

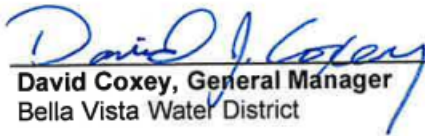
Notice of Exemption

TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shasta County Clerk 1643 Market Street Redding, CA 96001	FROM: Bella Vista Water District 11368 East Stillwater Way Redding, CA 96003
Project Title: Bella Vista Water District Oak Knolls Road Water Main Replacement Project	
Project Location: As shown in Figure 1 , the proposed project is located within the unincorporated community of Bella Vista in Shasta County, in Sections 5 and 8, Township 32 North, Range 3 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Bella Vista 7.5-minute quadrangle. The proposed project includes replacing/realigning existing water main within Oak Knolls Road, a private road easement on Shasta County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 305-230-007, and west of Oak Knolls Road on privately owned property (APNs 305-250-001, 305-300-016, and 305-300-017) (see Figure 2).	
City: Bella Vista (unincorporated)	County: Shasta
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Bella Vista Water District (BVWD) water system provides potable water to residents and businesses in the community of Bella Vista and the surrounding areas. The project includes replacing/realigning a ~1,400-foot segment of existing water main on privately-owned property adjacent to and west of Oak Knolls Road. The ~1,400-foot segment of existing water main would be abandoned in place. Improvements include the installation of ~1,430 feet of new 8-inch-diameter water main extending from Olympia Way, north along Oak Knolls Road for ~710 feet, then west along privately-owned property for ~720 feet to tie into an existing water main. The pipe would be installed under one intermittent stream via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Installation for the remaining alignment would be via open-cut trenching. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging BVWD water system infrastructure and provide safe and reliable water to customers. Paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved at completion of the improvements, and other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored as necessary; no mature trees would be removed.	
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Bella Vista Water District	
Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: Bella Vista Water District	
Local Agency Contact Person: David Coxey, General Manager 530.241.1085 dcoxey@bvwd.org	
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines): Class 2, §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)	
Reason Why Project Is Exempt: Class 2 covers replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. Class 4 applies to minor alternations to the condition of land (e.g., clearing, trenching, and	

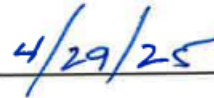
backfilling) that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, provided that the surface is restored following construction. The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of replacement of existing water main involving no expansion of capacity. Although vegetation clearing may occur to accommodate the proposed improvements, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed, and the ground surface would be restored following installation of the improvements.

As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a scenic highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Signature:

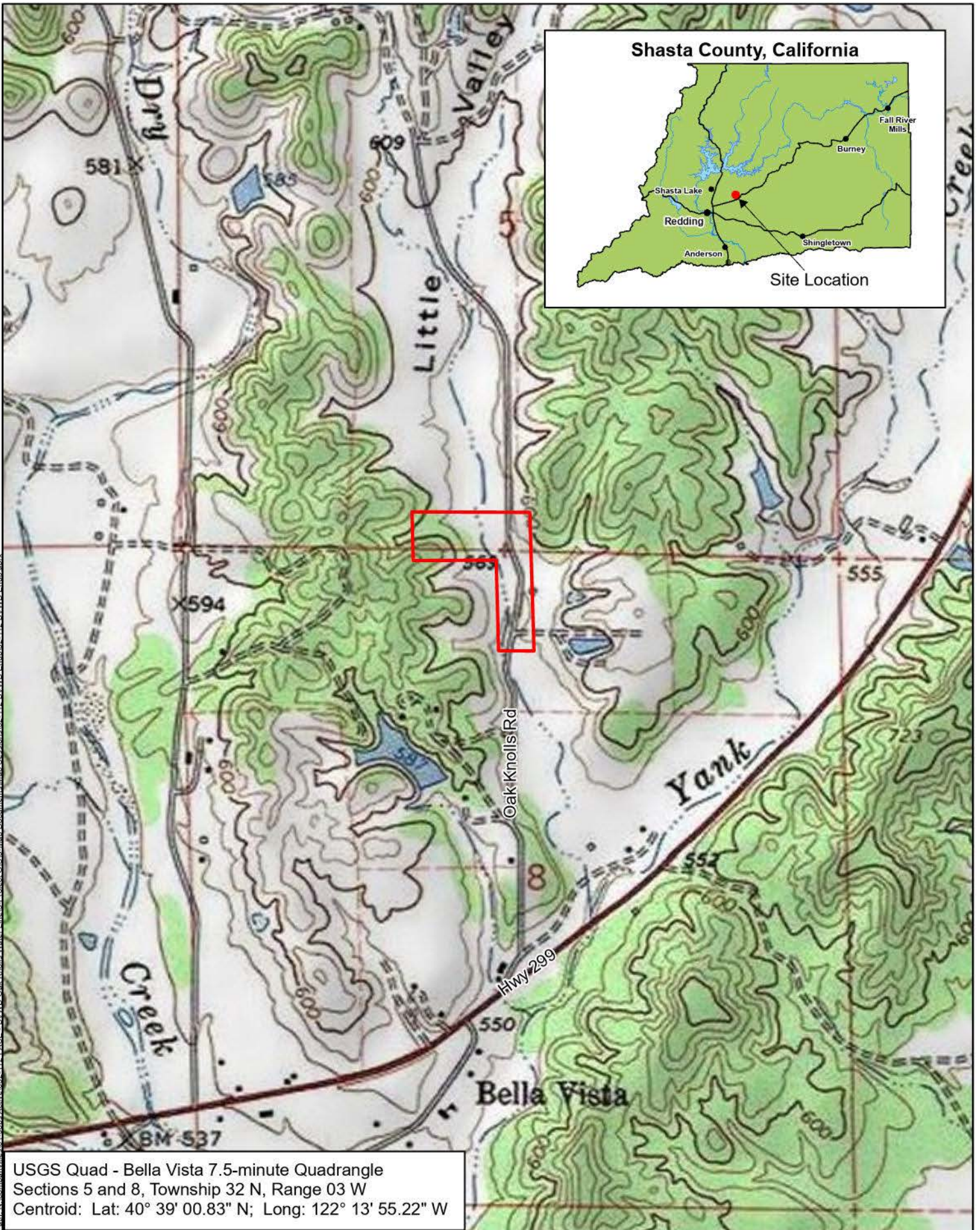

David Coxey, General Manager
Bella Vista Water District

Date:



Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity
- Figure 2: Study Area Boundary
- Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption



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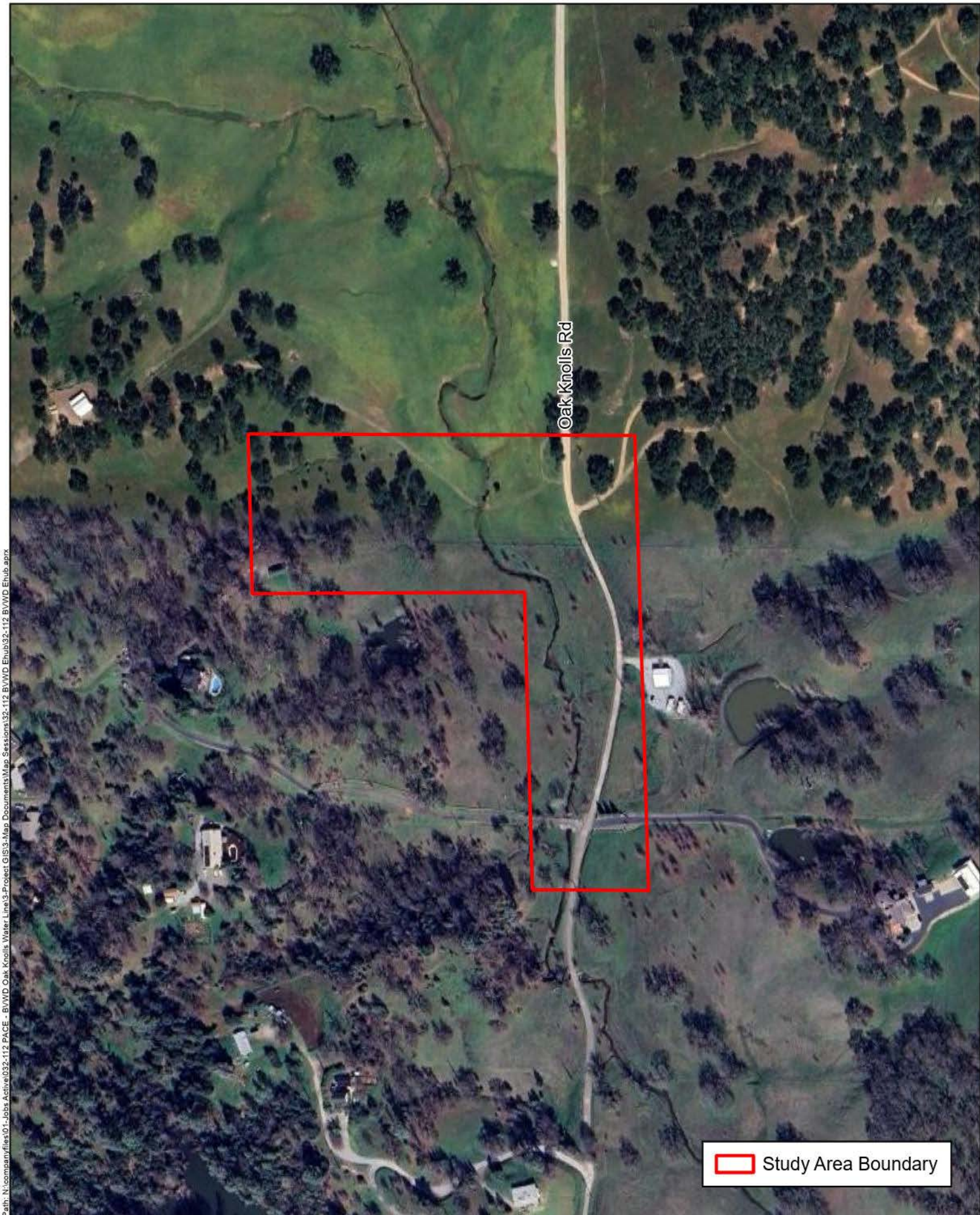
USGS Quad - Bella Vista 7.5-minute Quadrangle
 Sections 5 and 8, Township 32 N, Range 03 W
 Centroid: Lat: 40° 39' 00.83" N; Long: 122° 13' 55.22" W

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 04.09.25



Figure 1
Project Location and Vicinity





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 Study Area Boundary

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 04.09.25



Figure 2
Study Area Boundary

ATTACHMENT A
Documentation for Categorical Exemption
Bella Vista Water District Oak Knolls Road Water Main Replacement Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15306 (Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction) and §15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Location. *Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The proposed project is supported in part by a Class 4 exemption. As documented below, no evidence has been found to suggest that the project location is particularly sensitive. Likewise, the project is not expected to affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Class 4 exemption is applicable to the proposed project.

2. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves improvements to the BVWD's existing water system that are necessary to replace aging infrastructure and provide safe and reliable water to customers. No successive improvements to these systems are currently proposed. Impacts associated with construction are temporary and would cease upon completion of the project. Therefore, the impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

3. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

Improvements to the water main would be subsurface would not impact the existing visual character of the area. Paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved at completion of the improvements, and other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored as necessary. Additionally, the project site is not in an area of unique scenic vistas, and temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease upon the completion of the improvements; no unusual circumstances apply and no significant impacts would occur.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the project site is not designated as farmland of State or local importance or prime farmland (DOC, 2020). Further, the property is not used for agricultural use. Additionally, no mature trees would be removed. Therefore, there would be no impact on agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions/Energy:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NOx, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants and greenhouse gases (GHG) during construction. ROG and NOx emissions are associated

with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ is generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions or energy use. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality, GHG emissions, or energy use that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Special-Status Species

The evaluation of potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats was based on a records search and field observations.

Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) records for special-status plants, wildlife, and natural communities; California Native Plant Society (CNPS) records for special-status plants in the USGS Bella Vista 7.5-minute quadrangle; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and candidate special-status species, and designated critical habitat for special-status species under jurisdiction of the USFWS; USFWS records for Birds of Conservation Concern; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) records for federally listed fish species, critical habitat, and essential fish habitat (EFH) under the jurisdiction of NMFS; and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps. The CNDDDB records search covered an approximate five-mile radius around the study area.

Field evaluations were completed by ENPLAN biologists on March 18 and 25, 2025. Some of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project site would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted. However, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics.

Special-Status Plants

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area did not identify any federally listed plant species as potentially occurring in the project area. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species (USFWS, 2025).

Review of CNDDDB records showed that no special-status plant species have been reported within the study area. The following three special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: Red Bluff dwarf rush (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1B.1), Sanford's arrowhead (CRPR 1B.2), and silky cryptantha (CRPR 1B.2). Two non-status plant species, Henderson's bent grass (CRPR 3.2) and woolly meadowfoam (CRPR 4.2), have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project site (CDFW, 2025).

CNPS records identified three additional special-status plant species reported in the USGS Bella Vista 7.5-minute quadrangle: Bellinger's meadowfoam (CRPR 1B.2), oval-leaved viburnum (CRPR 2B.3), and Shasta snow-wreath (CRPR 1B.2). One additional non-status plant species, depauperate milk-vetch (CRPR 4.3), was reported in the USGS Bella Vista 7.5-minute quadrangle (CNPS, 2025).

No special-status plant species were observed in the project site during the field surveys, and based on observed habitat characteristics, none are expected to be present.

Special-Status Wildlife

Review of the USFWS species list identified 11 federally listed wildlife species as potentially being present in the project area: California condor (Experimental Population, Non-Essential [EXPN]), conservancy fairy shrimp (Federally Endangered [FE]), monarch butterfly (Federal Proposed Threatened [FPT]), northern spotted owl (Federally Threatened [FT], State Threatened [ST]), northwestern pond turtle (FPT, State Species of Special Concern [SSSC]), Shasta crayfish (FE, State Endangered [SE]), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (Federally Proposed Endangered FPE), State

Candidate [SC]), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (FT), vernal pool fairy shrimp (FT), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (FE), and western spadefoot (FPT). The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the project area for any federally listed animal species (CDFW, 2025a; USFWS, 2025).

According to NMFS records, the USGS Bella Vista 7.5-minute quadrangle contains critical habitat for CCV steelhead, as well as EFH for Chinook salmon. However, because the onsite intermittent stream does not support anadromous fish, the project would not directly impact anadromous fish species (NOAA, n.d.a., n.d.b.).

A review of CNNDDB records showed that no special-status wildlife species have been reported in the project area. The following special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project area: bald eagle (Federally Delisted [FD], SE, State Fully Protected [SFP]), foothill yellow-legged frog – north coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (SSSC), Shasta salamander (ST), spotted bat (SSSC), steelhead – Central Valley DPS (FT), and valley elderberry longhorn beetle (FT). One non-status wildlife species, North American porcupine, has been mapped within the search radius (CDFW, 2025b).

No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field survey; based on observed habitat characteristics, none are expected to be present.

Natural Communities

CNDDDB records did not identify any natural communities in the project area (CDFW, 2025). NWI records showed that one riverine feature, identified as an intermittent stream, is mapped within the project site (USFWS, n.d.). During the field evaluation, the ENPLAN biologists confirmed the existence of the onsite intermittent stream and identified two additional features: an ephemeral stream and a wet meadow.

None of the surface waters or the wet meadow are expected to be directly impacted by the project. Direct effects to the intermittent stream would be avoided by utilizing horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to bore under the stream where the new water main alignment crosses the stream. The ephemeral stream and wet meadow are not in an area proposed for ground disturbance, but equipment would have to travel across these features to access the water main alignment north of the intermittent stream. Impacts to these features would be avoided by conducting work during the dry season, when no water is present in the ephemeral stream and wet meadow.

Because direct impacts to the stream would be avoided, no permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Regional Water Quality Control Board are required. If CDFW determines that a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) is required, work would be completed in accordance with conditions of the LSAA permit.

Indirect effects could potentially occur if sediments or other pollutants enter surface waters or the wet meadow and degrade habitat in the project area and/or downstream. However, these impacts would be avoided by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion/sediment control during construction. BMPs may include limiting construction to the dry season, using straw wattles and silt fences to prevent sediment from discharging to surface waters and sensitive habitats, and/or revegetating temporarily disturbed areas as necessary.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The USFWS identified the following Birds of Conservation Concern as potentially being present in the project area: Bullock's oriole, Cassin's finch, Nuttall's woodpecker, and oak titmouse. The bald eagle is not listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, but the USFWS noted that it is a bird that warrants attention because it is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (USFWS, 2025).

If nesting migratory birds are present onsite, construction could indirectly affect nesting birds by causing adults to abandon their nests in response to loud noise levels and other human-induced disturbances during construction. The potential for project implementation to adversely affect nesting birds will be

minimized by conducting construction activities outside of the nesting season (between September 1 and January 31), or by conducting pre-construction nesting surveys in accordance with existing standard construction measures if work is conducted during the nesting season.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with special-status species, natural communities, wetlands, nesting birds, or other biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Geology and Soils:

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone is the Rocky Ledge Fault Zone approximately ~36 miles to the northeast (DOC, n.d.a). The California Geological Survey (CGS) does not identify any potentially active faults in the project area or the vicinity (DOC, 2022). The project does not include any components that would increase the likelihood of a seismic event or increase the exposure of people or structures to risks associated with a seismic event.

