

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: Stream Gage Installation Project 2024

Project Location-Specific: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Project Location-City: San Jose, Morgan Hill, Cupertino, Los Altos

Project Location-County: Santa Clara County

Project Purpose: Four new stream gages would support Valley Water hydrologic and stream flow monitoring.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)

Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project: Valley Water

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 [§15304, Minor Alterations, §15306, Information Collection]
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project would involve minor public alterations in the condition of land and vegetation to install small equipment for monitoring stream elevations. Proposed activities would have small physical footprints and would not involve removal of healthy, mature scenic trees. Stream gages would be used to collect hydrologic data and monitor stream flows. Stream gages would not result in a serious or major disturbance to environmental resources. Therefore, the proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15304 and §15306 and is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

“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 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.”

The proposed project does not include any factors that would preclude the project’s eligibility for a CE per CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

Description of Project

The proposed project would install and operate four new stream gages to support Valley Water hydrologic and stream flow monitoring. The proposed stream gages would be installed at the following locations:

(1) Little Uvas Creek at McKean Road, San Jose, (2) Permanente Creek at Berry Avenue, Los Altos, (3) Permanente Creek at Rancho San Antonio, Cupertino, and (4) Penitencia Creek at Mabury Road, San Jose.

Each gage installation would consist of a 3-foot by 3-foot housing with a USGS bubbler type instrument/radio system installed at the top of creek banks; a 1 ½ inch orifice line fastened to the ground surface from the gage housing to the edge of water; multiple graduated, wood staff plates on posts or anchored to nearby existing concrete features; and supporting accessories. Locations near an existing bridge could also use a wire weight gage hung from the bridge railing in lieu of wood staff plates.

The installation of the stream gages would be scheduled for fall 2024. Each gage installation is expected to be completed in a one-week period during dry or low flow creek conditions. Dewatering would not be necessary to complete work. No in-water work would be conducted in Penitencia Creek, which is designated critical habitat for the federally threatened Central California Coast Steelhead.

Agency Contact Person: Christopher Hall, Valley Water

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 630-2317

Signature: Christopher Hall

Date: 11/20/24

Title: Christopher Hall
Assistant Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record