

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
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Madera Ranchos Monitoring Well Basin Characterization Program

Project Location City & County: Madera Ranchos, Madera County

Project Location – Specific: Well Location is within the San Joaquin Valley - Madera (5-022.06) Subbasin. Located approximately 200 feet south of the intersection between Avenue 13 and Road 38 in Madera Ranchos, California. This well is located within the right-of-way adjacent west of Road 38. (36.936986, -119.858082)

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law requiring local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater in their service area that necessitates the development of an adequate network of appropriately spaced groundwater monitoring wells. With secured funding, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has established the Technical Support Services (TSS) program to help GSAs meet their SGMA requirements by providing services to install groundwater monitoring wells, conduct downhole video logging, and training on methods to accurately monitor groundwater levels.

This well is being installed as part of the Basin Characterization Program. The well Installation project consist of installing nested or adjacent groundwater monitoring at locations identified by the GSA which need groundwater level monitoring to support the GSP. All well sites will be marked by Underground Service Alert, then hand tools will be used to excavate to a minimum depth of 5 feet. The driller will use a truck-mounted drill rig to drill a pilot hole while using a mud cleaner to filter out solids and return drilling mud to the drill bit. When the pilot hole is at the desired depth, the driller will expand the borehole to a diameter of approximately 14 inches. Each well cluster will consist of two or three PVC casings, and the base of each well, from the bottom up, will consist of sand, a filter pack, and a bentonite seal. Cement will be pumped from the support truck to place the sanitary seal in accordance with state and county requirements. A raised well monument and concrete pad approximately four square feet and four inches tall with four approximately 4-foot high metal crash posts will be installed at ground level to protect the well from potential damage, or the well will be installed in a flush-mounted vault in accordance with county road ordinance.

The driller will use a truck-mounted drill rig to drill a pilot hole while using a mud cleaner to filter out solids and return drilling mud to the drill bit.

Once installed, these facilities will become part of the GSA's monitoring program.

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 a groundwater monitoring well. 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 area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Steven Springhorn

Telephone:(916) 651-9273

Signature: Steven Springhorn **Date:** 12/12/2024 **Title:** Supervising Eng. Geologist

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant