

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:** Calero Dam Utility Potholing

**Project Location-Specific:** Calero Reservoir

**Project Location-City:** San Jose

**Project Location-County:** Santa Clara

**Project Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed project is to locate existing underground utilities to inform future planning and design of the proposed Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

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

**Name of Agency or Person Carrying Out Project:** Santa Clara Valley Water District

**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 to Land, §15306 Information Collection]
- Statutory Exemptions

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15304 and §15306:

“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.”

“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 Class 4 exemption applies because the proposed project consists of minor alterations to land to complete potholing activities and would not involve the removal of any healthy, mature, scenic trees. The Class 6 exemption applies because the proposed project consists of basic data collection activities for information-gathering purposes which, as demonstrated by the below project description, would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Furthermore, none of the exceptions to the use of a Categorical Exemption noted under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 would apply.

**Description of Project:** The proposed project involves excavating approximately 11 potholes adjacent to the valve yard at Calero Reservoir. The work would be conducted to confirm the alignment and elevation of existing underground water and electrical utility lines. This information would be utilized to inform the design of the future Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The potholes would each be approximately 10 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 4 feet deep. Existing ruderal vegetation would be removed to excavate the potholes. The potholes would be

backfilled with the same native, excavated material and compacted. The potholing activities would take approximately 2 days to complete.

**Lead Agency:** Santa Clara Valley Water District  
**Contact Person:** Abby Annicchiarico

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension**  
(408) 630-2456

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*Abby Annicchiarico*  
Signature:   
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Date: 12/11/2024

Title: Associate Environmental Planner

cc: CEQA Administrative Record