Soils on the project site are mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as Newtown gravelly loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes; Sehorn silty clay, moderately deep, 8 to 30 percent slopes; and Tehama loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, MLRA 17 (USDA, n.d.). These soil types are found throughout the project area and are not unique to the project site. There are no unique circumstances related to geology and soils that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects in the area.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. BMPs for erosion/sediment control would be implemented in accordance with standard construction practices, which would prevent damage to surface and groundwater quality.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06089C1265H, effective December 16, 2021), the project site is not located within a designated flood hazard zone (FEMA, n.d.). Therefore, the project does not include any components that would impede or redirect flood flows or otherwise adversely affect the natural value and functions of a floodplain.

Land Use and Planning:

The project would not physically divide an established community or cause an environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation.

Mineral Resources:

The DOC has identified the general project area as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ)-3^{SG}, which indicates areas containing known and/or inferred occurrences of undermined quality, quantity, or significance for alluvial sand and gravel (DOC, n.d.b; 1997). However, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned for mining activities (Shasta County, n.d.), and there are no active mining operations in the project area (DOC, 2016).

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area; however, this is a temporary impact that would cease at completion of the project. There is no operational noise that would be associated with the project. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging BVWD water system infrastructure and provide safe and reliable water to customers. The project does not include any components that would induce unplanned population growth in the area. There are no unusual circumstances associated with population or housing that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Public Services/Recreation:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services.

Transportation/Traffic:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic or vehicle miles traveled. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. The proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the transportation system due to unusual circumstances.

Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the project would not induce population growth in the area, the project would not generate additional demand for power, natural gas, telecommunications facilities, stormwater drainage, wastewater treatment, or other utilities and services. There are no unusual circumstances associated with utilities or service systems that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

4. Scenic Highways. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area (Caltrans, n.d.). Therefore, there would be no impact.

5. Hazardous Waste Sites. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The records search revealed that the project is not located on a hazardous waste site. Additionally, there are no active clean-up sites or hazardous waste sites within a one-mile radius of the project area (California Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.).

6. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

According to the NRCS, three soil types are found in the project site: Newtown gravelly loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes; Sehorn silty clay, moderately deep, 8 to 30 percent slopes; and Tehama loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, MLRA 17 (USDA, n.d.). Newtown gravelly loams date to the Older Pleistocene (1.9 my-25,000 BP) and are considered to have a low potential for harboring buried cultural resources. Sehorn silty clays date to the Pre-Quaternary (>1.9 my) and are considered to have a very low potential for harboring buried cultural resources. Tehama loams date to the Early Holocene (11,500-7,000 BP) and are considered to have a moderate to high potential for harboring buried cultural resources (Meyer, 2013).

Based on the geomorphological characteristics of the project site, the age of the soil mapped in the area, and the level of contemporary disturbance, the project site is considered to have a low potential for both buried historic and prehistoric resources. However, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during excavation activities. Therefore, the following standard construction measures would be included in bid/construction contract documents to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the Bella Vista Water District (BVWD) shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archaeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the BVWD prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, BVWD shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Department of Conservation (DOC). n.d.a. Alquist Priolo Fault Zones Map.

<https://cadoc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=29d2f0e222924896833b69ff1b6d2ca3>. Accessed April 2025.

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<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/?page=Mineral-Land-Classification>. Accessed April 2025.

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<https://cadoc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1&layers=510bf02ccc9543f99b625551a3e7c7d0>. Accessed April 2025.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2025a. State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California (January 2025). Accessed March 2025.

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- California Environmental Protection Agency.** n.d. Cortese List Data Resources. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed April 2025.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).** 2023. California Road System – Functional Classification. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=026e830c914c495797c969a3e5668538>. Accessed April 2025.
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- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).** National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06089C1265H, effective December 16, 2021). <https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>. Accessed April 2025.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.** n.d.a. National NMFS ESA Critical Habitat Mapper. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=68d8df16b39c48fe9f60640692d0e318>. Accessed March 2024.
- _____. n.d.b. Essential Fish Habitat Mapper. https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/?page=page_4. Accessed March 2024.
- Shasta County.** n.d. Explore Shasta County. Map Viewer (GIS Data). <https://www.shastacounty.gov/information-technology/page/explore-shasta-county-web-map>. Accessed April 2025.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).** n.d. Web Soil Survey. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed April 2025.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).** 2025. List of Threatened and Endangered Species. Accessed March 2025.
- _____. n.d. National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper. <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper>. Accessed March 2025.