

## 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:** Two Stream Gauge Installation Project

**Project Location City & County:** Madera County

**Project Location – Specific:** The Project will occur in Madera County, with Fresno River (Madera Co.) (36.96793°; -120.34064°) and Chowchilla Bypass (Madera Co.) (36.97532°; -120.382063°).

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** DWR proposes installing two new stream gauge stations that provide a service to State, federal, 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 public. Public and private entities rely on this data for various applications.

Fresno River stream gauge will be placed on the bank for stability and accessibility. The station box will be placed on two station legs. The station legs will be installed within two 8-inch diameter by 36-inch-deep hand augured bore holes. These holes will 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. Each staff gauge includes digging an 18-inch diameter by 12-inch-deep hole with an auger in the dry 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 Chowchilla Bypass will use an existing station on the left bank that is connected to a concrete weir and the staff gauge will be mounted on the cement headwall. The bubbler will extend 20 feet into the channel.

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 two 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:** 12/4/2024 **Title:** Principal Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency