

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

TO: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170
Sacramento, CA 95821
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Project Title: Minor Alteration No. WA2024156 - Geotechnical Investigation – Black Rascal Creek & Bear Creek

Project Applicant: Crawford & Associates, Inc.

Project Location: The project is located on the right bank levee of Bear Creek at two locations (approximate latitude and longitude coordinates: 37.308139, -120.548806 and 37.305222, -120.550972) and left bank levee of Black Rascal Creek (approximate latitude and longitude coordinates: 37.268580, -120.623820), in Merced County.

Project Description: To collect subsurface soil and groundwater conditions for the Merced County Levee Breach Repairs. The exploration activities consist of using a track-drill rig with exploration type shown on the table to perform two borings to an approximate depth of 20 feet below surface and four hand operated Dynamic Cone Penetration (DCP) tests at each location. The investigation will include sampling of material using the Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) and Modified California (MCAL) split-spoon tests will be conducted at 5 feet intervals, depending on the soil type. Soil samples will also be collected from SPTs and cuttings. The borehole void will be backfilled with cement grout to top of hole the same day of testing. Existing agricultural roads and access roads in the overflow area will be used for access to each site. Construction activities will require clearing and grubbing of existing vegetation in the work area and involve ground disturbance by a truck mounted drill rig and backfill within the floodway and levee slope. The backfill will be in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Waters, Division 1, (Title 23) standards and federal criteria.

Public Agency Approving Project: Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

Agency/Person Carrying Out Project: Crawford & Associates, Inc.

Lead Agency, Contact, Phone Number: Crawford & Associates, Inc.; Maria Ayala; (209) 747-9709

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Sec. 15061(b)(3))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sec. 15306 & Sec. 15304
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 6, Information Collection categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15306), because the activity 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 project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land categorical exemption (CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304), because the activity consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Further, none of the exceptions to the exemption in CEQA California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15300.2 apply.

Chris Lief

3/3/2025

Signature

Chris Lief, Executive Officer

Date

- Signed by Public Agency Signed by Responsible Agency