve, Chesbro Reservoir, Coyote Parkway Wetland, Coyote Reservoir, Coyote Ridge Preserve, Guadalupe Reservoir, Uvas Reservoir, Upper Penitencia Creek Property, Stevens Creek Reservoir, Rancho Canada de Pala Preserve, and Lexington Reservoir. Each of the identified facilities and properties serves as a wildlife habitat area. APHIS-WS would utilize bait stations, live traps, monitoring cameras, night vision/infrared equipment, spotlights, and firearms to conduct management activities. Bait stations, live traps, and monitoring cameras would be temporarily installed on Valley Water properties to facilitate pig management. The precise locations where feral pig management would occur and frequency of visits by APHIS-WS personnel would be coordinated between Valley Water and APHIS-WS.

Once approved, the Cooperative Services Agreement would span five years, becoming effective December 1, 2024 and terminating November 30, 2029. After approval, Valley Water would secure a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Depredation Permit designating Valley Water as the landowner of properties where feral pig management would occur and APHIS-WS as the agent carrying out management activities.

**Lead Agency:** Valley Water  
**Contact Person:** Nick Mascarello

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**  
(408) 630-3147

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: 11/14/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Nick Mascarello  
Associate Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record